PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign Library
The Library has received a magnificent, one-of-a-kind set of The Works of Charles Dickens through the generosity of Friends member Mr. John E. ("Bud") Velde, Jr. of California. The 92 volumes in the set include Dickens's complete works with 6 supplement volumes of his plays, poems and speeches. The set is accompanied by the "Charles Dickens Rare Print Collection," a portfolio case of ten folders of plates, photographic prints, and facsimiles of manuscripts and documents relating to Dickens.

The gift volumes are a special addition to the Library's collections for a number of reasons. The books are worthy of examination as physical objects themselves. The set was bound at Monastery Hill Bindery in blind-tooled green morocco leather with generous gold stamping. Tan leather panels and red leather rosette motifs decorate the inside covers; the paper is gilded. The set was printed in London by Chapman & Hall, Ltd. at the turn of the century.

Volume one of the set contains two important documents in its front matter. First is a two-page handwritten letter to Charles Kent dated January 3, 1857, and signed by Dickens; the other is an affidavit from Monastery Hill describing the contents of the volumes and attesting that this set, now at the Library, is "the only one of its kind extant."

Each book is beautifully illustrated with sketches and drawings by a number of well-known illustrators, including Cruikshank, "Phiz," Marcus Stone, Cattermole, and others—and each is hand-colored. A remarkable feature of the set is the 621 original watercolor character sketches by Joseph Clayton Clark, or "Kyd." Kyd's interpretations as an illustrator combine both a unique insight into Dickens's own imagination and an appeal to the twentieth-century eye.

The donor of the Dickens set, Mr. Velde, has long had a special regard for the University Library. Mr. Velde graduated from the UI with a degree in philosophy and has maintained his love of books since his student days. A member of his family bought the set in 1940 from a London family who, having seen a friend's library destroyed during a bombing raid, were anxious to protect their own books from the threat of destruction. Recognizing the value of the books, Mr. Velde decided to place them where their safekeeping was assured and where they might be available to scholars and the public. He found the UI Library to be the perfect answer.

When the Dickens set arrived, Kyd's sketches caused something of a stir—the Library's resources could turn up nothing about the illustrator. English Professor George Hendrick has, however, been able to trace something of the elusive Kyd's story through the London firm of Charles J. Sawyer, who published a biographical study of him in 1980.
Some Wishes Come True

In recent issues of Friendscript, librarians Jini Balachandran and Barbara Swain outlined in "The Library is Looking" column reference needs of their respective departmental libraries. For the Engineering Library, Mr. Carl Scheve of Woodinville, Washington, contributed a volume of the Principal Works of Simon Stevin. The volume is a valuable contribution for researchers of engineering history. Also, UI professors Danuta and Jan Gorecki donated a copy of Who's Who in the World for the Engineering Library's reference collection.

In response to Ms. Barbara Swain's request for the Textile Dictionary for the Applied Life Sciences Library, Mr. Robert S. Fuller of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, contributed funds to purchase the volume. A request for the 3-volume Applied Fiber Science was answered by Rear Admiral and Mrs. Oscar Dodson of Urbana, who donated one of the needed volumes. Mrs. Harold Sieroty of San Jose, California, contributed the funds to purchase the remaining two volumes. The set will be used for textile research.

These and many other donors have enriched the Library's holdings through their generosity. They deserve a special vote of thanks for helping the Library to maintain its superior reference resources.

The Library is Looking...

For Housing in Arid Lands: Design and Planning, published by the Architectural Press in late 1980, for the City Planning and Landscape Architecture Library. This pioneering source book on all aspects of housing in hot dry climates sells for $110 and has chapters on vernacular architecture, underground housing, solar energy systems, and landscaping for climatic advantage. This resource would be invaluable to housing and energy planners as well as landscape architects.

For The Researcher's Guide to Washington Experts. This standard reference work aids researchers in locating governmental experts able to provide advice and information on a wide variety of subjects of interest to planners. The work costs $45 and the faculty has recommended it, but the Library need not purchase the volume. A request for the information on either of these requests, please call Mary Ravenhall, City Planning and Landscape Architecture Librarian, 217/333-7181.

For Some of the Presidents' Men, an educational film in which four former White House Press Secretaries review recent presidencies. The film would be a valuable addition to the undergraduate collections, but its $200 price is not in the Library's acquisitions budget.

For College Can Be Killing, a 59-minute film produced by WTTW in Chicago, for the Undergraduate Library film collections. The film investigates student suicides, and has received several awards. The Library would like to obtain this film, which also costs $200. For more information on these needs, please contact David Kohl, Undergraduate Librarian, 217/333-3489.

If you would like to help the Library with a donation or gift, please call the numbers above, or contact Ruth McBride, 217/333-7480.

Friends Acquire Sandburg Material

The Friends have purchased several important additions for the Library's strong research holdings on Carl Sandburg. Among these are autograph (handwritten) manuscripts of 14 early and apparently unpublished poems, and three photographs of the poet taken by "Loomis" in 1906. Also acquired is an interesting 1947 letter from Sandburg to Vella Martin, who had asked him for help in finding a conductor to read a symphony: "You should know I have no footing in the music world except casually with relations to folk songs...I read only the simplest of musical airs, have not had time to become versed among the classical and modernist composers...."

The Library's Sandburg Collection is one of the finest anywhere, and by their combined efforts, the Friends have helped in yet another way to keep the Library's holdings among the best in the world.

Executive Committee Notes

The Development Committee has been very pleased with the many signs of encouragement it has received from the ever-expanding number of new Friends supporting the efforts of the entire Executive Committee. The University of Illinois Library Friends has increased its financial support to our Library and is now instituting an exciting Corporate Development Program which will allow us to expand our Friends membership even further.

Three categories of giving have been designated for the new corporate membership categories. Businesses joining Friends through a corporate membership will be able to direct their giving to the general library collections or to a specific section of the Library.

Books acquired with these corporate membership funds will have a bookplate indicating the business that made that acquisition possible.

There are 1400 banks in the state of Illinois, and each of the chief executive officers of these banks will be receiving a letter encouraging their support of our Library through a Friends membership. The Development Committee will start membership drives for corporate support from other areas of the business community within the next few months. We look forward to an exciting year with the new Corporate Membership Program.

—Edwin A. Scharlau II, Vice President and Development Chairman

On October 2, UI Music Professor Nicholas Temperley spoke to a crowd of over 200 people on "Beethoven and the Keyboard." Mr. Temperley illustrated his remarks playing passages on the harpsichord, clavichord, and piano. A reception in the Music Library after the Friends program featured numerous exhibits, piano duet music, and demonstrations.

Jim Edgar, Illinois Secretary of State and by that title Illinois State Librarian, visited the Library on Wednesday afternoon, September 16. He saw a demonstration of LCS (the Library's statewide automated circulation system) and toured the bookstacks and the Rare Book Room. UI Librarian Hugh Atkinson (right) and Friends President Robert Watts presented Mr. Edgar (left) with an honorary membership in Library Friends during his brief stay on campus.
From the Librarian's View

The particular smell all of us have noted in the stacks of a large library is the smell of decay—i.e., the smell of paper and glue decaying. Since paper became the basic material for making books, the library community has faced the very real problem of preserving those materials. All papers sooner or later will disappear. All bindings will someday rot, and the poems, science and culture stored within the covers will disappear if no steps are taken to preserve the physical books or at least the writings within them.

The industrial society is speeding up that rate of decay to an extraordinarily dangerous rate. Those of us with great collections entrusted to our care have been searching for a method of coping with the inevitable results of natural aging and unnatural pollution. Deacidification, the basic preservation technique of papers, is expensive, time-consuming, and requires perhaps too much technological skill ever to be a generally available process. Only the rarest, most valuable, and most beautiful materials can be so treated.

The best papers, those made prior to 1820 or after World War II, have much lower acid content than papers made between the mid-19th and mid-20th centuries, which are almost impossible to preserve for any great length of time. Those are the ones we are all so familiar with, yellow, brittle, and crumbling. The physical preservation processes will have to be performed in regional and state centers, but the problem of preserving the content is the responsibility of all libraries.

The research library community has been engaged in projects to identify books most needing transfer to a more long-lasting medium in most cases microfilm, and the UI Library plays an active role in that process. A register of microfilm masters has been compiled and is being kept up to date. National planning is underway at some universities with some federal grant aid. The Library of Congress is coordinating some of the effort, and in the next five years the results of all this will probably jell into a national plan for microfilming the most important monuments of the culture of the book. We will probably develop a few more preservation techniques which may lower the cost and make the process a little more generally used, but the best we can hope for is that we can preserve the Shakespeare folio, or the Milton first editions. However, we will preserve the text of the great books of our culture, if not their physical forms.

—Hugh C. Atkinson, University Librarian

Financial Growth Office at Library

To promote financial growth and develop a network of support, UI Librarian Hugh Atkinson recently established an Office of Development and Public Affairs. Its director is Joan Hood, who will coordinate efforts in both areas. Mrs. Hood has served as Coordinator of Friends since fall 1978. She is currently vice president of Friends of Libraries USA, a national support group for public, academic and special libraries.

In the total long-range development program, the Friends will play a vital role. New Coordinator Ruth McBride will manage the activities for the Friends, the Library's Annual Funds Program. Mrs. McBride is Assistant Professor of Library Administration in Technical Services. She has served as a trustee of the Champaign Public Library, as the first president of Lincoln Trail Libraries System, and was a founder of the Friends of the Champaign Public Library.

NEH Grant to Benefit Library and Researchers All Over USA

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded the Library a two-year Title II-C grant to establish a document delivery and reference center in mathematics. The project will begin October 1982 with $120,000 in funding for the first year, and will be directed by Mathematics Librarian Nancy Anderson and Principal Cataloger Arnold Wajenberg.

Friendscript described efforts to obtain this grant in the spring 1981 issue; Ms. Anderson now reports that 2000 monographs on microfilm will be added to the 35,000 titles already held in the math collections.

The project will also enable the Math Library to enter information about its outstanding holdings in the OCLC nationwide library network data base. The NEH grant is thus helping the Library to improve its already excellent collections while giving researchers all across the nation access to the outstanding resources at Illinois.

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
☐ Sponsor: $100
☐ Life: $1500
☐ Subscriber: $50
☐ Benefactor: $1000
☐ Contributor: $25
☐ Patron: $500
☐ 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

* Invitations to exhibits, lectures and receptions
* Friendscript, the quarterly newsletter
* 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.
Calendar

Exhibits

November 1-30
"Oscar Lewis Papers: Poverty in Latin America." University Archives.

November 19
"Charles Darwin." Rare Book Room.

December 1-31
"Pearl Harbor: The University Goes to War in 1941." University Archives.

Events

November 19
"The Intellectual Voyage of Charles Darwin," Prof. Richard Burkhardt, UI Department of History, speaker. Reception, 3:30 p.m., and lecture, 4 p.m., Rare Book Room. Accompanying exhibit, Rare Book Room.

January 25
"Friends as Advocates." Friends of Libraries USA, sponsor. ALA Midwinter Conference, 2-4 p.m., Denver Public Library. Public welcome.

February 17
Dedication of the Library's Lincoln Room in honor of the Horner Endowment. "Lincoln Collections and Collectors," Mr. Mark Neely, director, Louis A. Warren Library, Ft. Wayne, Ind., speaker. Lecture, 7:30 p.m., and reception immediately following. Location to be announced.

Quotables

(Editor's note: Mr. Weissman, Associate Professor of Political Science at Rutgers University, sent the following letter to UI Librarian Hugh Atkinson after participating in the Russian and East European Center's summer research laboratory program. He has agreed to let us share his remarks about the Library with readers of Friendscript.)

"My wife, Rae Weissman, and I have just returned to New Jersey after spending two weeks at research in your library under the sponsorship of the Summer Research Laboratory on Russia and East Europe. Now you don't need to tell me about the magnificence of your collections in our fields, Soviet-American relations and vocational education. I thought, however, you might be interested in our comments about the quality of your staff and their attitude toward researchers. I have consulted with my wife on these remarks and she fully concurs in my judgments.

From the moment you enter the Library (and it doesn't seem to make much difference which room or area for that matter), you are struck by a remarkable display of efficiency and cooperativeness. All the people who work at your place seem imbued with a strong desire to help and to make your life easier in general. We never ran into a staff member, whether full-time, part-time, or intern, who took the job as routine, dull, or simply a chore. This applied to the people who worked the desks, the stacks, and the special collections. Now one may have the right to expect courteous, prompt attention in a library; but surely, one cannot demand cheerfulness and great solicitousness about your research problems as well. And that is what we experienced at every turn. It was a marvelous display of calm, friendly effectiveness in a difficult job. Needless to say, you don't run into that every day of the week. We were extremely gratified at our treatment in your library and I felt that we had to let you know it. Thank you for a most pleasant and fruitful stay at Illinois.

Bryn A. Weissman"

The Library's Illinois Research and Reference Center processed 139,569 title requests and photocopying requests from all over the country during the past year—a 19% increase from the previous year! Ms. Danuta Nitecki, coordinator of the IRRC, also reported receipt of 2401 general information and materials requests in the same period. Of these, IRRC filled: 66,732 loans, 35,583 photocopies, and sent 4275 items in response to general requests, for a 73% fill rate overall.

Quantity isn't the only story here, though. Ms. Nitecki, who is vice-president and president-elect of the American Library Association's Reference and Adult Services Division, said that in the last two months, almost one-third of loan requests were filled the same day as received, and over three-fourths were sent out within one day. For photocopying, the center boasts a 25% fill rate within one day and 62% within two days.

All this means that the Library's IRRC is a busy place. These figures represent a processing rate of 71 requests per hour, or 1.2 per minute! The IRRC staff matches the Library's outstanding resources with an admirable efficiency.

friendscript

Appears quarterly in April, July, October, and January. Editor: Linda Hoffman. Office of Publication: 249 Armory Bldg., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 505 E. Armory St., Champaign, IL 61820. Application to mail at second-class postage rates pending at Urbana, Ill. POSTMASTER: send Form 3579 to Friendscript, 249 Armory Bldg., University of Illinois Library Friends, 505 E. Armory St., Champaign, IL 61820.

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