PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign Library
Fall Events Spotlight Collection

Renaissance Emblems and Emblematics

The University of Illinois Library owns one of the world’s few great collections of Renaissance emblem books, most of them acquired for the Library by Professor Henri Stegemeier, who has recently been named Honorary Curator of the collection (see story on p. 2).

An emblem usually consists of three interrelated parts: an enigmatic picture, a motto, and an explanatory text, the purpose of which is to present a moral or religious commonplace in some striking fashion. Emblems were extraordinarily popular all over Europe from the 1530s until well into the eighteenth century. Both the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries are well represented in the Library’s collection, which includes many very rare titles. The Rare Book Room now houses about 500 editions of this genre of works, according to Rare Book Librarian N. Frederick Nash. “These works constitute an important source of information for scholars investigating the social and intellectual history of Western Europe,” he noted.

As varied as emblems were, they also often represented variations on the same symbols or motifs. A typical example is the saying Festina lente, or “make haste slowly,” celebrated since antiquity and discussed at length by Erasmus in his adage of 1508. The standard symbol for Festina lente was the dolphin (speed) and anchor (stability), but early editions of an important emblem book by Alciati use other symbols. In the 1531 edition, “Necessary delay” is illustrated by an arrow, to indicate speed, and a snail, which represents delay.

The Library Friends fall program held on October 10 featured UI professor of French Barbara Bowen’s presentation of “Renaissance Emblems: Proverbial Wisdom in Speaking Pictures.” Professor Bowen spoke to a highly entertained audience on the phenomenon of emblem books, and illustrated her remarks with slides. An exhibit of materials from the collection was on display in the Rare Book Room, and popular exhibits on emblems in the Library’s main corridor also marked the event. The program was hosted by Library Friends in conjunction with the University’s recent designation of Dr. Stegemeier as honorary curator.

Because they are extremely valuable, items in the emblem collection are not allowed to circulate. Thanks to assistance from the UI Research Board, however, a descriptive title catalog of the emblem books collection is now being prepared by Mr. Thomas McGeary, under Professor Nash’s supervision. The catalog, which will be of use to scholars around the world, will contain a variety of data about each book: precise transcription of the title, imprint information, designation of format, collation, number of illustrations, and bibliographical references. Also noted will be any unusual information about the book, such as hand-written marginalia. As well as providing a valuable research tool for those who do not have immediate access to the resources at Illinois, the catalog will also establish the importance of the UI Library’s emblem collection alongside those of Glasgow, Wolfenbuttel, and Princeton. If all goes well, the catalog should be completed during the coming year.

The UI Library’s collection of emblem books is one more factor contributing to the eminence of the Library’s excellent resources and research materials. As a collection, it also complements and enhances the Library’s strong holdings of Renaissance school books, drama, history, and belles-lettres.

Prof. Barbara Bowen displays two of the rare volumes from the Library’s collection of emblem books.

Tenth Anniversary Issue of Non Solus Mailed

The 1983 annual report for Library Friends, Non Solus, has recently been mailed to all members of the Friends. This tenth anniversary issue features articles on the Library’s collection of Marcel Proust letters, the year’s notable acquisitions, the Library’s catalog, the Illinois Historical Survey, and the story behind an old stage script in the Classics Library. Former UI Chancellor John Peltason offers a ten-year retrospective on the birth of the Friends organization, and current Friends Executive Committee president Edwin Scharlau contributes a piece on the future goals of the Friends.

Included with the Non Solus mailing is a special sheet describing the various items the Friends Office is offering for sale as unusual gifts for the holiday season. All profits will be used to benefit the collections of the UI Library. For best selection, be sure to send your orders in early.

If you have not received your mailing, please contact Sandra Batzli at the Friends Office (217/333-7480).

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*The University of Illinois Library Friends at Urbana-Champaign* vol. 5, no. 3 Fall 1983

ISSN 0192-5539
Curators Named

On May 26 Professor Emerita of Library Administration Marian Harman was officially designated with the University title of Honorary Curator of Incunabula at a special luncheon in the Rare Book Room held in her honor. During Dr. Harman’s long affiliation with the Library, the special collections at the University of Illinois Library have grown to take a preeminent position among the nation’s research resources.

Since her official retirement in 1969, Dr. Harman has continued work in her chosen field of incunabula (books printed before the year 1501). In 1979, the Library Friends sponsored the publication in the Robert B. Downs Fund series of her important catalog, Incunabula in the University of Illinois Library. Today she is regarded as the resident expert on the subject of 15th-century printing, and advises on the acquisition of early printed books as well as secondary sources. Her work has vastly enriched the resources of the Library, but Dr. Harman claims that she is “simply doing what I love to do.”

Dr. Henri Stegemeier was named Honorary Curator of Emblem Books and Emblematics during a luncheon hosted by UIUC Chancellor John Cribbet and University Librarian Hugh Atkinson in his honor on September 29. Dr. Stegemeier, professor Emeritus of Germanic languages and literatures, came to the University in 1942. For four decades he has worked to develop the Library’s collection of emblem books—a genre of the 16th and 17th centuries illustrating popular moral wisdom through mottoes, drawings and texts. Through his efforts, the Library today boasts an exceptional collection of emblem books numbering about 500 original editions, as well as many complementary bibliographies and secondary source materials.

When notified of his appointment as Honorary Curator, Dr. Stegemeier said: “I have had a certain kind of ‘love affair’ with our magnificent Library...since the first day I came to campus, and whatever I was able to do in my own small way to contribute to its greatness has...been a true ‘labor of love’.”

The Library is Looking...

For a donation to purchase a set of important microfiche publications for the Slavic and East European Library. The series, which constitutes an important research tool on Eastern Europe, has been out of print for years, and the Library owns only very few scattered issues in hard copy. The unpublished statistics compiled by Radio Free Europe East European Audience and Opinion Research are available on fiche for Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, and Romania. The set can be obtained for about $350.

For a copy of Twenty-Four Days Before Christmas by Madeleine L’Engle for the Education and Social Science Library’s “S” (School) Collection of children’s and young adult literature. The book was first published in 1964 by Farrar, Straus & Giroux but is no longer in print and cannot be located on the second-hand market. The donation of any printing of this title would be a most welcome addition to the collection, as there have been specific requests for the book. Celine F. Piatti’s Animal ABC is also out of print and unobtainable. The 1966 edition of this book, with English text by John Reid and illustrations by Piatti, was published in New York by Atheneum. The Library would be grateful to receive any edition of this book.

For funds to purchase the World Employment Programme Research Working Papers for the Labor and Industrial Relations Library. Published by the International Labour Office in microfiche, these are preliminary research studies with restricted distribution to specialists in the various subject matters covered under the ILO World Employment Programme. They are valuable for research in areas of labor force, employment and unemployment, working conditions, manpower planning, economic development, technological change and technology transfer, training and education, etc. The 1974-80 set costs $1140, and annual updates are about $250; regular book funds are not sufficient to permit acquisition of the collection.

If you can help the Library with a donation or gift, please contact Sandra Batzli, Friends Coordinator, 415 Library, 1408 W. Gregory, Urbana, IL 61801 (217/333-7480).
Executive Committee Notes

The University of Illinois Library Friends is an exciting group of individuals and corporations interested in the continued support and development of the U of I Library. We are very fortunate to have one of the world's finest libraries at the U of I, and a great deal of work and dedication is necessary to maintain the level that the students and alumni are accustomed to expecting.

The Executive Committee comprises 17 members who represent a good cross section of the University and the local community. Each member either chairs or is on one of the standing committees. The four committees are Budget, Program, Volunteer Services, and Development. Through the workings of these committees, yearly goals are established and a plan of action is developed to ensure that the goals are met. Each member takes a very active role in his or her committee and in turn the Library Friends have had many positive results.

The Library Friends has 1368 corporate and individual members who represent every state in the United States and several foreign countries. Contributions of approximately $60,000 are now received annually, making it possible to purchase and add to the Library of several books and collections that would not ordinarily be possible through normal funding.

As we look forward to the 1983-84 year, we are excited about the continued growth and development of the Library Friends. In addition to the regular committees, a special goal of developing a five-year plan for the Friends has been set by the board.

We, as board members, enjoy the opportunity of serving our Library and University. If you have ideas or suggestions for our future planning, please feel free to contact me or any board member.

—Edwin A. Scharlau, II
President, Executive Committee

New Plaques in Library Honor Major Donors

Thirty-one individuals and a foundation have been recognized for their substantial gifts to the UI Library. The Friends has displayed the names of the donors on two plaques hung on the east wall of the Library's first-floor corridor.

One lists the Stewart Howe Foundation, Evanston, and seven individuals who qualified for membership in the University Librarian's Council by giving at least $5000 to the Library. In addition to Dr. Janet Weston and Dr. E. Kenneth Gray, the plaque includes the names of three people appointed to the Council in the past 18 months: Sarah Patterson Pagels, Chicago; William B. Arnold, Laguna Beach, Calif.; and Mrs. Robert T. Ittner, Champaign. A nameplate for the Council's newest member, Bertha Jean Berger, Champaign, will be added to the plaque soon.

The other plaque displays the names of 13 individuals and seven married couples who were named Life Members of the UI Library Friends for donating gifts of at least $1500. Life Members who have joined since Friendscript's last such report in spring 1982 include Betty Jean Albert, Mr. and Mrs. William G. Sproat, Sr., and William E. Kappauf, all of Champaign; Dr. Marion Maclean Davis, Kennett Square, Pa.; and Eunice Collins Sourla, Sun City Center, Fla. Mrs. Sourla's nameplate is now being made for addition to the plaque.

Three individuals are members of both groups. Maryann Drost Bitzer—the first name on each plaque—was the first person to give a donation qualifying her for each group. Two others who qualified for both groups are Mrs. Catharine H. Kappauf, Champaign, and Dr. E. Kenneth Gray, St. Petersburg, Fla. Mrs. Bitzer said she joined Library Friends and supports the Library because she knew only private financial support would enable it to acquire some special collections and rare books and because she is fascinated by books.

As an undergraduate at UI in the '50s, she worked in the Library. Later she earned a master's degree in educational psychology from Illinois. "It is a pleasure to return something to the Library that has given so much to my life," she said. "It's been very exciting to see the special collections and unusual books the Library has acquired with money the Friends has raised."

Since the UI Library Friends was established in 1972, gifts of more than $300,000 have allowed the purchase of valuable and unique collections and rare volumes. This past year major donors have contributed a million dollars, and Library Friends gave more than $60,000.

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: $500
☐ 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

Maryann Bitzer holds the two new walnut plaques which now hang in the Library's main corridor to recognize major donors to the Library's collections.
Calendar

Exhibits

September 15—
“Notable Acquisitions, 1982/83.” Rare Book Room.

October 17—November 7

November 1-30
“All Quiet... The 65th Anniversary of the Armistice.” Main Corridor, UI Library.

November 14-28
“Past Shock: An Archival View of the History of the University of Illinois.” Main Corridor, UI Library.

November 15-December 28
“Gift Ideas from Library Friends.” Friends Case, Main Corridor, UI Library.

November 28—December 16
“German-American Cultural Cross-Currents.” Main Corridor, UI Library.

December 1-31
“Prohibition Repeal and Resulting Alcoholism.” University Archives.

January 1-31

Events

November 10
Richard Eberhart reading his poetry, 8 p.m., 114 David Kinley Hall. Cosponsored in part by MillerComm, Department of English, and Library Friends. Public welcome.

Library Visit Highlights Fall Foundation Meeting

On September 16 the University Library presented a special program on the Library computer catalog and circulation system. This year during the UI Foundation’s Annual Meeting, a special visit to the Library was scheduled for Foundation members.

Following Hugh Atkinson’s welcome to the Library, Chancellor John Cribbet discussed the Library’s importance to the state and the nation. Mr. Atkinson talked about the role of the UI Library and the statewide interlibrary loan system. Ms. Paula Watson and Mr. Kurt Murphy, of the Library’s General Services division, presented a demonstration of the Library Computer System. Bridget Lamont, director of the Illinois State Library, discussed LCS and the interlibrary loan system as viewed by the state. The near-capacity audience received enthusiastically the program and posed many questions.

The University Archives and the Library Friends prepared materials for exhibits for the occasion. The meeting provided an opportunity to bring this group to the Library and to show to them not only the rich resources of the Library, but the improved access to its collections.

Library faculty members Paula Watson and Kurt Murphy (right) talked with Presidents Council member William R. Horsfall, UI professor emeritus of Entomology, about the capabilities of the Library Computer System during the special program held as part of the UI Foundation Annual Meeting in September.