PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library
W. S. Merwin Archive Placed at UI Library

The archive of eminent American poet W.S. Merwin has joined the research holdings of the UI Library. The collection of primary source material from a poet hailed as this generation's Carl Sandburg is currently being cataloged for official addition to the collections.

The purchase for $185,000 was approved by the UI Board of Trustees in May and funded through the cooperation of several University units. Library Director of Collection Development Carl Deal said: "We could not have brought the Merwin papers here with our usual resources," he said. "The John Needles Chester Fund and the various units which contributed to the purchase have increased the Library's research resources in poetry immeasurably."

Major funding for the acquisition came from the Chester Fund (see box); other contributors were Library Friends, the University Library, Research Board, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, School of Humanities, Department of English, and the English departmental library.

W.S. (William Stanley) Merwin is acknowledged to be one of America's premier poets today. He won the Pulitzer Prize in 1971 for his book of poems The Carrier of Ladders. He has been honored with many other awards as well, including the P.E.N. Translation Prize and the Bolingen Prize in poetry.

Mr. Merwin is also an acclaimed translator and a playwright. He has published translations of the French epic Song of Roland and the classic El Cid. The Library purchased a group of manuscripts and personal papers relating to translation work from Merwin two years ago. English Librarian Melissa Cain noted that the Merwin archive will also complement resources on contemporary American writers, and is a suitable companion to the Library's Carl Sandburg papers.

The remarkable feature of the papers in the archive is the scope and detail. Included in the archive are many unpublished poems, notes, drafts, revisions, re-revisions, gallery proofs with author's corrections, correspondence, and more. Nothing in the written sequence of the poet's creativity appears to have been discarded. Merwin's handwriting, which has been termed minuscule, covers the backs and fronts of all kinds of paper- whatever was at hand when inspiration struck.

Merwin scholar Cary Nelson, associate professor of English at UI, is amazed at the wealth of material in the archive. "It appears to be a complete record of Merwin's writing since 1946," he said. "For example, hard evidence can be found here for the claims many scholars have made about Merwin's vocabulary at different points in his career." Mr. Nelson is getting acquainted with the newly acquired papers while preparing a special exhibit of Merwin's work. He expects to use these unique resources for research on the genesis of Merwin's poetical style and philosophy.

Mr. Merwin will visit campus in October to present the fall Friends program honoring acquisition of the archive. His lecture and poetry readings will inaugurate dedication festivities for the Library's new stack addition.
Revealing the Hidden Resources of Africana

The collections of Africana in the UI Library are among the finest in North America. Africa is the central focus of the Library's most recent international acquisition program, established in 1969, and collections are especially strong in a broad range of European journals that include articles on Africa from the 19th-century rise of colonialism to the present.

Holdings on the sub-Saharan African nations include approximately 47,000 books, 2,200 journals, 45,000 maps, and 4,000 microforms. This huge collection is distributed by subject matter and format among the 38 departmental libraries and the Library's bookstacks.

The Africana Reading Room, located in the Main Library, Room 328, is a central focus point for the diverse holdings of Africana. Bibliographies for the Africanist and current issues of numerous African journals are housed in the Reading Room, as are numerous other important reference aids, including a pamphlet file arranged alphabetically by country and topic.

Recently, five microfiche readers have been added to aid access to the microform materials. To identify and locate the Library's dispersed Africana, the Reading Room provides many reference sources, including national bibliographies. These are supplemented by other tools, such as guides to official publications of African governments and guides compiled by the Library of Congress. Book catalogs for other major collections of Africana throughout the world are also kept in the Reading Room. Directories, guides to dissertations relevant to African studies, publisher's catalogs, and a number of African telephone directories complete the reference collection.

The Reading Room adjoins the offices of Africana bibliographer Yvette Scheven, who oversees the Library's acquisitions in the field. Students and researchers who need help in finding journal articles, books or microforms can make an appointment with Mrs. Scheven for assistance in locating materials.

Mrs. Scheven has compiled three guides to complement published reference aids: "Bibliographies for African Studies, 1970-75," and supplements for 1976-79 and 1980-83. In addition, her unit issues African Studies: Selected Library Acquisitions, a quarterly newsletter that lists by subject new books on Africa added to the Library's holdings. A number of other pamphlet titles, issued as needed, supply important research information for scholars seeking access to the wide resources of Africana.

Three departmental collections are of particular interest to Africanists: the Map and Geography Library, the Newspaper Library, and the University Archives. The Map and Geography Library contains an extensive collection of maps on African countries among its holdings, as well as an excellent collection of the Area Handbook series. The Newspaper Library receives and retains current issues for nine major African newspapers. The UI Archives houses many large collections with important African components, including the American Library Association archive and the well-known Avery Brundage collection, which includes correspondence for 1955-74 on all aspects of sports in Africa. There are also substantial holdings on Sierra Leone. In addition, about 1,000 titles on the European exploration of Africa are kept in the Rare Book Room.

The Africana collection may be hidden among the miles of shelves of the University Library's holdings, but it is nevertheless a magnificent collection with enormous research potential. With the advantages of a centralized Africana Reading Room and the bibliographic services of Mrs. Scheven, the Library can boast with pride of improving access to its materials while maintaining the subject integrity on which the collections' classification has been based for over a century.

Executive Committee Notes

After serving as president of the Library Friends for the past two years and as board member for six years, I have developed a great appreciation for our Library, the Library staff, and the members of the Friends Executive Committee.

Often we take for granted the many benefits derived by the students, faculty, community, and residents of the state and country from this great resource. Not only are we proud to have the largest publicly-assisted research library in North America, but the fact that the Library is the second heaviest lender of books indicates that we are reaching out and benefiting approximately 125,000 off-campus individuals.

In departing the position of president, I want to recognize Sara Balbach and Jack Harlan, who will also be ending their terms as members of the Executive Committee. Great steps forward by Friends have been made possible by the dedication of the Executive Committee members. In particular, I want to recognize the officers and committee heads:

Ron Bates, Vice President and Development Committee; Art Robinson, Treasurer; Chuck Flynn, Program Committee; Mary Rhoades, Volunteer Services Committee; and Bob Futrelle, Five-Year Plan Committee.

The coming year for Friends presents the opportunity for new leadership and ideas on the Executive Committee. New officers are: Ron Bates, President; Carl Webber, Vice President; and Art Robinson, Treasurer. We are also pleased to welcome the following new individuals to the Executive Committee: Samuel Gove, Donald Korkowski, Morris Leighton, and Anne Colwell Tryon.

To our many Friends, I want to thank you for your encouragement and support during the past year. As we look forward to the opening of the sixth stack this fall, it is exciting to be part of this growing and changing University resource.

—Edwin A. Scharlau II

friendsscript

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From the Librarian's View

By and large, the libraries that we know have been organized on the models of industrial society. As that model of society and the theoretical and practical ideals of effective management change, so, too, will the organization and management of libraries. Those quality control teams, those theory Ys and theory Zs, the management by objective, the management by example, the participatory organization—all of which one hears of in the business sector—have their counterparts within the library. It seems there are some relatively obvious changes coming in library organization and management. In fact, they are already here. The way we adapt to them and the skills and creativity by which we integrate the local necessities and requirements with those trends will to a large degree measure our successes as librarians.

In a time of economic recession, a time of emphasis on the human quality, a time of high technology, we have to look forward to the ever-increasing emphasis on smaller units. That smaller unit may be within a large shopping mall or central library, or it may be a physically decentralized branch or department of the library. Smaller units seem to be the inevitable result of the kinds of changes—technological, economic, and social—that we are seeing all around us. Since this is a society which will pay higher prices for the extra convenience of the 7-Eleven and convenience food stores rather than save money on the efficiencies of the centralized A&P and other supermarkets, this trend will be affecting libraries.

The idea that centralized library services should be emphasized because they may in some theoretical mass sense be able to answer more reference questions or catalog more books or keep more hours open downtown or in the main library of the campus seems to me to fly in the face of societal demands. The electronics provide a distance independency where the catalog, order file, and periodical check-in files are no longer usable only at that physical location. They are usable anywhere there is a terminal. In fact, there is no physical presence of an online catalog as we now know it; it is simply a series of electronic and magnetic impulses stored on some disk someplace. When you are close to it you may have even less access than when you are far away. This fact, too, inevitably destroys one of the great imperatives of present organization, that is, the need to group around files.

—Hugh C. Atkinson
University Librarian

Judaica Donor Honored

Mr. Michael Fain (right), whose father Benjamin Fain recently donated an important Judaica collection (described in the spring issue of Friendscript), visited the Library to accept a certificate of appreciation for the gift. Attending the Rare Book Room reception for Mr. Fain was Paul Weichsel, mathematics professor and a faithful patron of Mr. Fain's Chicago bookstore, whose efforts were instrumental in bringing the collection to Illinois. Michael Fain remarked that his father, who has now retired, considered books the great passion of his life and was happy that his collection had found a good home at the UI Library.

The Library is Looking...

For biographies and other books about Abraham Lincoln written for children. The Library's Lincoln Room houses an important collection of materials by and about Lincoln, established with the Harlan Hoyt and Henrietta Calhoun Horner memorial gift. Children's books and school texts, however, are difficult to obtain because of the typically rough treatment they receive. If you have any school or story books about Lincoln, and/or related items you can donate to the collection, please call.

For funds to purchase the 5-volume set, Tonko Bakukokutsu (Archaeology of the Bakukokutsu Cave of the Tun-Huang Caves) for the Asian Library. This richly illustrated work, a joint publication project of Heibunsha Publishers, is one of a series of publications about the Magnificent Caves of the 1000 Buddhas. Having already acquired the 100-volume set reproducing the manuscripts found in the Tun-Huang Caves, the Asian Library is anxious to obtain a $600 donation for this important complementary work on the archaeological discoveries of one of the caves.

For Clio Medica: A Series of Primers on the History of Medicine, by E.D. Krumbhaar, published by AMS Press in New York, this 22-volume set is considered basic to research in the history of medicine, and would be an important asset in serving Health Sciences Library patrons. Illinois is one of the few American universities offering a medical scholars program (M.D./Ph.D.), and the Health Sciences Library seeks a $340 donation to acquire this key resource on historical aspects of medicine.

If you can help the Library with a donation or gift, please contact Deborah Smith Olien, Friends Coordinator, 227 Library, 1408 W. Gregory, Urbana, IL 61801 (telephone 217/333-7480).

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
- Patron: $500
- Sponsor: $100
- Subscriber: $50
- Benefactor: $1000
- Donor: $25
- 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
Getting Together with Friends

A Look at This Spring’s Friends Programs

The Friends spring program presented by UI Professor of Plant Genetics Jack Harlan, “Romance and Sex in Ancient Egypt: The Lettuce and the Sycomore Fig,” was well attended by a highly entertained group. Held April 10, his illustrated lecture was accompanied by an exhibit in the Rare Book Room of some of the Library’s holdings in ancient Egyptian art and culture. Mr. Harlan joined guests at the reception preceding the afternoon program and chatted with UI Librarian Hugh Atkinson and School of Art and Design Director Eugene Wicks.

Korean Collection
Gift Augments Holdings

The Korean Research Foundation in Seoul, Korea, recently donated to the UI Library a large collection of current Korean-language publications. Through a matching fund agreement, the gift is valued at $15,000.

The Asian Library and the University appreciate the Foundation’s generous contribution. Professor Peter Schran, director of the UI Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies, noted that the faculty and students of the University’s Asian Studies programs will long treasure the collection as a symbol of friendship between the two nations.

The gift collection includes approximately 1,000 volumes. Asian Librarian Bill Wong points out that the Library’s Korean-language materials now number over 3,000 books, which represents only a tiny fraction of its total Asian holdings, but constitutes one of only ten or so research collections on the subject in the United States.

Volunteers of Friends were honored for their efforts at a special program April 19 in the atrium of the new Veterinary Medical Sciences Building. University Librarian Hugh Atkinson and Volunteer Services chairperson Mary Rhoades (below) cited each volunteer for his or her contributions and presented special gift sets of notecards in appreciation. Mr. Robert McNabb, proprietor of Village Antique Shop in Bondville, spoke to the group about aspects of repairing and refinishing antiques (right). A book exhibit displayed some of the many titles available through the Library on the topic, including Chamberlain’s Open House in New England, which Mr. McNabb cited as “among the first books I borrowed from the Library in 1947.”
Reaching for the Stars

The UI Library's impressive collection on the history of astronomy is another example, like the acquisition of the Merwin archive, of the benefits of the John Needles Chester endowment fund provisions. A Chester Fund award of over $45,000 to the Library has enabled assembly of a series of major celestial atlases. As a group, these works constitute one of the premier research collections of its kind in the United States.

William Gray Potter, Associate Professor of Library Administration and Assistant Director for Acquisitions and Circulation, said of the purchases: "The Chester money has allowed us to strengthen our collection tremendously in the area of celestial atlases and the history of astronomy. Combined with our existing holdings and with the purchase of Flamsteed's *Atlas Coelestis* and *Historia Coelestis*, we now hold most of the important [such] works from the 17th and 18th centuries."

Eight major rare works in the history of astronomy were acquired with the award and are now held with the Library's history of science collections in the Rare Book Room. They include:  

- *Coelum Stellatum Christianum*, a folio atlas published in 1627 that replaced the traditional celestial figures with Christian motifs—for example, the signs of the zodiac with the twelve apostles.
- Perhaps the rarest item is John Bevis's *Uranographia*, a celestial atlas that was never published because the publisher went bankrupt and the engraved plates were seized by the Court of Chancery. A few sets of impressions made from these plates survived, and were assembled and sold.
- Mr. Potter noted that while these atlases are beautiful books, they also served as tools to astronomers. The traditional figures used to represent the various constellations were largely used for mnemonic purposes and to assist in the charting of newly discovered stars. Johann Bode's 1801 atlas is the last great celestial atlas to use representation of celestial figures. After Bode, improvements in measuring and plotting stars required more scientific and less picturesque star atlases.
- Friends will recall that the 1729 *Atlas Coelestis* by John Flamsteed with its companion volume, *Historia Coelestis*, was purchased with Library Friends funds to commemorate acquisition of the Library's sixth millionth volume.
- Flamsteed's publication is considered to be the major celestial atlas of the 18th century. The Chester Fund grant has allowed the Library to build on the base set up by the Friends gift.
- Other titles acquired with the grant include: Johann Bayer's *Uranometria* (Augsburg, 1603); Johann Gabriel Dopplmayr's *Atlas Coelestis* (Nuremberg, 1742); two editions of Flamsteed's *Atlas Coelestis* (Paris, 1776 and Lisbon, 1804); and Pardies's *Globi Coelestis* (Paris, 1674).

With auspicious support and notable beginnings, the Library's holdings in rare works of astronomy's early stages will be an important resource to scholars in the field.

Apology

Friendscript recently reported on donations to the Library in response to requests in "The Library Is Looking." Unfortunately, mention of the gift by Constance McGill, Champaign, was omitted. Mrs. McGill donated items for the music collections, including 13 books, 15 choral octavos, 5 anthologies, 7 methods books, and a pamphlet. The editor regrets the omission.

Quotables

(Editor's note: John Cribbet will return this fall to a full-time teaching appointment in the University's College of Law after serving the UIUC campus as Chancellor since 1979. His strong support of the University Library has made him an eloquent spokesman for the Library and its many Friends.)

The University of Illinois Library lies at the heart of a distinguished University—not only physically but intellectually. There are no truly great universities without large and sophisticated libraries, and we can be proud that the University of Illinois ranks along with Harvard and Yale in the size and quality of its collection. Books contain not only the record of the past but the keys to an uncharted future. It is in the libraries, laboratories, and classrooms that the next generation, under the guidance of the present, seeks understanding, knowledge, and I hope, an occasional glint of wisdom as we struggle with the problems of a free society. The past is prologue, and that prologue is recorded in the interstices of the millions of volumes that foresighted academic leaders have provided for our use.

Not only is the Library a vast monument to the priority which society has given to education, but it is a "working laboratory" for those who are dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge in every area. The present generation is truly "unchaining" the books and through the miracle of computers is making information available to all who seek to tap this rich lode of man's experience.

The Library is a principal asset in attracting and retaining our world-class faculty, and we intend to make every effort to maintain and strengthen this critical resource of the University of Illinois.
Calendar

Exhibits

Through September 7
“Luther und Buchproduktion.” Rare Book Room.

July 1-31
“The Los Angeles Olympic Games of 1932.” University Archives.

July 9-31
“Nobel Prize Winners with a Connection to UIUC.” Friends Case and Main Corridor, UI Library.

July 16—September 7
“Selected Notable Acquisitions, 1983/84.” Rare Book Room.

August 1-31
“National Socialist Propaganda Literature: 50 Years after Adolf Hitler Inaugurated the Third Reich.” University Archives.

August 20-31
“The Afro-American World.” Main Corridor, UI Library.

September 1-30
“200 Years of Newspaper Publishing.” University Archives.

September 1-30
“ALA and the Development of Financial Support for Library Activities.” Friends Case and Main Corridor, UI Library.

September 12—October 11
“Merwin’s Other Career: The Archive at the UIUC Library.” Rare Book Room.

October 1-31
“History of the Library.” Friends Case and Main Corridor, UI Library.

October 1-31
“Elections, 1884 and 1984.” University Archives.

October 12—
Midwest American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies exhibit. Rare Book Room. To continue indefinitely.

Events

September 6
Fall meeting, Library volunteers. Coffee and orientation, including slide presentation, “The Library: Heart of the University,” 9:30 a.m., Rare Book Room. Tour, new Library stack addition, immediately following program. Public welcome.

Donation Honors Harry Gray

The UI Alumni Club of Greater New York has come up with a good idea.

Members of the group recently voted to make a $50 gift to Library Friends to honor one of their own, Harry J. Gray. Mr. Gray, who is Chief Executive Officer of United Technologies, Inc., received his bachelor’s degree from UI in 1941, his M.S. in marketing in 1947, and has been active in UI alumni activities in the New York area for many years.

Mr. Paul McIlvaine, president of the club and a member of Friends, explained that the donation seemed a most appropriate way to recognize Mr. Gray’s many contributions to the UI alumni group and his strong record of support for the University—not least as a member of the UI Foundation Cabinet for the Campaign for Illinois and of Presidents Council.

Volunteers Honored

Two Friends volunteers were honored during National Volunteer Week at the Champaign-Urbana United Way breakfast on May 8. Maryann Bitzer and Donna Follmer were cited for their special efforts and countless volunteered hours of service to the Library’s collections.

Second-class postage paid in Urbana, IL