ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign Library
Noted Writers Visit UI for Accent/Ascent Exhibit

Lovers of twentieth-century American literature recently had a rare double treat—a fascinating behind-the-scenes glimpse of two famous literary magazines, and a chance to meet some of the country's most respected authors.

Novelists Stanley Elkin, William Gass, and Gordon Weaver, poets Carol Pierman and Brendan Galvin, and film critic Roger Ebert were featured speakers at the two-day symposium, "From Accent to Ascent: Fifty Years of Literary Magazines at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign," held April 5 and 6.

In conjunction with the symposium, a month-long exhibit in the Rare Book and Special Collections Library, drawn from the University Archives' extensive Accent/Ascent collection, featured dozens of letters, manuscripts, and photos from some of the most famous writers of the century.

The exhibit and symposium were held to honor both the magazines themselves and the memory of UI English Professor Dan Curley, an editor of Accent and the founder of Ascent who died last December.

Accent, the creation of the late UI English Professor J. Kerker Quinn, wielded an influence on twentieth-century literature all out of proportion to its modest, barely 2,000 circulation.

Contributors during its life, from 1940 to 1960, included well-known writers like Katherine Ann Porter and Wallace Stevens as well as then total unknowns like Flannery O'Connor, William Gass, and J.F. Powers, all of whose literary careers got their start with Accent.

In 1975, Dan Curley filled the void left by Accent's demise by starting Ascent, devoted to works by new writers.

"These little magazines are the only place literature is happening in this country, and the only place I foresee it happening, and the only place it will happen for a long time," Mr. Gass told an overflow audience at the opening symposium. "All those people, like Dan Curley, who gave their lives for so long are not just a scratch on the literary scene, but they also made it happen. I was privileged to be in their company."

Visitors had the chance to see just how the magazines made it happen in the fascinating exhibit mounted by UI English Professor George Hendrick and graduate student Robert Steltman.

Among the items were the enthusiastic routing slip for Mr. Gass's first accepted story, correspondence from Eudora Welty about Ida M'Toy, about whom she wrote one of her most noted short stories, a letter from Brendan Galvin asking editors to consider the poems of his then-unknown friend George Mills, and correspondence from e.e.cummings complaining about typesetting problems.

How did this little magazine manage to attract the writers it did? According to Mr. Gass, it was the personal care and talent of editors like Charles Shattuck and George Scouffas, now both emeritus professors of English, and Dan Curley.

"I sent them something totally bad, but it was the right length—At Horseshoes, part of a novel I thought could, as the cliché says, 'stand alone,'" reminisced Mr. Gass, who expected to receive the usual impersonal rejection slip for his first submission.

"Then, an amazing thing happened. Chuck Shattuck wrote me back—a response, not just something dashed off. Here was a person who had actually read my manuscript. That's an incredible experience even now, and responding was even more incredible."

From such correspondence, lifelong friendships developed, as seen in the tremendous volume of correspondence in the collection.

"Letters like these show people's habits, people's ticks, people's attitudes towards their own manuscripts, and whether or not they like or are defensive about changes," said poet Brendan Galvin. "It's of great value."

At the opening of the symposium, University Librarian David F. Bishop accepted the donation by Mrs. Audrey (continued on page 2)
Library Is Resource for Employers, Employees Alike

It's not too often that labor and management find something to agree on, but they both agree on at least one thing—the usefulness of the UI's Labor and Industrial Relations Library.

Whether it's a question about how many holidays one must give employees or the latest information on regulations from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), they know they can find the answer here.

"The UI has one of the largest labor collections in the country," says head librarian Margaret Chaplan, "and much of what we have is unique in the state. In fact, we are the only library in the state devoted to this subject."

Among the library's holdings are copies of contracts from hundreds of unions around the country (some dating as far back as 1902), microfilms of all the conference proceedings of nearly 80 unions since their beginnings, continually updated information on government regulations and guidelines affecting the workplace, hard-to-find union newspapers and industrial management journals, and journals and books on a wide variety of topics affecting labor and industrial relations.

There is even an extensive newspaper clipping file on Chicago union activities and a small collection on unions in countries from Austria to Yugoslavia.

Says Ron Peters, head of labor education programs at the UI's Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations, "They have everything we need all in one place, which isn't the case with other general or business libraries. No matter what the subject, like the minimum wage issue, they have the various viewpoints, from the Chamber of Commerce to the AFL-CIO."

Of particular significance to researchers, workers, and management alike is the library's collection of looseleaf services dealing with legal and regulatory aspects of labor and management. These include services on labor relations, including labor law, employee rights, and other legal requirements of businesses; OSHA regulations; collective bargaining negotiations, including sample contract clauses and actual settlements; and personnel management.

"We get a lot of calls from people both within and outside the university to look at court opinions or arbitrators' awards to see how the law seems to be developing in a particular area," says Ms. Chaplan, "and we always get calls for statistics or for information on how other employers are handling issues like smoking."

The library also has an important collection of union contracts from many industries, which labor, management, and historians alike find very useful.

"When people think of collective bargaining, they often think of the really exciting stuff," says Ms. Chaplan, "but strikes are the exception, rather than the rule. There are thousands of negotiations settled peacefully every year, as our contract collection shows.

"Still, you can learn a lot about what's going on in the workplace by reading some of these contracts," she continues. "For instance, we have one contract from a public library in New York City in which a whole page is devoted to what constitutes excessive heat in the workplace, and another long clause devoted to how many smocks the employer should provide. It just gives you great insight into the problems at some of these places."

Heat, in fact, seems to be a common problem for many workers. "When it gets hot in the summer, I always get calls about whether there are government regulations or limits on temperatures," she says.

But the library isn't limited to material on labor unions and workplace regulations. It also has important collections dealing with arbitration and management issues. Only a handful of other libraries in the country have both this kind of interdisciplinary information and a labor collection all under one roof.

"Within our own building, we can find the key journals in social science, law, arbitration, sociology, and economics, which otherwise could only be found spread all over campus," says Professor Melvin Rothbaum, who specializes in comparative industrial relations, labor law, and public policy. "The library is just essential to the research we do, and it's one of the greatest resources of this institute."

The newest improvement to this resource just started in January, as Ms. Chaplan began work on an ambitious project to create a labor and industrial relations bibliographic database reflecting acquisitions after January 1989.

"There is no available database for this field," she says. "If you want to do a search on labor or human resource management, for example, you have to search all the management databases and pull out labor and human resource management."

Although a database specifically about labor issues is available for use through the Canadian government, it does not cover the same range of subjects and is not research-oriented. Another database produced by the International Labor Office does not cover the United States in enough detail.

"I hope eventually to do a retrospective conversion of my acquisitions lists since 1972," adds Ms. Chaplan. "That would make our database older than any other, but at the moment, I don't have the staff or money to do it."

Meanwhile, with summer just around the corner, Ms. Chaplan is gearing up for the usual round of inquiries on heat in the workplace. "The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) does have limits," she says, "but unfortunately, it's only for foundries."

Curley of fifteen boxes of Mr. Curley's papers relating to Ascent for the University Archives. Among the items are correspondence with such noted writers as Mr. Galvin, Mae Briskin, George Mill, and Bobbie Ann Mason.

The symposium was sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Department of English, and Library Friends.

Accent/Ascent continued

Ascent editors in 1988 were Michael Van Walleghan (left), Dan Curley (center), Paul Friedman (right), and Jean Thompson (front).
Archives Receives Two Important Agricultural Collections

The records of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters (NAFB) and the photo files of C.F. Marley, one of the country’s top agricultural photographers, have found a new home at the UI Archives.

The NAFB collection joins more than thirty other associations that have placed their records in the UI Archives. The collection includes association minutes, newsletters, bulletins, radio listeners’ surveys, and other items covering the association’s 46-year history.

The collection also contains hundreds of photographs of farm radio and television personalities and association events, and biographies of the most notable members.

“This is an important collection because it is a part of agricultural research and has provided a way of keeping them aware of current trends, markets, and practices,” says University Archivist Maynard Brichford. “For many years, radio was the only means of doing this, and these are the people who did it.”

Among the many farm broadcasters documented in this collection are Everett Mitchell, who began his career in 1926 and was best known as the master of ceremonies for NBC’s National Farm and Home Hour, farm radio pioneer John Merrifield of WWJ-Radio in Detroit, Mal Hansen, who hosted CBS and NBC farm programs in the ‘50s and ‘60s, and Mary Lou Pfeiffer, Ohio’s most popular woman radio personality in the ‘40s.

This collection will be the first for which the Archives will identify documents of bibliographic value to researchers for entry into a subject-area database in addition to creating a traditional archival finding aid. The database belongs to the UI’s Agricultural Communications Documentation Center.

“This will increase the usage of the NAFB material by students and researchers,” says James Evans, head of the UI’s Office of Agricultural Communications and Education. “The database uses a computerized search and retrieval system to identify material by topic, source, year, and the like, and now researchers will be able to identify material from the Archives and tie it into the rest of our collection.”

The Marley Collection of photographs, negatives, and slides covers the 40-year career of agricultural photographer of C.F. Marley, of Nokomis, IL.

Marley has been credited by many farm editors as the most published U.S. photojournalist of agricultural technology from the mid-50s to the early ’80s.

Included in the collection are photos of many first-of-a-kind inventions or farming techniques, including strip-till corn planters, which preceded the zero-till planters; George McGibben’s first zero-till planter; the first Dickey-John seed monitor; Henry Larson’s first pneumatic grain probe; and tandem tractors, which preceded the four-wheel drive.

“The Marley Collection undoubtedly is of great significance for our collection,” says Mr. Brichford. “Some very significant changes took place in farming techniques over these years, particularly in tillage systems, and these photographs are valuable as evidence of those changing techniques.”

The indexing of these photographs and slides is being supported by the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station as a way of helping make them widely available to researchers.

From the Librarian: ‘Playing Around’

Paul Lacy, professor of English at Earlham College, in an address to a conference of the Association of College and Research Libraries, spoke of an experience with online searching.

Online searching is the retrieval of journal titles on a subject of interest from a database, in this case, located far away from the library. The searching session had been arranged to educate Professor Lacy about new technologies in libraries as a means of assisting him in the preparation of his address.

In describing the search session, Professor Lacy said, “The librarian who helped me with my computer searches discouraged one line of approach by saying gently that computer time was pretty expensive for playing around.”

“Playing around,” of course, is one of the most enjoyable and often productive activities one can do in a library, although we often associate it with the more acceptable word “serendipity.”

Recently, optical disc systems have begun to appear in a number of libraries at the UI, and among the most exciting aspects of these systems is that they allow—even encourage—playing around.

These systems differ from remote, computerized databases that require a fee for each use. Instead, the optical disc systems use compact discs or CDs, similar to the CDs that have revolutionized recorded music, to store massive amounts of data right in the machine itself. The CDs, which include microcomputer programs to control the searches, permit the retrieval of journal titles by author, title, and subject from machine-readable indexes such as the Reader’s Guide to Periodical Literature, the Modern Language Association Bibliography, and many others.

Now the library user, without the assistance or interference of a library staff member, can sit at a microcomputer and use a simple menu to experiment with different approaches to finding what he or she wants. Now it is possible to type in words of interest just to see what will happen. It is also possible to type in general words and then scan through long lists of both relevant and irrelevant articles, choosing from among them only the ones of interest.

When an item of interest is found, one presses the print button to create an individualized bibliography on the attached printer. All of this can be done at no expense to the user because the Library subscribes to the CD database in the same way it would subscribe to a printed index.

The freedom, simplicity, and absence of cost, not to mention the sheer fun of just playing around, have all contributed to making optical disc systems among the most popular additions to the Library in recent years.

—David F. Bishop, University Librarian

A conservator scrapes adhesive from the back of one of the UI’s Audubon prints. From a display shown on March 16 at a special reception for Audubon restoration donors.
"I am a very prejudiced person. I worship books and libraries. In my lexicon the burning of the great library at Alexandria rates as one of the worst acts in man’s history. But I do not think I am mistaken in my high regard for the Library of the University of Illinois.

“My field is Russia. After half a lifetime as a correspondent in Moscow I have turned to history. I cannot count the times I brought to the Slavic and East European Library difficult, obscure, impossible questions. They never missed. I don’t mean they had all the answers. No one has. They knew why and they knew where to search not only at Illinois, but in other great collections of the world, including those in Moscow and Leningrad. Illinois is not just books, it is technology, know-how and a wonderful professional staff.

“For ten years I have been working on a complex enigma connected with the Russian Revolution. My files now contain thousands of words and notes resulting from Illinois’ creative assistance. I do not know whether the enigma will ever be resolved, but if so credit will go to this amazing public institution. Its Slavic collections now rival those of the Library of Congress and the Lenin Library in Moscow. It is one of the world’s wonders, a scholar’s dream, one of the prides of this country.”

—Harrison E. Salisbury, foreign correspondent, Pulitzer Prize winner, and journalist for the New York Times

Donation to purchase the Handbook of Housing and the Built Environment in the United States, an important new reference volume, $75; and Elements and Total Concept of Urban Landscape Design, an illustrated Japanese publication, $102, for the City Planning and Landscape Architecture Library.

$595 to purchase The Horace Mann Bond Papers, Part 4: Research Files, 1910-1971, and Writings, 1926-1972 for the Afro-Americana Library. This work will be of great value to faculty and graduate students studying Black higher education.

If you would like to donate any of the items mentioned above, please contact Library Friends development officer Sharon Kitzmiller at 227 Library, 1408 W. Gregory, Urbana, IL 61801, or telephone (217) 333-5683.

Library is Looking For... Gets Responses

When librarians are offered the chance to request books through our Library is Looking For... column, they are usually thrilled. Their book budgets have been so constrained recently that this is often the only way they can purchase important items for their collections.

And once again, Library Friends have heeded the call. Mrs. Harriet Wallace has donated funds to purchase the microfiche reader requested by the Geology Library in our fall 1988 issue. Dr. and Mrs. William Lovett, Jr., have purchased Civilization of the Ancient Mediterranean and The Blackwell Encyclopedia of the Russian Revolution, both requested by the Reference Library in the summer 1988 issue, and FEDSTAT, requested by the Documents Library in the winter 1988 issue.

Two other requests from our winter 1988 issue also were fulfilled. Mr. and Mrs. John Kruesi have donated Arboviruses, Epidemiology, and Ecology for the Veterinary Medicine Library, and Mr. Arte Johnson has donated $100 for Spanish books on medical subjects for lay readers for the Modern Languages Library.

In addition, Mr. Marvin Gold has donated $100 to purchase an art book dealing with American art.

The newly purchased books and equipment all will bear a bookplate or nameplate with the donors’ names.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support. Responses like these help the Library maintain its reputation for not only quality, but also for service.

The Library is Looking For...

$500 to purchase Available Pay Survey Reports: An Annotated Bibliography, compiled by Abbott, Langer and Associates. The Labor and Industrial Relations Library’s 1975 copy of this important reference work is woefully outdated and falling apart.

Key to buildings at Delphi, from Topographischer Bildkommentar zu den Historien Herodots... The book was purchased for the Classics Library in 1988 by Joyce Chelberg through our Library is Looking For... column.
Alum Donates 4,000 Recordings to Music Library

Frank W. Smith, a 1941 alumnus in journalism of the University of Illinois, has donated his extensive collection of 4,000 phonograph recordings to the UI's Music Library.

The collection is one of the largest ever to be donated to the Music Library, according to Music Librarian William McClellan.

The albums include not only standard orchestral and operatic music, but also special genres such as Gregorian chant, jazz, military bands and choruses, and folk music traditions. Some of the more unusual items include many recordings distributed only in Western Europe on such labels as Deutsche Grammophon, Eurodisc, Telefunken, and Polydor.

"This is an important collection, since it fairly well covers the entire long-playing disc era and because it includes so many European labels," says Mr. McClellan. "It will make a strong resource for research on instrumental performance practice."

Also donated by Mr. Smith were 175 record magazines and music books, wooden shelving for the recordings, reviews of some of the albums, and a meticulously organized catalog providing immediate access to the collection.

Mr. Smith, a 69-year-old native and longtime resident of Watseka, Ill., started building his collection in 1958 while stationed in Germany with the Army. His commanding officer gave him an old monophonic record player and some old Mantovani records.

"Playing those few records over and over again, for want of any others, hooked me on phonograph records," remembers Mr. Smith, who started buying German beer hall music and popular selections available in Europe.

When another army friend introduced him to classical music, however, his interest grew to include everything from Baroque music to jazz. In particular, he developed a liking for Heinrich Schutz.

"I went to considerable effort in purchasing virtually every Schutz record which came to my attention," he says, "including making mail purchases in Europe, and I was particularly pleased to locate an incredibly complete Schutz discography—complete, that is, at the time it was published privately in Germany."

When Mr. Smith retired from active duty in the mid-'70s and returned to Watseka, he helped run a monthly music appreciation class at the local library and allowed the local radio station to use his recordings for a weekly classical music show.

In 1988, he decided to leave Watseka for retirement in Washington, D.C., and instructed his longtime friend, John Bell, to donate the entire collection to the UI.

"Frank was an avid listener to WILL (the UI's classical music station)," explains Mr. Bell. "He figured that if the records were at the university, then WILL would have access to them. So, he specifically wanted the records to go to the university."

Says Nancy Stagg, music director for WILL-FM, "This will be a good place to look for recordings we can't find anywhere else, particularly when we get unusual requests for our 'Classics by Request' program."

Motley Exhibit Visits UI
and Major U.S. Cities

"Design by Motley," the Library's exhibition from its collection of set and costume designs by the famed Motley group, had its Urbana-Champaign premiere January 24, 1989, at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts.

Nearly 250 Friends and guests attended the reception honoring the exhibit, which featured recreated costumes, miniature set reconstructions, design sketches, and a videotaped interview with Motley.

Introducing the exhibit were UI Chancellor Morton W. Weir, former Library Friends President Edwin Scharlau, and English Professor Michael Mullin, who discovered the collection and was instrumental in securing it for the university in 1981.

The collection has attracted international interest, especially since its showing in the spring of 1988 at Los Angeles' UKLA '88—A Celebration of British Arts festival.

Friends living in Austin, Washington, D.C., and New York City will get a chance to see this exciting exhibit. "Design by Motley" will be at the University of Texas at Austin's Performing Arts Center through mid-June. It will also be displayed at the Kennedy Center Library and the Lincoln Center Library later this year. The exhibit was shown in the Boston Public Library in February and March.

The national tour is funded by a major grant to the Library from the National Endowment for the Humanities, with additional assistance from the UI Foundation and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Judaica Collection Receives Two Major Donations

Two separate donations of $5,000 each, one from the Lucius N. Littauer Foundation and one from retired New York accountant Allen Toby, have been given to the Library's Judaica collection.

The donations are the largest ever received by the collection and will form the new Ruth H. Toby Memorial Judaica Book Fund. Mrs. Toby died in 1988.

"This marks a major turning point in Judaica studies on this campus because it allows us to make real progress in our library collection," says Gary Porton, director of the UI's Program of Religious Studies. "The Library has always been significant to us, and these gifts will really enhance the offerings we can provide to our students."

The Littauer Foundation gift was the result of a luncheon date between Mr. Toby's son, UI History Professor Ronald Toby, and the head of the Littauer Foundation, William Frost, who was an old family friend.

"He asked my son if Illinois had a Jewish studies program," remembers Mr. Toby, "because he wanted to make a donation in memory of my wife. I was so impressed with that gift that I decided to match it."

The gift from the Littauer Foundation will be used immediately to purchase books published in Europe on Jewish culture, society, language, and literature.

The gift from Mr. Toby will form an endowment whose interest will provide ongoing funds for book purchases over the years. The donation will also be considered part of the funds raised for the National Endowment for the Humanities challenge grant, which provides matching dollars for such donations.
Calendar

Exhibits

May

"Willard Airport Expansion." Main Corridor

"Documents as Rare Books." Rare Book and Special Collections Library

"Commencement, 1889, 1914, 1939, 1964." University Archives

"Gregory Hall, 1939." University Archives Hallway

June

"Anna Akhmatova: 100th Anniversary of Her Birth." Main Corridor

"Documents as Rare Books." Rare Book and Special Collections Library

"Historical Hesse." University Archives

"Illini Union, 1939." University Archives Hallway

July

"La jour de gloire: 200 Years of French Archival History." University Archives

"Government Information Publications." Main Corridor

"Notable Acquisitions, 1988/89." Rare Book and Special Collections Library

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
- Annual Report
- 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 nearly 3,000 members of Library Friends.

Moving?

Please let us know your new address so that you can continue to receive your copy of Friendscript. Send your new address to the Library Office of Development and Public Affairs, University of Illinois, 227 Library, 1408 W. Gregory, Urbana, IL 61801.

YES, I/we wish to become members of U of I Library Friends. Our contribution will help support the Library’s humanities collection through the NEH Challenge Grant Fund.

- University Librarian’s Council at UIUC
- Patron, $500
- Sponsor, $100
- Life, $3000
- Subscriber, $50
- Benefactor, $1000
- Student, $10

Please make your check payable to UI Foundation/NEH Library Challenge Grant Fund, 224 Illini Union, 1401 W. Green St., Urbana, Illinois 61801. All contributions are tax-deductible.

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