ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library
Challenge Grant Gets Major Boost From New Gift

A generous gift to the Library has given a major boost to the Library's goal of raising $3 million to match the National Endowment for the Humanities' $1 million challenge grant.

The gift, in the form of a charitable remainder unitrust, comes from Frederick and Margret Latham Worden of Florida. The Wordens previously made a large estate bequest in 1984 for library acquisitions.

Says University Librarian David F. Bishop, "This gift of a unitrust is not only extremely important for enhancing the Library's ability to retain its excellence, but also provides encouragement for other donors to help us meet the challenge grant."

Although Mr. Worden is a 1931 graduate of the UI's Department of Journalism, his admiration for the UI Library dates from 1981, when he attended his class's fiftieth reunion. As part of the activities, Mr. and Mrs. Worden visited the Rare Book and Special Collections Library.

"We saw some of the prized, very old books you have," remembers Mr. Worden, "and we got a far better idea of the extent of the collection. I was amazed at the comprehensive nature of it, with so many quite rare volumes."

That admiration led, in 1984, to the estate bequest.

In 1985, however, he had occasion to visit the Library once again, this time as a researcher on the life of Captain Jones Worden, a record-setting Mississippi riverboat captain who was his great-grandfather.

In addition to using many libraries throughout the midwest for his work, he checked in with the Library's Illinois Historical Survey. There he found several books, including county histories and some limited editions, that helped in his research. In return, he has given the Survey an autographed copy of his book, Racing for the Broom.

His interest in his ancestor has yielded more than just personal genealogical information.

"I was quite pleased that through my research, I was able to pin down the actual date of my great-grandfather's historic, record-setting trip up the Mississippi from St. Louis to St. Paul as July 1867, not 1868, as Mark Twain reported in Life on the Mississippi," says Mr. Worden. "Even found the exact times of the trip in newspapers from St. Louis and St. Paul."

Mr. Worden's business career was largely in management capacities with major appliance and kitchen cabinet companies. The highlight of his career, however, was his work on the atomic bomb project at the Garfield plant in Decatur, IL, during World War II, about which he hopes to write an article.

"I was one of a three-man task force that in a matter of weeks greatly increased the output of the gaseous diffusion barrier that was so vital to the successful completion of the A-bomb project on its target date," he says.

Mrs. Worden also has varied interests and frequently presents programs to groups on topics that run the gamut from county courthouses to teddy bears. She is also past state president and past national corresponding secretary of Questers, an organization devoted to the study of antiques and historical restoration.

Her interest in genealogy prompted her to publish her family's history, and an autographed copy of her book on her family's genealogy has been donated to the Illinois Historical Survey.

The unitrust, says Mr. Worden, seemed like a good way both to show their appreciation for the Library and to give the Library an immediate boost through the challenge grant.

"When we found we were in a position to move ahead with another gift, we said, 'Why wait to give it when the university could benefit from it now,'" he explains.

"So, we made a gift to the UI Foundation, earmarked for the Library, so we could see the results while we're still here to enjoy it."

Margret Latham Worden

Frederick Worden
Nigerian Scholar is First Mortenson Fellowship Recipient

Dr. Joseph E. Obi, Jr., a sociologist from the University of Benin, Nigeria, has been awarded the first Mortenson Fellowship for International Librarianship.

The fellowship is part of the C. Walter and Gerda B. Mortenson Professorship for International Library Programs, established last fall, and is designed to promote contact between the UI Library and international library students.

Dr. Obi received a Ph.D. in 1983 from Brandeis University and taught sociology at the University of Benin from 1983 to 1988. He currently is working on a master of library science degree.

He decided to begin work at the UI's Graduate School for Library and Information Science in January 1989 because of a growing interest in the creation, distribution, and use of information.

"My Ph.D. dissertation deals with the sociology of literature, and in the past few years I have become increasingly interested in the more generic field of the sociology of information," explains Dr. Obi about his decision to attend library school. "In my scholarly work, I kept confronting things that affect writing, reading, and the dissemination of literature, which is just one part of the transmission of knowledge."

This has led Dr. Obi to become interested in the dynamics of the burgeoning information industry from both research and practical angles. He is especially interested in the technologically based information analysis centers and clearinghouses found in the industrialized world.

His goal is to deepen his grasp of the information industry, and then bring his expertise to bear on the understanding, and possibly improvement, of that sector in Nigeria, especially as it relates to higher education and research.

"For me, the most important thing is to understand the information scene and get a good handle on the needs and problems of the information industry, particularly for the African user," he says. "There is a lot of work to be done in that area."

Because of fiscal problems in most of Africa, says Dr. Obi, the information needs there are great.

"Given the economic climate today, there is a serious information crisis," he says. "People are not getting updated information. It's a famine, in fact."

"The book industry in Nigeria, for instance, is weak right now, and that has significant implications for libraries and the information sector. Moreover, with foreign exchange problems right now, it's a big problem to get things from outside the country."

Protecting and increasing access to information, he adds, are critically important.

"To my mind, libraries are a very fundamental component of democracy," says Dr. Obi. "Issues like freedom of information and freedom from censorship, which are studied in law and sociology, belong just as much to library science. I hold these things very dear, and the view from library science is especially stimulating."

As a part of his Mortenson fellowship, Dr. Obi is working with Africana bibliographer Yvette Scheven in the Africana Reading Room, whose collection he considers "impressive."

"I had used the libraries in Boston, which is a great city for schools, with rich holdings in a consortium of libraries, but when I came here, I was truly impressed," says Dr. Obi. "The UI Library is large, but small enough to work through because of the departmental libraries—a credit to whoever designed this system."

"But the most important part is the size of the Library's holdings. Although no library can have everything for everyone, it's a very large and comprehensive collection. In my opinion, it should meet the needs of any academic community, just as it was intended to do."

Helen Barrymore was one of many volunteers attending the Library Friends Volunteer Recognition Reception April 19, 1989.
Language No Barrier at Modern Languages and Linguistics Library

What does an avid reader do who can’t stand to read anything in translation? If you’re Sara de Mundo Lo and you’re able to read more than eight languages, you become head of the UI’s Modern Languages and Linguistics Library. That’s where you’ll find literature, criticism, magazines, newspapers and more in virtually every language using the Roman alphabet.

“I consider this library a truly international library, not just because of our materials, but also because of our patrons, both faculty and students,” says Dr. Lo, a native of Buenos Aires who has headed the unit since 1974. “I like to say we cover everything from the Pas de Calais to the Caucasus and from the Arctic to the Mediterranean Sea.”

That mandate includes not only the standard French, Italian, German, Spanish, and Portuguese languages, but also all Scandinavian languages, and regional languages such as Catalan, Basque, Provençal, and Galician. The holdings in linguistics extend the range even further, to hundreds of African-Asian and even extinct languages from around the world.

Among the unit’s more than 850,000 volumes are the world’s foremost Marcel Proust collection, the prestigious Gerhard Mayer Collection of works by and about Rainer Maria Rilke, an impressive collection of books dealing with Dante, Tasso, and the Italian Renaissance period, and one of the strongest linguistics collections in the country.

In fact, the library is considered the best of its kind in the state and one of the top libraries for each of these disciplines in the country.

Literature and criticism, of course, form the bulk of the unit’s holdings, but as the offerings of the university’s language departments have expanded beyond literature, so have the library’s holdings.

“Several years ago, as a matter of survival or as a reflection of changes in society, the language departments started to move into courses like French for business or Spanish for agriculture,” says Dr. Lo. “So, suddenly we had these requests for books on economics in French, bilingual dictionaries geared to business, and the like.”

That’s why the collection contains current newspapers from several countries, business magazines like *New York Times* and *The Economist*, news magazines like *Cambio y Bunte*, and popular magazines like *La Cucina Italiana* and * Elle*. “The language classes use these frequently to see how current events are portrayed abroad,” explains Dr. Lo.

No section has changed as much as the Spanish collection, however. With the growth of Illinois’ Hispanic population has come increased demand for books in Spanish on virtually every topic touching daily life.

New acquisitions include Spanish-English medical dictionaries, books on child care and health, instrumental music instruction, computers, and much more. Dr. Lo even had a request for a book in Spanish on how to make dental bridges.

As the volume of interlibrary loan requests shows, the demand for such nontraditional Spanish-language books is great. “We are bound and committed to serve this state, and I am trying to help to fill the need,” she says. “Of course, if there is a need here for a work on Cervantes, that takes priority, but when I have an opportunity to get extra funds through Library Friends or somewhere else, I try to buy these types of materials.”

The Modern Languages and Linguistics Library, by default, also has become home to a small, unique collection of Chicano materials. “Of course, this is a rapidly expanding area of interest with great social and political implications,” says Dr. Lo.

In 1975, Dr. Lo’s unit became home to the UI’s linguistics collection, formerly housed in the Education and Social Science Library. Linguistics now forms the third-largest component of the Modern Languages and Linguistics Library.

Included are a unique group of language atlases, an excellent collection of works dealing with English as an international language, a particularly strong collection dealing with African-Asian languages, and books on every aspect of linguistics from sociolinguistics to universal languages.

“The activity in the linguistics field here is tremendous,” says Dr. Lo, “because some of the top scholars in the country and the world are here.”

Keeping up with their demands and with those from the language departments, however, has been difficult in the past few years.

“Of course, most of our materials come from abroad, so we have been very hard hit by the current monetary situation,” laments Dr. Lo. “In addition to the vicissitudes of the Library’s budget situation, our buying power has been cut by the declining power of the dollar.”

In fact, Dr. Lo is currently trying to find a way to purchase a work she says the university definitely should have—The Author Catalog of the Biblioteca Nacional de Madrid, which costs a staggering $26,000.

“People think Spanish materials are cheap,” she notes. “Well, they are not.”

As one of the primary humanities collections in the Library, the Modern Languages and Linguistics Library will be a major beneficiary of acquisitions funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities’ $1 million challenge grant.

The grant, earmarked for acquisitions, preservation, and bibliographic control of humanities-related materials, is part of a program in which recipients must raise $3 for every $1 of NEH funding within four years. Fundraising to meet the challenge will not be completed until 1991.

In the meantime, Dr. Lo continues to try to build her unit’s diverse collections as best she can. “It’s like in personal life,” she says about book purchasing, “you squeeze a little here and you squeeze a little there, and suddenly you have a collection.”

Portrait of author Ignacio Manuel Altamirano, from *Historia de la Literatura Hispanoamericana* (1945).
From the University Librarian

We are now celebrating the first anniversary of receiving a $1 million challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

As you know, last year the Library was one of only four institutions nationwide to receive such a grant, in which the NEH provides $1 dollar, up to $1 million, for every $3 we raise. Thus, if we can raise $3 million by 1991, the NEH will match our donations with another $1 million.

Naturally, such an infusion of funds has tremendous implications for our Library. First, the money is earmarked for the Library’s humanities collections, which comprise nearly fifty percent of our holdings but have received only one-quarter of our materials budgets in recent years.

Second, the grant will help us address our portion of the nationwide preservation crisis in library materials. Nearly one-third of our holdings already are brittle to the touch, and another thirty-nine percent are endangered. Given the extremely tight budgets over the past decade, we have been unable to address adequately this important need.

Third, the grant will help us make known to the world the magnificent holdings we have in our special collections, including archives, manuscripts, pamphlets and broadsides, rare books, and maps.

Although our staff has, in most cases, been able to describe these materials enough to make the collections accessible to library visitors, they have been unable to enter the information into national databases or make complete collection inventories. These databases and inventories are the most important ways libraries have to let the scholarly world know about their holdings. The NEH grant will be a tremendous help in addressing this pressing need.

So far, the Library has received several large donations, as well as many, many smaller gifts, towards the challenge grant. Our deadline for reaching our $3 million goal is 1991, a date that is fast approaching. Every contribution you make to Library Friends, no matter how small, can help us reach our goal.

Thanks to you, our humanities collections will be restored to their well-deserved place of eminence among our more than seven million volumes.

–David F. Bishop, University Librarian

Quotables

“Words are my life, from my high school newspaper to the Daily Illini to my career as a journalist. An assignment to write a lengthy article on the workings of the atomic bomb for a J-school class introduced me to the treasures of the U of I Library.

“Today libraries are more important to our national well-being than ever. A disturbing report on education discovered that most schoolchildren cannot communicate via the written word. If classrooms are failing, libraries are our best hope.”

–Monroe “Bud” Karmin, Pulitzer Prize-winning senior editor for U.S. News & World Report

Class of 1950
Library to Receive Collection of Antique Furniture

The Library is to become the home of one of the area's finest collections of late eighteenth- and early-nineteenth-century furniture.

The antiques were collected by George and Mildred White, charter members of Library Friends and members of the University Librarian's Council, and are destined for the proposed new Special Collections Building.

"These are unusually nice pieces for this part of the country because they're all eastern and all American," says professional appraiser Barbara Peckham. "You don't see this kind of furniture very much in our part of the country."

The twenty-six pieces include a beautiful six-drawer Chippendale blanket chest, an unusually fine, early nineteenth-century cherry corner cupboard that still has its original glass in the doors, an elegant Victorian bookcase, an original Seth Thomas clock, and much more.

The furniture almost forms a record of the long marriage of Mrs. White and her late husband George, professor emeritus of geology and father of the library's extensive history of science collection. Professor White died in 1985.

"When we were married, old things didn't appeal to me one whit," chuckles Mrs. White. "I was an Ohio girl, and I wasn't used to them. But George's roommate at the University of New Hampshire was a history professor who was interested in antiques, and he got George interested in them. When we were married, he already had several pieces."

So, the young couple decided to spend time scouting around antique shops for the fifteen years they lived in New Hampshire. Many of the pieces they bought were in poor condition, but the couple lavished attention on them. Eventually, they managed to turn some bottom-dollar bargains into furniture worth hundreds and even thousands of dollars.

One American Empire side table, for instance, suffered from a huge rat hole in one of the drawers and several sported unwanted coats of paint. In every case, the Whites found expert repairmen to repair and strip the furniture before they completed the finishing work themselves.

"We'd just use raw linseed oil for the finish," remembers Mrs. White. "George would put some on at night, and then the next day I'd rub it in. After doing that for a few months, you build up a finish that won't scratch."

The furniture collection is only the latest in a long line of gifts throughout the years from the Whites. The Library's outstanding history of science collection owes its existence to the interest, help, and generosity of Professor White.

Among the notable additions made possible by the Whites are the eighteenth-century Atlas Coelestis by John Flamsteed and publication of Geology Emerging, a catalog describing the Geology Library's more than 2,000 early geology and proto-geology books dating from before 1850.

In addition, Professor White donated his personal papers to the University Archives, where they provide one of the most important primary sources for information on geological work in twentieth-century America.

Says University Archivist Maynard Brichford, "George White combined a concern for the library with his own expertise, probably more so than any other faculty member."

Although most of the furniture collection will not be turned over to the Library for several years, visitors already can see one particularly fine piece—a mid-nineteenth-century American Victorian display case currently housed in the Rare Book and Special Collections Library.

Audubon Fundraiser Wins National Award for Library Friends

The 1987 Audubon Folio Preservation Benefit has won for Library Friends a national award for the best use of volunteers.

The award, sponsored by Friends of Libraries U.S.A., a national association of library support groups, was presented at the June 1989 meeting of the American Library Association, held in Dallas.

The Audubon benefit, which raised more than $92,000, was not only conceived by a volunteer (Jim Gallivan), but also planned and carried out, right down to the wrapping and auctioning of Audubon facsimile prints, by volunteers.

Library Friends received a certificate and specially commissioned poster of Edgar Allen Poe, signed by artist Leonard Baskin, to commemorate the occasion.
Calendar

Exhibits
August
“The Guns of August: World War I in 1914.” University Archives
“Notable Acquisitions, 1988/89.” Rare Book and Special Collections Library
“Government Documents: Understanding the Past, Making the Most of the Present, and Exploring the Future.” Main Corridor

September
“In Honor of Christopher Columbus.” Main Corridor
“Outbreak of World War II, 1939.” University Archives
“H.G. Wells as Cartoonist.” Rare Book and Special Collections Library

October
“MA-WAN-DA.” Main Corridor
“The Physics Department: A Centennial.” University Archives
“H.G. Wells as Cartoonist.” Rare Book and Special Collections Library
“Columbus’s October Revolution: The Day the Flat Earth Became Round.” Latin American Library Services Unit

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.

Library Friends Board of Directors
Morris Leighton, president; Robert R. Wallace, vice president; Bertha Jean Berger; Shirley Crouse; John Foreman; Kathryn G. Hansen; Dean Michael Hoeflich; Nancy Jeckel; Linda Mills; Mary Kay Peer; John C. Ruedi; Jack C. Stillinger; Kim Wurl. Ex-officio: David F. Bishop; Jim Edgar; Carolyn C. Gunter; Joan M. Hood; Sharon K. Kitzmiller; Judith K. Rowan; Carl Webber; James H. Gallivan; Cora Holland, Student Representative; Mary Liay; James B. Sinclair.

Friendscript

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.
☐ Patron, $500
☐ Sponsor, $100
☐ Life, $3000
☐ Subscriber, $60
☐ Benefactor, $1000
☐ Contributor, $35
☐ 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.

Name
Address
City
State & Zip

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.

Entered under second-class permit at Champaign, IL.