ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign Library
Library Friends Receives $1 Million Bequest for Challenge Grant

Library Friends has received a gift of more than $1 million to help meet the $3 million goal of the National Endowment for the Humanities challenge grant.

The gift, from the estate of George F. and Edna Brown Titus of Falls Church, VA, forms the new George F. and Edna Brown Titus Endowment.

"The Titus gift means so much to all of us," says University Librarian David Bishop. "It will provide substantial support for our humanities collections, it has given the NEH challenge grant a major boost, and it has demonstrated again the commitment of our Friends for the Library and for the University of Illinois."

Mrs. Titus, a charter member of Library Friends, was best known by librarians worldwide as the editor of the massive third edition of the Union List of Serials, published in 1965. This is still considered the standard reference tool for locating periodicals published before 1950.

Although the work is now regularly updated to reflect new publications since 1950, the third edition itself has never been superseded.

In editing the work, Mrs. Titus and her staff investigated approximately one million entries for inclusion. Eventually, the list was winnowed down to the final 226,987 entries, of which 70,538 were cross-references—all without the aid of computers.

After editorial work was completed, the copy was shipped to London in nine trunks, as part of Mrs. Titus's personal baggage, in order to take advantage of a new "abstracting" method of photocopying available only in Great Britain. Once there, Mrs. Titus oversaw proofreading and production of the work.

"This is the source for locating backfiles of journals," says Martha Landis, the Library's senior reference librarian. "It is the only work that gives a complete description of all the changes in journal titles, all the ins and outs of name changes of the various European academies that published journals, and gives specifics as to what volumes and issues a library actually has. It's just invaluable."

Mrs. Titus received a B.S. degree from Purdue University in 1926. She then earned both a B.S. (1928) and M.S. (1930) in library science from the UI and was a cataloguer at the UI Library from 1926 to 1930 and from 1931 to 1942.

From 1942 until she was appointed editor of the Union List of Serials in 1959, she was the head of the serials section of the Library of Congress's descriptive cataloging division.

While at the UI, Mrs. Titus already showed the outstanding qualities that served her so well in later years. As one colleague wrote about her in 1942, "She has the will power, the drive, and the intelligence to accomplish what she sets out to do . . . She has a fine imagination and unusual resourcefulness."

Mr. Titus, who died in 1987, was one of the "bright young men" brought into government by President Franklin Roosevelt. In his first government post, from 1934 to 1935, he was accountant-in-charge at the New York office of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration when the government was conducting an investigation of the live poultry industry in New York. Based on his personal audit of one suspect company, the government was able to obtain a conviction. He also held several important auditing posts during World War II related to Naval rearmament and procurement.

After the war, Mr. Titus was civilian head of the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard fiscal department and auditor-analyst for the government banking entity for the Marshall Plan. By the time he retired in 1963, he was one of the top internal auditor-analysts of the Treasury Department.

According to his nephew, George Betts, however, Mr. Titus's greatest accomplishment was his marriage to Edna Brown in 1962.

"There comes a time when that kind of affiliation and sense of being is more important than anything else," says Mr. Betts, a retired professor of political science at Kent State University. "They took their time before they got married, but they were incredibly supportive of each other, and very happy and content."

Although Mr. Titus had no connections to the UI (he earned degrees from the University of Oklahoma, Columbia University, and Yale University), Mr. Betts says the gift from both George and Edna Titus is not entirely surprising.

"She always had an interest in the UI Library—it was always very close to her," remembers Mr. Betts. "And my uncle, in many ways, was a student all his life."

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Unique Harp Music Collection Finds Home at Music Library

Noted art historian Roslyn Rensch has spent a lifetime playing the harp and studying the harp as depicted in art.

Now, she has donated the bulk of her personal collection of music, journals, recordings, notes, and books to the Music Library to form the Roslyn Rensch Harp Collection of music and resources on the harp and harpists.

"This is really a one-of-a-kind collection," says Music Librarian William McClellan, "because gathered in one place are Dr. Rensch's notes and books as well as material that would have been scattered all over the country. Having all these resources in one library collection will be a great convenience for researchers."

Included in the new collection are more than 900 items, including several hundred editions of nineteenth- and twentieth-century harp music, harp makers' brochures, harp journals from as far away as New Zealand, a signed and annotated copy of Robert Bruce Armstrong's two-volume Musical Instruments (1904), 110 books, and 150 sound recordings of folk, classical, and popular music performed by such artists as Lily Laskine, Henriette Renie, Carlos Salzedo, and others.

Also included are the research files and compilations of photographs and pictures of harps used by Dr. Rensch to write three major books on the history of the harp and harpists.

In addition, Dr. Rensch has donated a Carrara marble statue of a figure playing an ancient Egyptian harp and a nineteenth century Egan royal portable harp made in Dublin.

Of particular interest to performers and researchers alike may be a collection of harp arrangements of favorite songs and operatic arias, method books, and études once belonging to Emma Weast Bichl, a Chicago-area harpist in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. "This collection is valuable as an example of what harpists had access to around 1900," says Dr. Rensch.

Dr. Rensch's interest in harps came naturally, since she is the daughter of Chicago harpist Maria Damm Rensch. She played harp professionally in the Chicago area for several years and earned a bachelor's and master's degree in music from Northwestern University.

Then, one summer, she attended a course given by Curt Sachs, renowned lecturer on the history of musical instruments, at Northwestern University.

"That was the turning point for me," recalls Dr. Rensch. "I got so intrigued that I decided to go back to school for a doctorate in musicology."

She started doctoral work in musicology at Indiana University, but found that musicology alone could not help her pursue her interest in the harp.

"The earliest extant examples of the harp in art come from the fifteenth century," explains Dr. Rensch. "Prior to that, we only have very vague information as to what the harp looked like. Many representations are symbolic, but some are realistic. I needed an art history background to explain what I was looking at."

So, after teaching harp at Illinois from 1955 to 1958, she entered Illinois' art history program, earning an M.A. in art history in 1959. In 1964, she received her Ph.D. in art history from the University of Wisconsin.

From 1965 to 1988, she was professor of humanities and art history at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, as well as that university's harp teacher.

She has returned several times to the University of Illinois to do research for two of her books.

"Having lived in the midwest while writing my own harp books and articles, I know 'first hand' how one must travel to libraries and museums on the east and west coasts, as well as in Europe, to do any serious research on this subject," says Dr. Rensch. "In establishing my collection at the University of Illinois, I hope to make at least some information on harps and harpists more accessible to embryo scholars and researchers in this area."

Library is New Home to From Here to Eternity Manuscript

"It is not clear to me how anyone seriously concerned with fiction could praise this novel as extravagantly as it has been praised. The prose alone should make it impossible to take it very seriously," wrote Nation book reviewer Ernest Jones about From Here to Eternity in 1951.

"...a slovenly, ferocious book... from a man who has something to say and wants very desperately to say it," added John Lardner of The New Yorker.

Despite what critics had to say, From Here to Eternity is now considered one of the greatest war novels ever written, yet it has never been available in its original, uncensored form.

Now, however, scholars can see what author James Jones really wrote. Using money from the E. Kenneth Gray Endowment Fund, the UI Library has become the owner of Mr. Jones' original manuscript, complete with the many handwritten changes made at the request of his publisher's censors.

In addition, UI English Professor George Hendrick has donated a signed presentation edition of the book and a copy of Mr. James' second novel, Some Came Running, both from the library of Mr. Jones. They were given to Professor Hendrick by Mr. Jones' widow, Gloria Mosolino Jones.

The acquisitions coincide with the publication of Professor Hendrick's latest book, To Reach Eternity: The Letters of James Jones, published this year by Random House.

"It's one of these curious things," muses Professor Hendrick. "I knew that Jones was born not far from here (Robinson, IL), and since I regularly talked about his novels in my course on the novel, I decided to get in touch with his widow to see if anyone was working on his letters."

After meeting Mrs. Jones and obtaining her permission to do the work, he began following a paper trail that led him to...
libraries at Yale, Princeton, the University of Texas, and Sangamon State University.

The letters revealed not only many aspects about Mr. Jones’s life that previous biographers had not known, but also clues to the whereabouts of the From Here to Eternity manuscript.

“When Jones came back from the war in the South Pacific,” explains Professor Hendrick, “he was wounded and in terrible psychological condition. His parents had died, and his aunt took him to see Lowney Handy, a woman of ‘good works’ who took in pregnant women and ex-prisoners and the like.

“She was also an aspiring writer herself, who never managed to get anything published, but she was interested in working with young people who wanted to be writers. She became his mentor.”

The relationship was intense. Mrs. Handy’s method involved having aspiring writers type out the works of other authors and having them read prescribed works of fiction. Under this strict regimen, Mr. Jones flourished.

After the publication of From Here to Eternity, as his letters indicate, he gave her the original manuscript, with the stipulation that it be returned to him when she died.

After several years, however, he began to chafe under the austere regimen prescribed by Mrs. Handy. During a trip to his publisher in New York in 1956, he met and later married Gloria Mosolino. The marriage led to a complete break with Mrs. Handy.

When Mrs. Handy died several years later, her will made no mention of her promise to return the manuscript, and the manuscript languished in a family bank vault until the Library purchased it in 1989.

Why the longtime lack of interest in a writer whose work won such acclaim?

“James Jones has been out of favor,” explains Professor Hendrick. “He was accused of not being a stylist, of having a ponderous style, of having a blue-collar mentality, for trying to write popular books. After he wrote The Thin Red Line (the second book of his war trilogy), almost every novel he wrote was bitterly attacked by the majority of critics, although most of them continued to sell very well. Recently, though, critics have responded more favorably to the novels they once derided.”

The reading public was shocked by Mr. Jones’s unvarnished view of life in the peacetime Army just before Pearl Harbor, with its gutter language and illicit sexual conduct. They would have been stunned, however, had they been able to read what the author originally wrote.

“You think I put those things in arbitrarily, just for simple shock value. But it isn’t that,” wrote Mr. Jones to his editor in 1951. “You see, you were an officer. Officers are inclined to be a little more polite about such things . . . I don’t care if anybody thinks I’m a dirty writer. Maybe I am. After all, I’ve only my American background and training to pattern after.”

Scribner’s thought otherwise, insisting on extensive cuts and revisions. In fact, neither Scribner’s nor any other publisher has ever produced an unexpurgated edition of the book. “I think they would find that the original is even better than the version that was published,” says Professor Hendrick.
Sports, Health, and Wellness the Focus of Applied Life Studies Library

What do Little Leaguers, gerontology specialists, and Olympics fans have in common?

They all can find information about their interests at the UI's Applied Life Studies Library.

As the unit responsible for collecting materials to support the curricula of the departments of Kinesiology (formerly Physical Education), Health and Safety Studies, Leisure Studies, the Division of Rehabilitation Education Services, the Institute for Research on Human Development, and Dance, the Applied Life Studies Library has everything from rule books for virtually every sport to information on independent living for the disabled.

The unit is one of only two libraries in the country devoted exclusively to these areas.

"It may not seem like it at first glance, but all these departments in the College of Applied Life Studies are interrelated in that they all deal with some aspect of health and wellness," explains librarian Patricia McCandless.

"So, our collection is developing a thrust on materials dealing with lifespans, wellness, and fitness from birth to old age."

Given its start as the library of what used to be known as the College of Physical Education, it's not surprising that the unit's strongest holdings deal with sports and games. Here, players of any sport from Little League baseball to professional football can find not only all the rules, but even the size of the playing field and regulations regarding equipment.

More interested in games? The library has a unique index listing the rules for hundreds of games, from simple bean-bag races to obscure ones like railroad euchre and Red River Valley Quadrille.

According to Ms. McCandless, however, "physical education" has changed a lot since the unit was founded in 1949, and the collection reflects that change.

Design for the gold medal from the 1936 winter Olympics from Olympia 1936, part of the Avery Brundage Collection.

Last spring, the unit also undertook a survey of the Library's holdings on gerontology in order to fill in any gaps.

"Many units in the Library collect in this area, which is a great interest for many of our college's departments," explains Ms. McCandless, "so we were pleased to be able to acquire these materials."

The Applied Life Studies Library doesn't just have cut-and-dried research materials, however. It is also home to part of the Library's unique Avery Brundage collection on the Olympics.

Mr. Brundage, an Olympic athlete, also was president of the U.S. Olympic Association from 1929 to 1933 and president of the International Olympic Committee from 1952 to 1972.

After his death in 1975, his personal papers and books were given to the University Archives, which then moved his books to the Applied Life Studies Library. "Scholars tell us that Mr. Brundage had more information than the International Olympic Committee in Switzerland had, in terms of the whole package," says Ms. McCandless. "The Archives, for instance, have a complete run of programs from the first modern Olympics to the most recent."

Among the books in the Applied Life Studies Library are official reports from host cities, promotional materials for every Olympics, and many beautiful books presented to Mr. Brundage that may or may have no relationship to the Olympics, such as a facsimile of a medieval sky atlas.

Two outstanding items in the unit's Brundage collection are Olympia 1936, a two-volume work with photographs individually pasted in that provides a history of the Olympic movement and biographies of top athletes and teams participating in the 1936 Olympics; and Schönheit im Olympischen Kämpf, a compilation of action photographs from the 1936 Olympics by noted German filmmaker Leni Riefenstahl, who autographed this copy.

No wonder Ms. McCandless and her staff think nothing of fielding reference questions ranging from Olympics to gerontology. "The range, she says, keeps her on her toes."

"We even got one request through a public library about some golf clubs a man inherited," she remembers with a laugh. "It seems the clubs had a name on them that was not instantly recognizable, and the owner thought they might have belonged to a famous golfer."

"So, we went through all the golf directories for players with that name, and we dug into all the historical information we had. We finally discovered the name was a division of Spaulding, the sports manufacturer."

$1 Million Gift cont'd

"I remember late in my high school career, he would send me four or five books a month to read—Tolstoy, Dostoevski, things I wouldn't have read otherwise. That was the real beginning of my university career."

"So, he was in many ways extraordinary, and it sort of explains why he and his wife would want to leave their estate to you. It was their way of forming an ongoing, permanent treasure of a sort."
Second Mortenson Fellow Visits Library

The Library hosted its second Mortenson Fellow last June with the month-long visit of Brazilian librarian Claudia Balby. Ms. Balby, a librarian at the University of São Paulo's School of Arts and Communications, spent the month learning about computer applications for various library functions and collecting copies of documents to take back to her home institution.

"I had not really heard of the University of Illinois before I came, and I was really surprised by the size of your collection," said Ms. Balby during her visit.

While here, Ms. Balby principally conducted research on the state of expert systems applications, or "intelligent machines," for library services and on developing systems for computerized retrieval of fiction that go beyond the usual author-title points of access. "I found references to things in your engineering library that I never would have found in Brazil," she said.

In addition, she visited the university's Micro Resources Center, where she was able to make copies of public-domain software for developing expert systems applications. "These alone are worth the whole trip because they are completely unavailable in Brazil," she added.

The Library's ability to support extensive research especially impressed Ms. Balby. "I feel so pampered here," she said. "You've certainly gotten to a point we haven't been able to reach yet, with an integrated structure to support research and a budget commitment to match.

"And I was surprised at the size of your university, compared with the size of the city your geographical location. Brazil is huge, but it's still a coastal civilization—everything civilized is near the coast. So, I was surprised to find an institution of such importance in the interior of your country. That's not very common in Brazil."

Ms. Balby's full report of her visit appears in the 1989 Library Friends Annual Report.

Asian Library to Receive Books through New Exchange Program

The Asian Library will be one of the beneficiaries of a new, five-year exchange program between the University of Illinois and Tamkang University in Taiwan.

The program, under the auspices here of the political science department, calls not only for faculty and student exchanges, but also for building library collections at both universities.

For the Asian Library, that means $4,000 per year to purchase books on any subject, provided the books are published in Taiwan. At Tamkang University, a similar amount will be used to purchase books on American studies.

According to both William Wong, head of the Asian Library, and George Yu, chair of the political science department and coordinator of the new program, the agreement came about through the interest of UI alumnus Clement Chang (M.S. '52, Ed.D '81). Dr. Chang is chairman of Tamkang University's board of trustees and a major political figure in Taiwan.

Explains Professor Yu, "He was interested in trying to do something for his old school, so we worked out a program on our side to help Chinese students, and on their side to help build American studies."

The agreement was signed in March by Chancellor Morton W. Weir during a visit to Taiwan.

Some Bequests are Eligible Gifts for NEH Challenge Grant

If you are considering a gift to help the Library with the NEH Challenge Grant, you should know that many different contributions meet the federal matching requirements. They include gifts of cash, pledges to be paid in cash within the grant period (July 31, 1991), nonfederal grants, gifts of marketable securities, deferred or planned gifts, such as a gift annuity, pooled income trust, and/or a charitable remainder unitrust.

The remainder value of an estate bequest may also be eligible for federal matching for the Challenge Grant. The value is based on the life expectancy of the donor, in accordance with standard IRS principles for evaluation. In this case, specific language regarding the Challenge Grant is needed if your will is drafted or revised during the grant period, as well as a statement of irrevocable bequest signed by the donor. For Illinois residents, according to our legal counsel, such a statement is enforceable according to Illinois law. Residents outside Illinois should consult their attorneys about enforceability of such statements in other states.

For more information on bequest eligibility, please contact Joan Hood, director of development and public affairs, at 227 Library, 1408 W. Gregory Dr., Urbana, IL 61801 (217-333-5682).
Civil War Letters Shed New Light on Virginia Regiment

It may have taken 125 years, but the Civil War record of Virginia’s Botetourt Artillery has finally been cleared up, thanks to a new collection donated to the Illinois Historical Survey.

The collection is the Francis G. Obenchain Papers, donated last April by Robin Symons, a descendant of Mr. Obenchain, and her husband, Ralph (B.S. ’55). Included among the papers are many letters sent by and to Mr. Obenchain about the Botetourt Artillery’s actions, battlefield maps, blueprints, manuscript drafts, and genealogical information.

“This collection will certainly be useful for anybody doing Civil War history,” says Ken Noe, a doctoral student in Civil War history, who processed the collection. “The Obenchain papers pretty much contradict much of what has been written up to now about the unit.”

The Botetourt Artillery had the distinction of being the only Virginia unit to fight in the Vicksburg campaign of 1863. Mr. Obenchain, though only 20 years old, served as the unit’s temporary commander at the time. Most of the unit was captured during the campaign, but later the soldiers were paroled and returned to fight in Virginia in 1864.

“Mr. Obenchain was very embarrassed, even ashamed, of the condition of his unit after Vicksburg,” says Mr. Noe. “One of the first things they were assigned to do was to protect a major rail line in Virginia—the major supply line for food from the South to Lee’s army. This was also one of the first things Grant wanted to destroy after he took over in 1864.”

Accounts of the Botetourt Artillery’s brave participation in the ensuing Battle of Lynchburg, in which the Union soldiers were driven off, have always been based on information provided by the unit’s commander, Captain Henry Douthat. Mr. Obenchain’s letters give a strikingly different picture.

“I have written some members if they knew where Henry Douthat was during the engagement, but none knew,” wrote Mr. Obenchain to his brother many years later. “My map will show you just where he was.

“It was after the engagement had been on several hours when two officers of the dismounted cavalry came up to me and asked, ‘Who is that red-haired, red-whiskered coward crouched behind the traverse?’ Some of the men told him who it was. How long he had been there and when he came I never knew.

“In a little while, I walked through the opening and saw him. The firing on both sides had ceased for awhile and he came out and through the opening but never came near the guns. A puff of smoke was seen to arrive from one of our enemies’ guns and when the shell reached us Douthat had returned behind the traverse. One of the two officers came up and said, ‘That man ought to be court-martialed for cowardice.’

Captain Douthat, based on his own accounts, went on to become a local hero. The Obenchain papers, however, are important for other issues as well, according to Mr. Noe. “Mr. Obenchain had a great memory and knew in great detail where this battery or that battery was during the battles at Vicksburg,” he says. “Many of the markers at the national park are where they are because Mr. Obenchain said so.”

In addition, the papers give interesting insights into the veterans’ movements at the end of the nineteenth century.

“There was a sort of revival movement, very much like what happened in this century after the Vietnam War,” explains Mr. Noe. “The public immediately lost interest in the Civil War, and it was a good ten to twenty years before anybody wanted to talk about it again. Then, in the 1880s and 1890s, there was a period when veterans were having reunions, trying to set the record straight, and getting parks set up. These papers give a lot of insight into that.”

The Obenchain papers join the Illinois Historical Survey’s extensive collection of Civil War letters, diaries, and other memorabilia.
From the University Librarian

Recent weeks have brought good news for both the University and the Library. For the Library, there has not only been the proportional budget increase one would expect, but also considerably more. We have received an eleven percent increase in state funds for the materials budget. This means that for the first time in recent years, we will not only be able to keep up with inflation, but we will also be able to increase our depth of collecting.

We have also received significant help in increasing the salaries of our support staff, student assistants, and graduate assistants. It is particularly pleasing to me to see some relief for these dedicated and worthy employees.

Librarians' salaries have also improved. The salary pool that was provided by the University for librarians was well above the campus average, and as a result, we were able to assist many of our most deserving people, particularly the junior librarians, who both need and deserve higher salaries.

Finally, we have received more than $250,000 in additional operating money. This money will allow us to restore many of the services we had curtailed and will mean that we can begin addressing some of the long-term problems that the Library has had in recent years.

There are many people to whom we are indebted for the support we have received. The University administration, particularly Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Robert Berdahl, should be thanked for consistently making the Library a high priority. The faculty and students on this campus have made it clear that a quality library is a high priority for them and is something that is crucial to the success of their work.

Finally, there are the Library Friends, whose support has made it clear that the importance of this Library goes well beyond the campus and is of concern to a much larger group. The significant increase in funding for the Library is very much appreciated, but it also presents a challenge. The challenge is for those of us in the Library to make wise use of the funds we have received. We must also be sure they are expended in a way that will provide the greatest benefit and will strengthen the Library for present and future generations.

—David F. Bishop, University Librarian

Quotables

"I've always felt books and reading are important to young people. My mother taught me when I was very young to always watch the news and read the paper, not just the sports section, but the front of the paper. If you know something about the past and about what's going on in the world now, you'll know what's worthwhile and what to avoid.

"I guess that's why I decided to major in history. Before I graduated in 1983, I had written a lot of reports and papers. It seems like I was always busy in those days—classes, studying, practice, away games, and all—so I wanted to get things done as efficiently as possible. Fortunately, I got a good start on how to do research for my papers from the term paper counselors at the Undergraduate Library.

"By the time I was a junior I was using the History Library a lot, too. The History Library is an incredible roomful of books . . . and all there just for the asking. I don't think I'll ever forget the feeling of knowing I could walk in and put my hands on just about anything I needed for a paper or report.

"The education I received at Illinois has helped me make choices in my professional career. I'm grateful for that education, and I'm proud of the excellent Library that is an important part of an education at Illinois."

—Eddie Johnson, class of 1983
Member, Phoenix Suns, and counselor to youth groups to encourage youngsters to avoid drugs and to read
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:
- 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.

Library Friends Board


Friendscript

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