PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library Large-scale Digitization Project, 2007.
**Professor Emeritus Honors Library with Major Gift**

The UI Library has received yet another major gift to help in its quest to raise $3 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant.

The gift, in the form of a charitable remainder unitrust, comes from Reid Milner, UI professor emeritus of food science and longtime Library Friend.

The Library gift is part of a larger donation to the University that also benefits the School of Chemical Sciences, the Department of Chemical Engineering, and the Department of Food Sciences.

“This is indeed a most gratifying gift, not only because of what it means for the Challenge Grant, but especially because it comes from one of the Library’s core constituencies—the University faculty,” says University Librarian David F. Bishop. “It is a great honor to be recognized in this way by a patron for the resources we have provided over the years.”

Adds Professor Milner, “I’ve always enjoyed reading, and I’ve used the Library for recreation as well as work. It’s a very important part of the University.”

Professor Milner’s love of the UI Library started back in 1920, when he arrived on the Urbana-Champaign campus as a freshman in chemical engineering. He went on, in 1925, to earn his master’s degree in physical chemistry at the UI as well.

After earning his Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley in 1929, Professor Milner started his long career at the newly established regional soybean laboratory, one of the first in the country. In 1939, he became its head.

The laboratory’s mandate was to find industrial uses for soybeans and soybean byproducts, as well as to develop new varieties that could be grown in different climates. Although the laboratory failed to find many industrial uses that were cost-efficient, it was extremely successful in its hybridizing program.

“At one time, all the soybeans grown in the United States were developed here at Urbana or by one of our men,” says Professor Milner.

In 1941, he moved to the Northern Regional Research Laboratory in Peoria, again rising from head analyst to laboratory director. When he left in 1954, it was to head the UI’s Department of Food Technology, a post he held until his retirement in 1971.

Thus, throughout much of his long career, Professor Milner found himself buried deep in the Library’s collections.

“I was in chemistry, of course, so I used the Chemistry Library a great deal,” he explains, “but I have also always appreciated the resources of the main Library, especially for recreational reading. After I came back here, long after I was a student, I would go back and explore the stacks just for the fun of it, especially for books by Kipling and Robert Louis Stevenson. I really enjoy those authors.”

Professor Milner also found the Library helpful in learning the genealogy of his family, a project he started before returning to the UI in 1954. In particular, he found the Illinois Historical Survey’s collection of county histories and the Library’s collection of early authors very useful.

Then, in the early 1980s, he donated to the Survey the papers of his grandfather, Rev. Duncan Chambers Milner, a leading temperance reformer in Chicago and veteran of the battle of Chickamauga during the Civil War. He has also donated several of his family’s genealogical charts.

Since retiring, Professor Milner has kept active with gardening, reading, and attending concerts and plays at the UI’s Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. And every Christmastime for the past twenty-five years, he and his son have engaged in a hobby only a few can enjoy today—building with the now rare Richter stone blocks.

“This was a children’s toy developed in Germany around 1870 and made until about 1963,” explains Professor Milner. “I was given my first set when I was six, and I now have a modest amount—about 5,000. You use them to build scale-model replicas of European buildings according to detailed plans.”

The building this year, he says, was Villa #2 in Kirchenfeld.

“It’s a sort of screwy hobby,” he admits, “but it gives me immense pleasure.”
Library at Center of Revolutionary Changes in Biology

A departmental library founded with the collections of revolutionaries is bracing itself to participate in yet another revolution.

The revolution is occurring in the field of biology, and staying abreast of the latest advances is keeping Biology Librarian Elisabeth Davis on her toes.

As custodian of a collection whose earliest works are used as heavily as the latest, she needs an almost encyclopedic bibliographic grasp of a field that includes everything from anatomy to zoology.

"The biology literature is absolutely burgeoning, proliferating—it's totally out of control!" exclaims Mrs. Davis. "In the biological sciences, we seem to be right on the verge of a breakthrough, but there are so many questions still to be solved. The literature really reflects that."

For the Biology Library, however, revolutionary change is nothing new. The two founders of the collection, Stephen A. Forbes (1844-1930) and Thomas J. Burrill (1839-1916), both radically altered the way the world understood certain biological systems. Professor Forbes was recognized as a leader in the biological sciences and was considered by many to be the father of ecology. Professor Burrill was the first to describe a plant disease as being caused by fungus.

With their collections as a foundation, the Biology Library has grown to become one of the most comprehensive and most widely respected in the country, especially in the fields of entomology, ornithology, and botany.

"This is a very heavily used library whose patrons range from undergraduates right through post-doctoral students, and having the materials for all their needs is a real challenge," says Mrs. Davis.

"For instance, taxonomists need to see the first-known account in the literature of an insect or plant, so we keep our rare books in our own safe, rather than in the Rare Book and Special Collections Library, but we also need to have the most current research, up-to-date databases, and bibliographies on hand, too."

It's not surprising, then, to find the Illustrations of the Botany of Captain Cook's Voyage coexisting with the likes of MEDLINE and the LIFE SCIENCES COLLECTION, two of the library's databases on CD-ROM. "From oldest to newest, our materials are all used very heavily," she notes.

That kind of breadth is appreciated by those who use the collection most—the faculty.

Take the case of Entomology Professor Robert Metcalf, for instance. Right now, he's studying the effect of continental drift on the evolution of various insects. "Not only do I need information on many insects from the Far East, but I'm also trying to trace them back a few million years," he explains. "The Biology Library is invaluable in this respect."

Adds Entomology Professor May Berenbaum, "Fantastic doesn't even express how I feel about the Biology Library. It's invaluable and absolutely essential for everything from teaching to research."

The Biology Library's comprehensiveness, however, comes at a steep price. Nearly 90 percent of the collection is serials, and the price of serials has skyrocketed over the past decade.

"It's a combination of the fact that a large fraction of the Biology Library's serials are published in Europe, so it was more seriously damaged by the devaluation of the dollar than other libraries. And, because of the tremendous growth in the field, especially in molecular biology and genetic engineering, there is a demand for new subscriptions and publications. The library's acquisition budget just hasn't been able to keep up."

Adds Professor Berenbaum, "I don't mean to sound depressing, but things are reaching crisis proportions, which is a crying shame, because biology is on the verge of a revolution comparable to the computer revolution a few decades ago."

Help may be on the way, however. This spring, in conjunction with the Library's Office of Development and Public Affairs, the School of Life Sciences is conducting a precedent-setting alumni appeal to create a new endowment fund specifically earmarked for serials for the Biology Library (see page 6 for more information).

"We've always received great support from the School of Life Sciences, such as funds for remodeling the reading room or for our first terminal for online searching," says Ms. Davis, "but this long-range appeal is really unusual, and greatly appreciated."

Thus, when the University Library as a whole was forced to slash its spending for periodicals during the budget crises of 1986 and 1987, the Biology Library was one of the hardest-hit units.

"We have three serial titles that cost $5,000 a year, and subscription prices of over $1,000 are not unusual," explains Mrs. Davis.

Researchers are so dependent on these journals, however, that the resulting subscription cancellations sent shock waves throughout the entire School of Life Sciences.

"Several of the units in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences have mentioned occasional budget problems with their departmental libraries to me, but never have I seen complaints on the level of those from the School of Life Sciences," says Larry Faulkner, the UI's new dean of liberal arts and sciences.

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Library Friend Receives Honorary Degree from UI

Andrew Barr ('23, '24), former chief accountant of the Securities and Exchange Commission and longtime Library Friend, is to receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree at the UI's May commencement ceremonies.

The degree is in recognition of Mr. Barr's significant influence on the basic principles and self-regulation of modern accountancy. It also recognizes his strong sense of ethics and integrity, which helped shape the SEC into the highly respected agency it is today.

The honor is especially significant for Mr. Barr, who was born and raised in Urbana and whose grandparents were among the area's early settlers.

"I have received several awards for achievement in my day," says the modest Mr. Barr, "but this I put at the head of the list. To get such an honor from your own hometown university— that is the top to me."

Mr. Barr's long governmental career has had a significant effect on the accountancy profession. Practices that are now taken for granted, such as physical inspection of inventories and total independence of a company's auditor, are in part directly or indirectly a result of Mr. Barr's influence.

That influence started within months of his joining the SEC in 1938. "I had hardly had time to read the regulations and get acquainted with the policies of the organization when I was assigned to assist in the investigation of auditing in the McKesson & Robbins scandal as the representative of the chief accountant of the SEC," remembers Mr. Barr.

The case, which became a landmark in accountancy, involved massive fraud on the part of the management of the then well-known pharmaceutical company.

As one of the principal SEC investigators, Mr. Barr wrote the bulk of the SEC's 454-page report, which led to immediate changes in how audits of public corporations were done.

The McKesson & Robbins affair is amply documented in the UI Archives, which holds the papers of UI alumnus William J. Wardall, the trustee in bankruptcy for the case, as well as Mr. Barr's annotated copy of the published SEC report.

After serving in the Army from 1941 to 1946, Mr. Barr returned to the SEC, rising to the position of chief accountant in 1956. He retired in 1972.

As chief accountant, Mr. Barr served in a liaison role regarding accounting and auditing between the Commission and the accountancy profession in disputes between the Commission and SEC registrants.

His influence, however, was not always overt. Although the SEC has always had statutory authority to prescribe how accountants should go about their work, the Commission has always let accountants themselves, through their professional organizations, determine the nuts and bolts of how to do their work.

However, when Mr. Barr spoke before professional groups or wrote articles concerning changes he felt were needed in accepted accounting practices, the accounting profession took heed because of the specter of government regulation if his suggestions were ignored.

"It was left to me to say something was not right or that it didn't fit generally accepted accounting principles," says Mr. Barr. "As I've always said, accounting is just common sense—the question is whether it's yours or mine. I admit sometimes people would be violently opposed to what I said was the rule."

Throughout his years in Washington, Mr. Barr remained a strong supporter of the UI, as befits a member of the family whose brickworks supplied the bricks used to construct Lincoln Hall, part of Altgeld Hall, and other campus buildings.

In addition to being a long-time benefactor of the Library, Mr. Barr has been a generous donor to the College of Commerce. In 1971, he also established a scholarship fund for female medical students at the UI College of Medicine in Urbana-Champaign. The fund is in memory of his mother, Hortense Call Barr, who graduated from the UI in 1895 as a pre-medical student.

The Library, however, remains one of Mr. Barr's primary interests. "Isn't the Library the most important center of the University?" he asks.

In addition to monetary gifts, Mr. Barr has donated or arranged donations of important materials for the Library's collections.

One such collection contains his personal papers dealing with his years in the UI's ROTC cavalry division and the reserve cavalry divisions in Chicago and New England.

His duty as chief of intelligence for the Army's Third Armored Division during World War II also led to an important Library acquisition. As an active member of the Division's veterans' association, he was a prime mover behind the organization's decision in 1981 to place its extensive collection of personal papers, maps, photographs, and other memorabilia with the UI Archives.

"As far as I know, this is a unique collection, which shows the personal side of the war," says University Archivist Maynard Brightford. "I don't know of another collection of archival materials pertaining to World War II on a divisional level."

Mr. Barr also has donated to the Library his nearly complete collection of histories of World War II armored divisions.

"Over the years, I've attempted to get all the armored division histories, but I'm still missing the Thirteenth and Sixteenth Divisions," he says. "If I can locate them, then the Library would have a really unique collection."
Library Acquires Extraordinary Literary Collection

The UI Library has become the new home of an extraordinary literary archive—a collection that is destined to change the way scholars view some of the country's most important writers and events.

The collection contains correspondence, diaries, and unpublished manuscripts of Edwin Rolfe (1909-1954), a poet, journalist, and novelist well known during the 1930s and 1940s.

Through his activism in left-of-center political groups, and especially through his participation in the famed Abraham Lincoln Brigade during the Spanish civil war, Mr. Rolfe became friends and corresponded with many of the period's leading writers and thinkers, including Ernest Hemingway, Nelson Algren, Langston Hughes, Clifford Odets, and Michael Gold.

Mr. Rolfe happened to save most of the letters he received, as well as his wartime diaries, many unpublished photographs from the war (some by noted battlefield photographer Robert Capa), and numerous unpublished manuscripts by himself and others.

Since his death more than thirty-five years ago, his wife Mary has carefully preserved his papers, allowing only limited access to them.

In 1989, however, Mrs. Rolfe decided to sell this extraordinary archive to the UI, making it fully available to researchers for the first time.

According to UI English Professor Cary Nelson, who was instrumental in obtaining the collection, the archive will be invaluable for the information it provides on the Spanish civil war, the McCarthy era, the intelligentsia of the Left, and many literary careers.

Among the most exciting items are twenty-two previously unpublished letters by Ernest Hemingway, written to Mr. Rolfe between 1939 and 1953.

"These letters show that, at least in the case of Rolfe and some others as well, Hemingway kept in touch with people on the Left and remained sympathetic with Left perspectives on American history much longer than biographers of Hemingway have acknowledged to date," explains Professor Nelson. "Some scholars will now feel the need to reevaluate his position regarding American politics and culture."

Another writer whose career may be reevaluated because of the Rolfe Collection is Langston Hughes, the most prominent of the "Harlem Renaissance" poets. Among the papers are not only a previously unpublished poem and several letters by Mr. Hughes, but also Mr. Rolfe's diary entries detailing his meetings in Spain with Mr. Hughes during the Spanish conflict.

"According to the letters, Hughes was there to write about the war and to interview black soldiers and black nurses in the brigade," explains Professor Nelson. "Rolfe was to help arrange his travels."

"Biographers, however, don't mention this at all. They have Hughes meeting famous writers in Spain and writing passionately about Spain, but not working with people like Rolfe to learn about the war. But Rolfe spent a fair amount of time with him and they even read each other's works. So, clearly they had a relationship in Spain that helped shape Hughes' perspective on the Spanish civil war."

Finding this incredible collection, according to Professor Nelson, was partly serendipity. He had become interested in Edwin Rolfe's work while researching Repression and Recovery: Modern American Poetry and the Politics of Cultural Memory, a 1989 book about twentieth-century poets, including Mr. Rolfe, who had

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ELEGIAS

MADRID Madrid Madrid Madrid Madrid
I call your name endlessly, savor it like a lover.
Ten irrevocable years have exploded like bombs
since last I saw you, since last I slept
in your arms of tenderness and wounded granite.
Ten years since I touched your face in the sun,
ten years since the homeless Guadarrama winds
moaned like shivering orphans through your veins
and I moaned with them.

When I think of you, Madrid,
locked in the bordello of the Universal Pimp,
the blood that rushes to my heart and head
blinds me, and I could strangle your blood-besotted jailors,
choke them with these two hands which once embraced you.
When I think of your breathing body of vibrancy and sun,
silently I weep, in my own native land
which I love no less because I love you more.
Yet I know, in the heart of my heart, that until your liberation
rings through the world of free men near and far
I must wander like an alien everywhere.

Madrid, in these days of our planet's anguish,
forged by the men whose mock morality
begins and ends with the tape of the stock exchanges,
I too sometimes despair. I weep with your dead young poet.
Like him I curse our age and cite the endless wars,
the exiles, dangers, fears, our weariness
of blood, and blind survival, when so many
homes, wives, even memories, are lost.

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First three stanzas of "Elegia," by Edwin Rolfe, from First Love and Other Poems, 1950. "Your . . . poem made me cry and I have only cried maybe four times in my life, which is now gone on for half a hundred years and 6 months," wrote Ernest Hemingway from Cuba after Edwin Rolfe had sent him a copy of the poem. " . . . Anyway, the times (live now) I always cried for other people and now for a . . . town." The letter is dated April 13, 1950.
largely been forgotten. He was so impressed with the quality of Mr. Rolfe's poetry that he decided to try to bring him back into print.

He first needed to find out about Mr. Rolfe's life, however, so he and coeditor Jefferson Hendricks (a UI Ph.D. now teaching at Centenary College in Louisiana) contacted veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, who put them in touch with Mrs. Rolfe. After he gained her trust, she eventually showed him the treasures she had stored all these years.

"When I approached her, I had no idea there would be an archive of this size!" he says.

Professors Nelson and Hendricks plan to bring out a new edition of Mr. Rolfe's published and unpublished poems, as well as a selection of civil war diaries and letters to his wife.

What the poems will show, says Professor Nelson, is that the accepted literary 'canon' of twentieth-century poets and poetry is seriously deficient.

"There are statements that have been accepted for twenty-five years that are wholly inaccurate—for instance, the statement that no political poems were written during the early '50s," he says. "I believed that for a long time, and I concluded that poets were unwilling to write about the McCarthy period.

"Well, that's simply false, and it's hard to see a virtue in perpetuating a lie. Rolfe did publish some political poems then, though it was very hard to find journals willing to attack the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC). But one of the exciting things about this collection was finding the strong, witty poems he wrote in the '50s but couldn't publish."

The plight of other writers like Mr. Rolfe during the McCarthy era is amply documented in his papers. Among the correspondence, for instance, are letters from close friends Alvah Bessie and Albert Maltz, two of the "Hollywood Ten" screenwriters imprisoned for refusing to cooperate with the HUAC.

Also in the collection is the screenplay by Mr. Rolfe and Lester Fuller of a film based on the novel, a mystery novel they coauthored. The film was to have been made into a motion picture by Warner Brothers in the late '40s, starring Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall.

"The project was cancelled abruptly," explains Professor Nelson, "and my assumption is that since HUAC started investigating Hollywood in 1947, that killed the film."

Scholars of the Spanish civil war also will find the Rolfe collection exciting, since it includes extensive wartime diaries and even some battlefield notes from the Ebro River campaign.

"Rolfe also managed to save a significant amount of internal (Abraham Lincoln) Brigade correspondence—some written to him and some written to others," says Professor Nelson. "In the archives I've looked at in this country, I have not seen any other correspondence that was actually internal to the Brigade."

And because Mr. Rolfe reported on the war for The Daily Worker newspaper and was for a time the editor of Volunteer for Liberty, the magazine of the Brigade, the collection contains a rare complete run of the magazine and copies of all his dispatches to his stateside newspaper.

Other aspects of the collection include information on the intelligentsia of the Left during the '30s and '40s. As a founding editor of Partisan Review and a contributor to many other leftist publications, he corresponded with such leading figures as Joseph Freeman and Michael Gold, both considered patriarchs of the Left.

"Finding two letters from Michael Gold, in fact, was just as exciting for me as finding Hemingway letters," adds Professor Nelson. "In the '40s, Gold started creating an archive of his own, but then his house burned down. So, these were an exciting find."

The Rolfe Collection is housed in the Rare Book and Special Collections Library. A special exhibit of material from the collection will be on display there in September.

The Spanish civil war played a major role in Rolfe's life, as shown by this undated diary entry from the 1940s.
Three UI Schools Conduct Funds Appeals for Library

For the first time in the University Library’s history, three UI schools on campus are conducting alumni fundraising campaigns to help support acquisitions for portions of the University Library.

They are the School of Life Sciences, to create an endowment fund for serials for the Biology Library; and the School of Art and Design and the School of Architecture to create a current use fund for the Ricker Library of Architecture and Art.

The appeals are being made in conjunction with the University Library’s Office of Development and Public Affairs. “These joint efforts by the University Library and the schools and departments we serve are necessary because current state funding is not adequate to fulfill the needs of the library system,” says Joan M. Hood, the University Library’s director of development and public affairs. “That is why the faculty and administration of these campus teaching units are really pleased to join hands with us for this mutual effort.”

The impetus for these first-ever joint appeals came from Biology Librarian Elisabeth Davis, who contacted the University Library development office for help last spring after finishing a “ghastly periodicals cancellation project.”

The result was a proposal to the School of Life Sciences to conduct a joint fundraising appeal with its alumni to benefit the Biology Library.

“Cuts in the University Library budget are a great concern to faculty here because it’s really a lifeline for them,” says Ruth Wene, assistant to the director of the School of Life Sciences.

This alumni fundraising campaign, which will also benefit a graduate student support fund, is the first in the school’s history.

The same idea was proposed last fall to the School of Art and Design to help the Ricker Library of Architecture and Art.

Again, the proposal was met with enthusiasm and has become part of one of the school’s first alumni fundraising appeals.

“Art is an international arena, more now than ever before,” says Carol Fisher, development officer for the school. “It is imperative that our students have access to an international scope of works so they receive the most comprehensive education possible. The School of Art and Design has always helped with acquisitions, so when this was proposed, we said, ‘Sure, anything we can do to help, we want to do.’”

Concern about the Ricker Library’s acquisition funds, which have been inadequate to buy critically needed new works in architecture, also has convinced the School of Architecture to send an appeal for the Ricker Library.

“Our library is considered one of the best architecture collections in the country,” says R. Alan Forrester, director of the School of Architecture. “Given the stature and reputation of Ricker, we are suffering badly. The library is at serious risk of losing its stature, and if that is impaired, it will be very difficult to regain its position.”

Library Friends interested in donating to these funds may do so by contacting Joan M. Hood, Library Office of Development and Public Affairs, 227 Library, 1408 W. Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL, 61801, or telephone (217) 333-5682.

The Library is Looking For . . .

Donation to purchase Germany’s Business Leaders, 1400-1917, for the Commerce Library. The collection contains 94 business histories and biographies of some of the most important German companies of the era, and is considered an essential resource for both commerce-related and historical research. $1,700.

Donation of $500 to purchase an archivally acceptable frost-free refrigerator for the University Archives. The refrigerator is needed to provide a stable environment for the rapidly growing collection of color negatives and slides.

Also $500 for conservation of pre-1900 photographic images of the UI from the Hottes, Shamel, and Burrill collections.

$517.50 to purchase Natural Products of Woody Plants, 1989 for the Agriculture Library. This volume discusses chemical properties, biosynthesis, and evolution of primary and secondary pathways of these natural products.

Also $295 to purchase World Weather-Disc; A Comprehensive Description of the Weather and Climate of the Planet Earth, 1989 for the Agriculture Library.

If you would like to donate any of the items mentioned above, or if you are interested in learning about other badly needed books, please contact Sharon Kitzmiller, the Library’s Annual Funds development officer, at 227 Library, 1408 W. Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801, or telephone (217) 333-5683.
Ukraine Invites UI Librarian to Help Celebrate Opening of New Library

The year was 1944. Young Dmytro Shtohryn had just completed eighth grade near his tiny, western Ukrainian hometown of Zvyniach when the occupying Germans rounded up his entire graduating class and sent them to Germany as forced laborers.

That was the last time Dr. Shtohryn, associate librarian of the Slavic and East European Library and chair of the University's Ukrainian Research Program, saw his hometown or even his homeland—until last fall.

In October 1989, Dr. Shtohryn returned to the Ukraine for the first time as an invited guest of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences to help celebrate the opening of the new V.I. Vernadsky Central Scientific Library.

The library, located in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev, is named for Volodymyr Vernadsky, an internationally known geologist and naturalist and the founder of the Academy's library.

Dr. Shtohryn delivered a paper on "Bibliographical Control of Ukrainian Publications in Research Libraries of the United States and Canada" at an international conference entitled "Role of Libraries in the Development of Society."

He was one of only three Americans invited. Other participants came from Canada, England, West Germany, Czechoslovakia, and the Soviet Union.

"It was the first time I was in Kiev, and it was a really mysterious feeling," says the 66-year-old Dr. Shtohryn. "In the back of my mind and my soul, I knew that this city was 1,500 years old, with all those old eleventh-century monuments. And I knew by heart all those places I had learned about as a youth, but this was the first time I had actually seen them. I brought dirt back from Kiev, I brought some stones back from Kiev—it was like a holy city for me. Friends tell me it's like the feeling Jews have when they visit Jerusalem."

A burning desire to visit his homeland was not the reason for this invitation, however. Dr. Shtohryn has been president for eight years of the Ukrainian Library Association of America and is one of the most respected librarians on Ukrainian topics in the United States and Canada. He is also well known as a scholar of Ukrainian literary criticism.

In addition, the UI Library has strong ties both to the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences and to the Vernadsky family itself. Librarians from the Slavic and East European Library have found material in the UI collection from the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences from as early as 1924. Ukrainian documents from 1925, according to Dr. Shtohryn, indicate that the UI Library was one of six in the United States with which the Academy had exchanges.

The exchanges stopped from 1929 to the early 1960s, but began again when the Slavic and East European Library was formed in 1960.

Ten years later, the UI Library acquired the personal library of Yale history professor George Vernadsky, the son of Volodymyr Vernadsky. George Vernadsky is considered the patriarch of Russian and East European history in the United States.

One of his former students, who became a close family friend, is the UI's Ralph Fisher, now emeritus professor of history and former director of the UI's Russian and East European Center. Because of this friendship, the Vernadskys' family decided to donate more than 1,000 of George Vernadsky's books to the UI Library after his death.

"Anybody who was anybody in the Ukraine would send him a copy of their works," says Slavic bibliographer Larry Miller, "so he had a big collection of presentation copies, all signed by their authors. Even as late as the '60s, he was receiving books from people who said they knew his father."

Cooperation between the UI Library and the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences reaches a new scale this year as the Vernadsky Library's director, Mykola I. Senchenko, and his associates visit the UI Library this spring during a tour of the United States and Canada.

"He is eager to establish computers in his library, which is the reason for this trip," says Dr. Shtohryn. "Their collection is big—one of the best in Europe—but at the same time, they don't have the paper to operate anything. Their typewriters are even obsolete—early twentieth-century Underwoods. But still, their collection is very rich. It's the largest library in the Soviet Union, even bigger than the Lenin Library in Moscow."

During his trip to Kiev, Dr. Shtohryn was unable to visit his hometown, which is hundreds of miles west of Kiev, and was unable to contact his family there because of lack of time and telephones.

In September, however, he plans to visit Zvyniach for the first time since 1944. That's because the Lviv Science Library of the Academy of Sciences has invited him to deliver a paper at a conference on "Libraries as a Treasure of Knowledge."

"The city of Lviv is only about 100 miles from his hometown. "After the war, for people in the Soviet Union who had relatives in the United States, it was very bad—if something happened between the U.S.S.R. and the United States, they would be the first to be transported to Siberia," he says.

"So, early on I wrote a letter to my family saying their son Dmytro had died in the war and that I had been his friend, but I wrote enough between the lines so they'd know it was really me. All these years, I've done this, always sending the letters through Ukrainian friends in Canada. It was only since glasnost that I could write that it was really Dmytro, in Champaign. And now I can actually go to visit them."

Quotables

"I can put inestimable value of the University of Illinois Library in personal terms. My father (civil engineering, class of 1895), who did much to cultivate my love of books, leaned heavily on the Library in his constant quest for knowledge. In his later years (he lived to be 104) Dad's reading increased as he became less active; and I often got reports, from his friends and people I knew at the University, about his frequent use of the Library."

"My oldest sister (Freda Sperling Benson, class of 1925) worked part-time at the Library for four years while going to the University. My other sister (Lois Sperling Hatch, class of 1927) also worked for a time at the Library."

"Thus, it has seemed only logical in our family to equate the value of a university with its library. To us, it has seemed that the first and best way for rating an educational institution was to look at its library and at how well equipped it was to serve the academic and intellectual needs of its faculty and students. Using this gauge, of course, the University of Illinois Library is clearly right up at the top among the best in the land." 

—Godfrey Sperling, Jr.
Class of 1937
Senior Washington columnist,
the Christian Science Monitor
Calendar

May
“Employment Information from the U.S. Government.” Wall Case, First Floor South Corridor
“Soviet-Eastern European Folklore and Ethnology.” Main Corridor
“International Cartoons.” Newspaper Library
“Midwestern Bandstands: Postcards and Photographs from the Collection of Connie and Fred Fairchild.” Music Library
“One Imperial Crown,” Rare Book and Special Collections Library

June
“The Archives of Eastern Europe.” University Archives
“The French Revolution.” Main Corridor
“1989—The Year in Review.” Newspaper Library
“Midwestern Bandstands: Postcards and Photographs from the Collection of Connie and Fred Fairchild.” Music Library
“A Gathering of Notables.” Rare Book and Special Collections Library

July
“1989—The Year in Review.” Newspaper Library
“The Indian Image at Illinois.” University Archives
“Midwestern Bandstands: Postcards and Photographs from the Collection of Connie and Fred Fairchild.” Music Library

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Annual Report Addendum
The name of Dr. Arthur L. Woodward was inadvertently omitted from our list of Sponsors in the 1988-89 Library Friends Annual Report. We regret the error.