PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign Library
Library Acquires Its Eight Millionth Volume

The Library has acquired its eight millionth volume—a milestone of tremendous significance not only for the university community, but also for the community of scholars around the world.

The book chosen for this milestone is The House Beautiful, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, and hand-printed and published by Wright and his friend, William Herman Winslow, in the winter of 1896-97.

Considered by Wright to be his first book, it is a landmark publication of the private press movement of the 1890s. Only ninety copies were produced, of which only twelve are known to exist today. The Library's copy is number 8 and belonged to Wright's sister, Jane Porter.

The Library celebrated this acquisition on May 5 with a reception and lecture on “The World of Frank Lloyd Wright's The House Beautiful,” by Paul Kruty, U of I professor of architecture and noted Frank Lloyd Wright scholar.

“Our celebration of the eight-millionth volume merely marks an important milestone and is our way of stepping back and saying that this collection has grown to a new level,” says University Librarian David E. Bishop.

“A large library can be of poor quality, but a library that is not large cannot be of good quality. Clearly we need to and do have collections of outstanding quality, but in addition we have that mass of books we need in order to satisfy the University’s community of scholars in so many different fields.”

Funds to purchase this beautiful book were provided by Library Friends charter member John E. Velde Jr., who also provided funds in 1986 for the acquisition of the Library’s seven millionth volume.

The slim volume, lavishly decorated in black and red, drew its inspiration from the arts and crafts movement of England’s William Morris and his Kelmscott Press.

The movement’s aim was to return to the world of beautiful, handcrafted items and move away from shoddy, mass-produced items of the Industrial Revolution. In the world of books, this translated into production of books hand-printed on fine, non-wood-pulp paper, decorated with intricate ornamentation that was considered as integral a part of the page as the text.

Morris’ influence was such that small private presses started springing up all over the United States, especially in the Chicago area.

One of the earliest in the Chicago area was the Auvergne Press in River Forest. It was co-owned by William Herman Winslow, owner of the company that supplied architect Louis Sullivan with ornamental iron, and his neighbor, Chauncey L. Williams, the moneyed partner of Way & Williams, one of Chicago’s most important literary publishers and the one most closely associated with the arts and crafts movement.

Both men knew Wright very well. Winslow gave Wright his first independent commission to construct a private residence in 1893. In fact, the coach house of this home, which still stands in River Forest, was the home of the Auvergne Press, which took its name from the street on which the house stood.

Not long after the Winslow home’s construction, Williams asked Wright to design a home for him. It also still stands in River Forest, around the corner from the Winslow home.

Thus it is not surprising that Winslow and Williams asked Wright, who had recently left the employ of Louis Sullivan, to design the title page of their little press’s first book, The Eve of St. Agnes.

According to Professor Kruty, this was a time during which Wright was experimenting with different forms and decorations in his search for a modern American style. The decorations for The Eve of St. Agnes certainly showed this, but it was not until The House Beautiful that Wright took his search to such extravagant lengths.

In keeping with the William Morris-type look of a medieval book, Wright designed each two-page spread of The House Beautiful...
New Acquisition Makes Library a Major Center for Spanish Civil War Research

If you saw it in the movies, you'd never believe it.

A twenty-two-year-old man, Brooklyn born and raised, volunteers in 1937 to fight for the popularly elected, left-leaning Spanish Republican government against the fascist revolution headed by Francisco Franco. Less than a year after joining the Republican government's International Brigades as a private, he becomes the ninth, youngest, and most famous commander of the Lincoln Battalion, leading his troops in some of the fiercest battles of that tragic civil war. He returns to a country beginning to be gripped by anti-Communist hysteria—some of it directed at veterans of the Spanish Civil War, whose veteran's organization he heads.

During World War II, he joins the British Special Services and the American O.S.S. to work behind enemy lines, only to return home to renewed Communist witch-hunts and finds himself, along with all the other Lincoln Brigade veterans, a target of that fear.

Unbelievable? Maybe, but that is the life of seventy-seven-year-old Milton Wolff. During his adventurous life, he carefully kept all the letters, clippings, publications, and even medals and flags dealing with Spain and the American veterans whose leader he remained for many years.

Now, thanks to the effort of U of I English professor Cary Nelson, this important collection of personal papers has found a new home in the Library's Rare Book and Special Collections Library.

"The strengths of the Milton Wolff papers are personal and organizational, intellectual and political, domestic and international in scope...", says U of I history professor James Barrett, a specialist in the field. "The range of materials here as well as the importance of Wolff as a young officer in the Battalion and a leader of the veterans make this a vital collection for anyone interested in the Spanish Civil War and particularly the role of the American volunteers in the conflict."

Among the thousands of items in the collection are many letters to Wolff from veterans recounting their problems finding jobs or joining the military in the 1940s because of their volunteer backgrounds, numerous unpublished talks Wolff gave over the years as commander of the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade (VALB), and two battlefront memoirs and an unpublished novel by Wolff dealing with his years in Spain.

"It's quite exciting to read the talks Wolff gave over the years, especially because he was the commander of the veterans," says Professor Nelson. "They give you an in-context feeling for how the veterans were responding to the historical and political issues of the time. It's always more exciting and informative to actually see what someone said at a given moment rather than to read about it."

The causes supported by the VALB often put them at odds with official U.S. government policy. This, combined with official suspicion of the political motives of Spanish civil war veterans, led to decades of problems for veterans of that conflict. Thus, as Wolff's papers document, instead of eagerly mobilizing the only Americans with recent combat experience at the beginning of World War II, the government actively sought to keep the men from the front because of suspicions about their loyalty.

Wolff, however, did not wait for the United States to enter the war—he volunteered in 1940 to join British Special Services, where his Spanish-era contacts with anti-fascists made him invaluable in dealing with resistance movements throughout Europe.

Through the intercession of a friend, General "Wild Bill" Donovan, he was assigned finally by the U.S. Army to the O.S.S., which parachuted Wolff behind enemy lines to work with the resistance in occupied Italy.

"Some of the most consistent anti-Nazis in the occupied countries were, of course, veterans of the Spanish civil war," explains Professor Nelson. "So, if the O.S.S. were to send someone who would be trusted, who better than the last commander of the Abraham Lincoln Battalion?"

Copies of O.S.S. orders, and even a complaint from some resistance leaders about O.S.S. training, are in the collection.

With the rise of McCarthyism in the late 1940s and early 1950s came more activity on the part of Wolff and the VALB to defend veterans from attacks by various House and Senate committees investigating supposed Communist infiltration of the country. Wolff's papers amply document this political era.

Also of interest is documentation of the veterans' anger with Ernest Hemingway over publication of For Whom the Bell Tolls, which the veterans blasted after its publication in 1940 because it appeared not to give unqualified support to the loyalist cause.

Although the VALB and Hemingway made their peace with each other in the late 1940s, the whole affair resurfaced again in the 1960s as Princeton scholar Carlos Baker worked on his biography of Hemingway—a book Professor Nelson says made the veterans who provided information, and Wolff in particular, feel "betrayed."

The spate of correspondence following publication of the book provides important insights into the veterans' view of Hemingway's Spanish war experience.

Also included in the Wolff archive is a collection of artifacts from the Spanish civil war, including medals and insignia from the International Brigades and regular Spanish troops, and the flag Wolff carried in the last campaign across the Ebro River in the summer of 1938, "an object of almost mythical status," according to Professor Nelson. "These things give you a sense that's a little like time travel when you pick them up," he says.
Rare Library Collections Lead to International Award for U of I Professor

When Spanish professor Alberto Porqueras Mayo joined the U of I faculty back in 1968, he probably assumed he would continue to pursue his distinguished research and teaching on the Golden Age of Spanish literature.

Then he discovered the Spanish treasures of the Library’s Rare Book and Special Collections Library, treasures that in many cases were unknown outside the confines of the Library itself.

So it was that in 1969, Professor Porqueras Mayo and Joseph L. Laurenti, professor of Spanish and Italian at Illinois State University, embarked on a two-decade-long bibliographic odyssey that has resulted in dozens of books and articles devoted almost entirely to the Library’s rare Spanish holdings.

Now the two have received the ultimate recognition for their efforts—the prestigious Nicolás Antonio Bibliography Prize from the Centro de Estudios Hispanicos of Syracuse University.

The prize, established in 1984, honors the greatest name in Spanish bibliography and is awarded based on nominations by the international community of scholars of Spanish literature. Professor Mario Damonte, of the University of Genova, also was awarded the prize this year.

"Alberto Porqueras Mayo and Joseph Laurenti are unique among American university professors," says Syracuse University professor of Spanish Jaime Ferran, director of the Centro de Estudios Hispanicos. "They have set an example of good religious Nicolas Antonio Bibliography Prize recognition for their efforts-the prestigious..." explains Professor Porqueras Mayo about his work. "It allows you to see what a tremendous effect Spanish culture had on other countries."

Professor Porqueras Mayo himself is responsible for the growth of another important collection at the Library—that of Catalan literature. "A native of Catalonia, he was the co-founder of the North American Catalan Society and was instrumental in 1977 in obtaining from the Spanish embassy a gift of 1,000 works in Catalan. The collection has grown to the point that it is now the best of its kind in North America."

The official presentation of the Nicolás Antonio Prize for Bibliography will take place in October in Madrid during ceremonies in observance of the 500th anniversary of Columbus’s voyage to America.

The Library is Looking For...

Funds to purchase a facsimile of the Libro Copiadore, the book of Columbia’s own impressions of his journey to America, including his letters to the Spanish monarchs, for the Latin American Bibliographic Unit. Cost is $1090.95.

$200.50 to purchase Fundamentals of Photographic Conservation for the Library and Information Science Library. This heavily illustrated guide from the National Archives of Canada will be an important addition to the unit’s growing collection on conservation.

Also $260 to purchase The Information Factory, a profile of the Japanese information and database industry, for the Library and Information Science Library.

Tennisco seven-drawer multi-purpose file cabinet for microfiche for the Slavic and East European Library. The unit has just purchased several important microfiche collections, such as Prague Spring ’68 and the Polish Solidarity collection, and needs proper storage facilities for them. Cost is $571.70.

If you would like to donate any of the items mentioned, or if you are interested in learning about other badly needed books, please contact Sharon Kitzmiller, the Library’s annual funds officer, at 227 Library, 1408 W. Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801, or telephone (217)333-5683.
University Librarian Accepts Position at Northwestern

University Librarian David E. Bishop left the University of Illinois on June 30, 1992, to become head of the library of Northwestern University. He will hold the Charles Deering McCormick Distinguished Chair of Research Librarianship.

Mr. Bishop joined the faculty as University Librarian in September 1987. During his tenure, he played an instrumental role in making the construction of a new engineering library a cooperative effort between the College of Engineering and the Library. The result was last year’s $18 million gift from the Grainger Foundation for the new Engineering Library Information Center.

In addition, Mr. Bishop was instrumental in securing additional funding for the Library from the campus administration to help offset the effects of ever-decreasing state funding.

Other events during Mr. Bishop’s tenure included acquisition of the Library’s eight-millionth volume; receipt of the National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant as well as successful completion of the associated fundraising; implementation of enhanced computer interfaces and databases, resulting in the new ILLINET Online system; and designation of a proposed special collections building as a building priority of the U of I Foundation.

Said Chancellor Morton W. Weir at a reception in Mr. Bishop’s honor, “He has guided the Library through some of the most difficult fiscal times that it has faced in the last four decades. . . . David has made wise choices in the allocation of those resources, and his decisions have reflected his one and only agenda item: protecting the collection and preserving the crucial services the Library provides.”

Retired Art Professor Donates Private Collection

The Library has received a remarkable gift of nearly 1,000 books from retired U of I art history professor Minerva Pinnell.

The books cover a wide variety of fields, including art history, religion, history, iconography, philosophy, travel, and cooking.

“This is the greatest gift,” enthused Jane Block, head of the Ricker Library of Architecture and Art, which received most of the books. “There are so many really great things in this gift that we didn’t have. We’re really thrilled.”

Although Professor Pinnell’s specialty was Baroque art, her books reflect an interest in art that goes well beyond that time period, including Greek art, Impressionist painting, and the architecture of Gaudi and Pier Luigi Nervi.

“A good number of these titles were not duplicated in our existing collection, and in some instances we sent an additional copy of the most important volumes to the main Library stacks to increase accessibility,” said Professor Block.

Other titles were sent to the Undergraduate, Home Economics, and History libraries and the Illinois Historical Survey to replace missing items or to add a new title to their collections.

Because the Ricker Library’s holdings are so extensive, duplication of other important titles was inevitable. Professor Block, however, put even these works to good use by trading them to book dealers in exchange for out-of-print catalogues raisonnées and current Italian imprints—items the unit desperately wanted but couldn’t afford. “This was like getting $4,000 added all of the sudden to our book budget,” said Professor Block.

Professor Pinnell taught Baroque art part-time at the University from 1956 to 1957 and full-time from 1962 to 1979. She was known as an inspirational lecturer whose talks, according to Emeritus art and design professor A. Doyle Moore, were an unforgettable experience. She currently resides in Kansas, Illinois.

Retired Art Professor Donates Private Collection cont.

Quotables

“What’s really great about this library at the University of Illinois is its quality. Let’s don’t just talk about size, but about the quality of the Library. We have quite a few professors that wouldn’t be here without this library, and in the future we’re going to attract some of the top people in the education world with our library.”

—John E. Velde, Jr.
President, Paisano Productions
Donor of seven- and eight-millionth volumes
Class of 1938
Communications Library
a Bonanza for Budding
Journalists and Advertising
Students

An accrediting agency calls it “the best resources which members of this team have seen.” Students and faculty consider it an almost perfect one-stop reference center. And advertising aficionados and scholars call it a bonanza.

What is it? The Library’s Communications Library, serving one of the top journalism and advertising schools in the country as well as the U of I’s highly respected Institute of Communications Research.

“This is a real teaching collection rather than a research collection,” says unit head Diane Carothers about the Communications Library’s thousands of books, journals, newspapers, and videotapes. Whether it’s a book on how to write a good newspaper story or the demographics of advertising, students and faculty both know they can find it all in one place.

“Students use us very heavily,” she continues. They need our 'Who's Who's and other background information and source material for their stories. If they’re job hunting, we have a lot of information on the advertising agencies and newspapers with whom they will be interviewing. And we have sources like the Advertising Red Book, which contains lists of all advertisers and agencies, which students need for their classroom projects.”

Acquiring these necessary resources usually doesn’t present a problem—newspapers, magazines, and videotapes are readily available for purchase all the time.

Some essential items, however, require a kind of procurement skill most librarians don’t learn in library school.

Take resources like Simmons Study of Media and Market, a multi-volume, essential guide to advertising demographics, or the Standard Rate and Data Service publications, the bible of radio, television, newspaper, and magazine advertising costs.

“We can’t buy current editions because they only go to ad agencies,” notes Professor Carothers, “and when we’re given the opportunity to buy an old one, it costs more than we can afford on our budget. As for Standard Rate and Data, they won’t even sell to libraries anymore, and a subscription costs thousands.”

So Professor Carothers maintains a small network of philanthropically minded graduates who manage to donate their agencies’ old copies so that current students can learn to use the tools of the real world.

Professor Carothers also has another ingenious way of increasing the holdings of her library. Like many librarians, she publishes an annotated list of new books received by the Communications Library. Unlike most librarians, however, she doesn’t just send the list to faculty—she sends them to nearly 350 people and libraries around the world, as well as to Journalism Quarterly.

“This is so well known,” she says, “that I’ve been able to contact publishers in our fields for review copies of books, so we get several thousands of dollars of books each year this way. Sometimes this amounts to ten percent or more of our annual book budget!”

Professor Carothers is also the nerve center of one of the Library’s most unusual collections—the D’Arcy Collection of three-quarters of a million print advertisements dating from 1870 to 1970. This incredible hoard of advertisements, continuously culled from hundreds of magazines by the St. Louis advertising agency founded by William D’Arcy in 1904, has quickly become one of the Library’s most popular collections.

“The D’Arcy Collection is different from other advertising collections,” explains Professor Carothers. “Others, like the J. Walter Thompson Collection at Duke, were just for products for which they created campaigns, although they included ads for competing products.

“Our collection, however, isn’t like that—it’s everything. In fact, there are not a whole lot of ads we can actually identify as being D’Arcy’s ads.”

Some ads, however, are clearly from the D’Arcy (now D’Arcy, McManus, Benton & Bowles) agency. William D’Arcy’s first client, according to company legend, was Coca Cola, an account the agency held for decades. D’Arcy put his mark—a “D” with an arrow through it—on many of his early ads and even incorporated the arrow into the advertising text (“Whenever you see an Arrow, think of Coca-Cola”). Nearly 6,000 Coca-Cola ads, from 1904 to 1969, are in the collection.

Other products heavily represented in the collection are General Tire (another longtime D’Arcy client) from 1917 to 1969; Campbell’s Soup, covering the product from its introduction in 1910 through 1969 (yes, the Campbell Soup Kids were present from the beginning), and many railroads, some from as early as 1870.

Additional products represented in the collection run the entire gamut of American life, from spats to whiskey.

Even before Professor Carothers finished the monumental task of creating a finding aid for the ads, she started getting inquiries from around the country. The ads have now appeared in numerous books, magazine articles, and even dissertations. Researchers are not the only ones making use of this extraordinary collection, however. Faculty also are finding it a great resource for teaching the history of advertising.

“One of our professors made dozens of slides to show his classes different types of categories of products needed for the ‘perfect home,’ such as ranges, washing machines, phonographs, and the like, from the ’20s and ’30s and later,” explains Professor Carothers. “These were all designed to create a desire for products to make life better, and some, like cigarette ads aimed at women, were made to feel one could do what one was not allowed to do.”

Not surprisingly, the collection has led to another advertising acquisition: 1,100 filing drawers of advertisements clipped by John Breck, of Breck Shampoo, over an unknown period of time. The collection, which is even larger than the D’Arcy collection, was donated last year by Chicago businessman Gary Woodward. The collection now awaits processing to make it accessible to users.

Joan M. Hood (right) met with Barbara Bush during a tea held at the White House on January 15, 1992, to honor Friends of Libraries U.S.A., a national organization. Mrs. Hood is a founder, distinguished board member and past president of the group.
Calendar

EXHIBITS

August
"From Dream to Reality: Contributors and Contributions to the Slavic and East European Library." Main Corridor
"A Gathering of Notables." Rare Book and Special Collections Library
"The Modern Olympics, 1896-1992." University Archives
"African-American Women in History." Newspaper Library
"The Travel File." Documents Library

September
"100th Anniversary of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science." Main Corridor
"Discoveries of the New World." Rare Book and Special Collections Library
"The Citizen Soldier in World War II." University Archives
"African-American Women in History." Newspaper Library

October
"'Dice que se llama Colon y que viene a descubrirnos!' = 'He says that his name is Columbus, and he's just discovered us!'" Main Corridor
"Discoveries of the New World." Rare Book and Special Collections Library
"African-American Women in History." Newspaper Library

CONTINUING EXHIBITS
"Current Events from the Documents Library." South Main-corridor Wall Case
"Campaigns from the Advertising Council." Basement Hallway Wall Case

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- Sending us lists of potential members and contributors
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As a Friend of the University of Illinois Library, you receive:
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The Friends welcome everyone interested in the continued excellence of the University of Illinois Library. Today, more than 3,000 Library Friends are dedicated to the support of the Library's collections and services.

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