PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign Library
Library Presents
First-Ever Exhibit of
Its Scholarly Treasures

For the first time in its 128-year history, the Library has mounted an extensive exhibit of some of its most beautiful, rare, and interesting items.

The exhibit, entitled "Scholarly Treasures of the University Library," was the outgrowth of an idea suggested by the Library's National Advisory Committee and took place at the University's Krannert Art Museum from October 14 to December 19, 1995. It included 146 items from the Rare Book and Special Collections Library, University Archives, and Lincoln Room, and took up an entire gallery on the museum's lower level as well as a room at the entrance to the Kinkead Pavilion.

"The Library has been known for generations as the repository of scholarly treasures that can be found at few other institutions in the world," says University Librarian Robert Wedgeworth. "These treasures support the teaching and research mission of the University ... and are tangible evidence of the scope and depth of the Library's scholarly collections. The richness hinted at here is what brings scholars and students from all over the world to the Library of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign."

The earliest item in the exhibit was perhaps the most beautiful as well—the Ordo ad Consecrandum et Coronandum Regem et Reginam Franciae, an ornately illuminated manuscript from 1326. The Library's copy apparently was owned by a relative of Queen Jeanne d'Evreux of France and documents the ritual of the royal coronation. Although not used at the king's coronation in 1322, its extensive illustrations and richly historiated initials present scenes of both the king's and queen's coronation ceremonies. The Library's manuscript is the first to show a queen's ceremony. It is the only illuminated coronation manuscript in the United States.

Another world-famous rarity on display was the Library's fragment of the Gutenberg Bible, containing Genesis and a portion of Exodus. The black and red lettering shows how well Gutenberg managed to create moveable type that mimicked almost perfectly the usual style of books—handwritten manuscript. The Library's copy is apparently among the first copies to come from Gutenberg's press, since there are varying numbers of lines to each page. Later, forty-two lines to the page became the printer's standard.

Other items reflecting the Library's world-renowned collections of rare books included a Shakespeare first folio (1623), an unusual, hand-painted emblem book (circa 1660), a first edition of Paradise Lost (1677), the first Bible printed in the New World (the "Eliot Indian Bible," 1663), and many others.

Personal papers and literary collections were represented with hand-written correspondence and typescripts by H.G. Wells, Carl Sandburg, Ernest Hemingway, John Strohm, Avery Brundage, and others. The original typescript of James Jones' From Here to Eternity occupied its own display case to accommodate the entire 1,382 heavily edited pages.

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The Electronic Frontier and the History of Books Meet in One Library Unit

On the third floor of the main library building is a library unit few visitors think about—the Library and Information Science Library, the librarians’ library.

Maybe that’s not too surprising, considering the collection wasn’t even open to the public until 1944.

Librarians, of course, are the folks who create all those wonderful catalogs, bibliographies, and reference tools to help you find the books and information you need. And they’re probably the staunchest defenders of information privacy in the country. So it should come as no surprise that the Library and Information Science Library has one of the most eclectic and interdisciplinary collections in the University Library.

“This is really a research collection,” says unit head Patricia Stenstrom, “and our librarians use this library very heavily for their own research, which pretty much dovetails with research at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science.

“So, at one extreme we have someone like Bill Mischo [head of the Grainger Engineering Library Information Center], who has worked for years on creating mechanical ways to make computerized information easier for users to use. And at the other end are people like Don Krummel [Graduate School of Library and Information Science faculty member], who is interested in the history of the book.”

That may sound like an odd combination—books on the history of the book nestling against volumes on software creation and new technologies—but that’s the world of libraries today.

It’s a far cry from what librarianship, the Library and Information Science Library itself, used to be all about.

Back in 1893, when Katharine Sharp moved her library school and fledgling collection of library literature from Chicago’s Armour Institute to the U of I, there was no such thing as library research literature. Instead, librarians solicited bulletins, reports, annuals, and the like from libraries around the world.

Rounding out early collection efforts were the purchase in 1905 of the bibliographic library of one of the greatest names in German education and librarianship, Karl Dzialatzko (1842-1903), the beginnings of a children’s book collection (which included “undesirable” books for comparative study), and lantern slides for courses on furnishing libraries.

The resulting collection was housed in a “seminar” room that also contained standard reference and bibliographic works and desks equipped with the tools of the trade, such as pencils and a box for catalog cards, for each student.

Today, the individual desks are gone, there are at least five major presses cranking out research in library and information science, and computerization has revolutionized the cataloging and information retrieval process beyond all recognition.

Now, instead of finding just practical how-to’s and bibliographic works on the unit’s shelves, patrons can find books on data processing and software development both here and abroad, books for bibliophiles, preservation how-to manuals, and works on typography, library architecture, the book trade, freedom of the press, and dozens of journals dealing with libraries and technology.

In short, here is everything one needs to work in a field whose very nature is in the midst of one of the greatest revolutions in history.

“It’s a very interesting time to be a librarian,” says Professor Stenstrom, who has been in the business thirty-eight years. “When you’ve been around as long as I have, you can remember a time when librarians and users saw a library as a place to find bits and pieces of information from a librarian at a desk with a bank of books behind it. Now we’re mounting a lot of that same information on the computer. So before another generation, probably less than ten years, that kind of simple reference work will be passé.

“But as information becomes increasingly electronic, it will become more difficult to find certain things you need to know because the Internet is very sloppy. Someone needs to be able to create a structure for this information and find ways to retrieve it. So, there will still be a role for someone, whether we call it a librarian or something else.”

And there will still be a role for a library devoted not only to the history of books, but also the latest on the electronic information frontier.
Director of Major German Library Delivers Sixth Mortenson Lecture

The advent of the so-called “information age” may be changing libraries from book-centered to electronic-information institutions, but libraries must retain their role as repositories of the written cultural heritage.

That was the message delivered by Hans-Peter Geh, director of the Württembergische Landesbibliothek in Stuttgart, Germany, at the Sixth Distinguished Mortenson Lecture, which took place on September 28. The lecture was entitled “Preserving the Written Intellectual and Cultural Heritage: An Obsolete Task of Libraries?”

“The more the future becomes modern for us, new and strange, the more of the past will we have to take along—like a cherished teddy bear—with us into the future, searching out and caring for an ever-increasing number of antiquities,” Dr. Geh told the more than 150 people attending the lecture. “This is indeed the book’s big opportunity.”

The reason, he said, is that books form a cultural memory that “preserves the fame and disgrace of mankind, a place where man can systematically search for the material which he needs and which interests him.”

According to Dr. Geh, however, the new information technologies cannot fulfill this function. Because electronically stored texts can be changed at will, they cannot preserve and store knowledge, which is necessary to the preservation of culture. For these reasons, he said, culture cannot be transmitted through the ages without libraries.

“One’s intellectual liberty would be restricted if libraries were limited to the latest up-to-date information available and were unable to preserve the knowledge of earlier and present generations,” Dr. Geh said. “... There is no alternative to the book as the central medium of a historically organic text.”

However, Dr. Geh predicted that knowledge in certain highly specialized scientific and technical fields will move away from print media, which he viewed as a positive step.

“Electronic books are not bastards, but legitimate members of the book family,” he noted, “especially as within a few years the distinctions between the publishing of traditional books and electronic publishing will become more and more hazy. The backing material should, after all, not be the decisive element, in the final analysis.”

Print copies of Dr. Geh’s lecture will be available in late spring 1996 from the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs, 246 Library, 1408 W. Gregory Dr., Urbana, IL 61801.

The Library is Looking for...

$999.95 to purchase International Encyclopedia of Business & Management for the Commerce Library. This six-volume work contains more than 500 entries covering key aspects of business and management worldwide, making it an essential reference tool.

$400 to purchase a color television with built-in VCR for the Rare Book and Special Collections Library. The unit owns videos on the Book of Kells, the Book of Durrow, as well as many others, but has no equipment for viewing them.

Funds to purchase Science Navigator on CD-ROM for the University High School Library. This electronic version of the McGraw-Hill Concise Encyclopedia of Science & Technology and McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Scientific and Technical Terms will enable students to conduct full-text searches of these sources. Cost for the networked version is $295.

Funds to purchase the Environment Encyclopedia and Directory (1st ed.) for the Agriculture Library. This new work offers information on current and historical global issues that are central to the mission of the newly named College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences. Cost is $350.

$480 to purchase a computer-desk bookshelf with doors for the Slavic and East European Library. The unit’s world-famous Slavic Reference Service area literally has no room to keep ready-reference books near the work area. By having these books located on shelves above their computers, the reference staff can significantly improve the speed of their service.


To donate any of the items mentioned above, please contact Sharon Kitzmiller, associate director of development, at 227 Library, 1408 W. Gregory Dr., Urbana, IL 61801, or telephone (217)333-5683.
Library Receives Donation of 450 Historic Children’s Books

The Arlington Heights (Illinois) Memorial Public Library has donated its collection of more than 450 historic children’s books to the Library’s Education and Social Science Library.

The books include readers, school texts, series books, and works of fiction. Of the more than 300 books checked so far by the University Library, only 50 are duplicates of books already in the University Library’s collection of more than 100,000 children’s books.

“This collection has a lot of breadth and is much more comprehensive than I expected,” says Nancy O’Brien, head of the Education and Social Science Library. “It covers a good portion of children's literature of that time period, and it is especially interesting for its sampling of series books, which libraries typically didn’t want to collect because those books weren’t considered ‘literature.’”

Among the books are seven dating from 1790 to 1833, including the wood-board-bound 1790 A Grammatical Institute of the English Language and 1827 Hale's History of the United States. Other valuable additions include a turn-of-the-century edition of The Baby's Opera, by noted English illustrator Walter Crane, a first edition of The Wizard of Oz, and an 1866 edition of Evangeline.

From the child reader’s point of view, of course, titles such as Billy Whiskers (1902), Our Young Aeroplane Scouts in the War Zone (1918), or Honey Bunch: Her First Days on the Farm (1923), were just as important and just as enjoyable.

“This is enjoyable stuff!” enthuses Professor O’Brien. “Just looking at some of the early Bobbsey Twins or Five Little Peppers is fun.” In fact, the collection includes the 1907 The Bobbsey Twins in the Country and six other entries prior to 1920, and the 1905 Ben Pepper from the Five Little Peppers series. Other series found in the new collection include Tom Swift (1911-1929) and The Brownies (1905-1929).

According to Professor O’Brien, the Arlington Heights Memorial Library decided to donate the books to the University Library after seeing publicity two years ago about the Library’s acquisition of the Center for Research Library’s collection of children’s books. The University Library’s collection of more than 100,000 children’s books is now the largest in the country outside the Library of Congress.

Quotables

“I came to the U of I in the middle of the ’50s, as an athlete, of course, in football and track. I had a lot of fun there. And for me, many, many years later, it feels pretty good to discuss the Library, which was very important to me, because it was at the Library that I really enjoyed the University of Illinois as opposed to being on the football field.

“So, if you say to me you love the University of Illinois, then show me. And the best way to show me is to put something there for a young person. And I think the greatest way to put something there for a young person is to put it through the Library, because you get to more young students by going through the University Library. They are there—they are eager—and all we have to do is lay open more books to them. You’re helping the University and you’re helping the world, and most of all, you’ve got to feel good about yourself.”

—Bobby Mitchell  
Class of 1958  
Assistant General Manager,  
Washington Redskins

From the University Librarian

UIUC Chancellor Michael Aiken has recently initiated a program, entitled "Partnership Illinois," to revitalize the programs and services of the University that serve the state, the nation, and the world. The first stage of its development has been to conduct an inventory of activities that serve off-campus constituencies. A summary of these activities by the University Library may be of interest to the readers of Friendscript.

During 1995 the University Library circulated more than 2 million items to its users. We answered almost 500,000 reference questions, and there were more than 50 million logins to our online catalog. About 60 percent of those logins seek information about the contents of journals.

It may be that the most important outreach service the University Library provides is access to our online catalog. Frequently, users identify items in our online catalog and then use that description to borrow the item from other libraries, including their own campus's library. Frequently, these are journal articles they have been able to identify using the indexing and abstracting services mounted on
our online catalog, which analyze a broad range of scholarly and technical journals.

The Library's outreach extends throughout Illinois's extensive statewide library network. The 40 member institutions of the statewide Illinois Library Computer System Organization (ILCSCO) are the heaviest users, but libraries outside Illinois also frequently identify items that they need. Other heavy users are those institutions using ILLINET Online, which is the statewide network serving all of the approximately 2,300 Illinois libraries of various sizes and types, libraries at the Big Ten universities comprising the Center for Institutional Cooperation, and a number of libraries outside the United States who are reliable interlibrary loan partners.

The University Library also delivers significant services to off-campus users through special projects. The Illinois Researcher Information Service (IRIS) came to the Library in 1994 and has since been reorganized and upgraded to provide online access to information on research grant sources. Although it is primarily intended for the UIUC community, there are over 120 subscriber institutions that make this resource available to their campuses. In addition, it is licensed to other database providers who provide a portion of its services to their subscribers. In 1996 a World Wide Web version of the service will be available by subscription.

The office of the American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies (ABSEES) came to the University Library in 1991. An electronic version, which is accessible through the Internet, is now available, giving access to more than 26,000 records from 1990. It will be offered on a subscription basis to off-campus users beginning in 1996.

The Kolb-Proust Archive for Research is, perhaps, a model of digital research files that will be developed in the future. Based on the research notes of the late Professor Phillip Kolb, this archive supplements the 21-volume set of analyzed Proust correspondents. It brings together in a digital file information about the persons with whom Proust corresponded, including photos, bibliographies, and other related material. It is being developed in cooperation with the French department as a resource for teaching and research.

The C. Walter and Gerda B. Mortenson Center for International Library Programs, established in 1990, is the largest international exchange program on the Urbana campus. Since 1993 it has hosted more

than 143 foreign librarians from 43 countries. Participants come to the University for stays ranging from 3 months to a year, engaging in a series of programs intended to orient them to the workings of a modern U.S. academic library. They work with Library faculty, attend classes at the University, and visit other libraries in the U.S. In its short history the Mortenson Center has quickly gained an international reputation for excellence. It is frequently called upon by the U.S. State Department to provide orientation programs to visiting foreign librarians sponsored by that agency.

Clearly, the University Library is a major contributor to the services that comprise Partnership Illinois. With the additional support that will be forthcoming from "Campaign Illinois," we expect to expand the development of specialized services for the campus as well as for other interested students and scholars.

—Robert Wedgeworth

Unusual Purchase Provides Rare Glimpse of 19th-Century North Carolina

The Library has purchased an unusual collection of seventy-two postcards and four letters that are shedding light on what education was like for white and black children in North Carolina during the 1890s. The items come from U of I employee Randy Wilkey, a stamp collector who found the items in a box of miscellaneous he had purchased several years ago from another stamp collector in North Carolina.

The postcards functioned as attendance sheets to be sent to the county education commissioner, listing how many students were in attendance, the race of the students, and information about the facilities or community happenings.

"These postcards are just wonderful because of all the hidden details they provide," enthuses Valinda Littlefield, a Ph.D. candidate in history at the University of Illinois who is studying the history of black female school teachers in the South during that period.

"For instance, one card from a black teacher has the comment 'Closed school down, went to revival.' That tells you the amount of freedom these schools had. On the negative side, maybe they could do what they wanted because no one really cared, but on the positive side, it shows the importance of religion to blacks."

Other important details include the number of students per teacher, requests for supplies, and comments on the school facilities themselves.

"One black woman writes that she's doing the best she can for her drab school," notes Miss Littlefield. "To say they were drab is an understatement. In the 1890s in North Carolina, statistics from one county show that white schools were at least in frame buildings, but the black ones were mostly in log cabins. So, we're talking about log benches, cracks in the ceiling, no windows. After all, the South was poor, there were two educational systems, and the money was not going to the black system."

The four letters, all written to the same county education commission, also shed light on the social status of women.

"In one letter, the woman writing the letter thanks the commission for her position and states that her father will be coming to see them on her behalf," explains Miss Littlefield. "That in itself tells me this is a white woman writing. At that time, black women normally would go themselves to address a committee because it would have been considered ' uppity' of a black man to do so. So, black women had a certain measure of independence."

"For white women, however, it was expected that her father, a brother, or some other male relative would do the talking. This was a sort of control mechanism to keep her in her place—you would not be seen as a proper Southern lady if you asked for something on your own. So, it's wonderful little things like this that these postcards and letters provide."
Treasures Exhibition
(cont'd from page 1)

From the University Archives also came displays on Joseph Tykociner (inventor of sound on film), two-time Nobel Prize winner John Bardeen, John Philip Sousa, the Third Armored Division, W. McNeil Lowry, student life and culture since 1867, and much more.

According to Krahnert Art Museum Director Maarten van de Guchte, the exhibit drew a large number of visitors during its two-month run.

"This exhibit has been a real eye-opener for many, many people," enthuses Professor van de Guchte. "For students in particular, who have a sort of fear of entering a rare book room, the opportunity to see a Shakespeare first folio, for instance, made a big difference."

Based on the extraordinary amount of interest shown by visitors to the exhibit, he says, "The museum definitely hopes to continue this partnership in organizing exhibits of Library materials."

The Library has produced an exhibit catalog, written by Rare Book and Special Collections Library head Nancy Romero and U of I English Professor George Hendrick, describing the highlights of the exhibit. Professor Hendrick is also Special Curator for Special Collections. The text describes in detail some of the Library's most important special collections.

The catalog's thirty-six large, full-color reproductions are as true to the originals as possible, providing a tremendous feel for the originals because of their size and clarity of detail. Among the reproductions are the French coronation manuscript, the Gutenberg Bible, rare 1936 Olympic photographs by Leni Riefenstahl, and stunning art from the Spanish Civil War.

Catalogs may be purchased for $25 (includes handling and postage) from the Library Office of Development and Public Affairs, 1408 W. Gregory Dr., Urbana, IL 61801, or call (217) 333-5682.

Library and Follett Corp. Start Digital Imaging Project

The University Library and Follett Corporation have joined forces to experiment in the creation of two educational digital imaging projects using materials from the Library's collections.

The first project is the creation of a prototype CD-ROM catalog of images and descriptive information from the Library's Motley Collection of theater and costume design. The second is the creation of a CD-ROM-based teaching tool using historic maps of Illinois drawn from the Library's Map and Geography Library.

"This collaboration with Follett is important to the Library in that it is helping us develop experience in the creation and use of digitized files of information of many different types," says University Librarian Robert Wedgeworth.

"A lot of research and development is needed before we can realize what is loosely called the digital library. These projects with Follett will help us look at the problems and opportunities associated with converting certain types of information into digitized form."

Adds Follett Corporation's director of strategic planning, Jeff Blumenthal, "As we look ahead to the future of education, we see a great move to electronic forms of communication. Our research indicates that research libraries in higher education have certain intellectual properties that may have a commercial value outside the straightforward teaching mission of the university."

"... This experience will give us an idea of what's involved with working with an educational institution, with the rights involved, and with what it is like to actually photograph material and convert it into digital form."

To that end, librarians will be joined in the project by various experts from Follett Corporation, including an on-site coordinator, software developers, curriculum and textbook design specialists, and market researchers.

According to the Library's project director, Beth Sandore, the Motley project will be designed to provide not only the images of the various costumes and their descriptions, but also information concerning each production, including the date of the production, the actor, and relevant historical information about the production or costume itself. It will be geared to professors and students of theater and costume design, as well as libraries, at the college and university level.

Working on the project will be both librarians and members of the U of I's English and theater departments.

The Illinois map project, however, will be designed as a curriculum tool for high-school audiences.

"The idea is to look at Illinois as perceived as far back as we could reach, right up to the present," says Professor Sandore. "We want to take a chronological view of a slice of Illinois history—not just the geographical boundaries that we're used to, but also maps of wetlands, rivers, political boundaries, and railroad and highway development. We will then put in links between the maps, different kinds of text, and possibly photographs so that, for instance, you could hypothetically take a small Illinois town during the 1920s, and trace it back over a period of 150 years to the point in time when people decided to settle on the flood plain."

Joining librarians on this project will be members of the U of I's Department of Geography and University High School, and members of the Illinois Natural History Survey.
Work on the project should be completed in 1996, and the prototypes will be available for use on the U of I campus. The university also has given Follett Corporation the right to use the images for purposes of test-marketing. "We will know within six months of having these projects completed as to whether there is a market demand," says Christopher Traut, Follett Corporation’s director for corporate development. "There is a lot of hype about education using CD-ROMs and online sources. What we want to know is, in reality, how will they really be used in the curriculum?"

Follett Corporation has already received some interest in the Motley project from several universities with theater design and drama departments, adds Mr. Traut. For the map project, the company plans to approach some of the Illinois customers of its subsidiary companies dealing with the K-12 library market.

"If there’s a big demand," says Mr. Blumenthal, "then we would look into putting together a commercial venture to produce and sell such products, and pay a royalty to the University of Illinois."

Library Friends will be sponsoring a lecture/demonstration on April 23 (which is Shakespeare’s birthday) about the Library’s Design by Motley Collection and the Motley portion of the Follett Corporation digitization project. U of I English Professor Michael Mullin, author of Design by Motley, will describe and interpret the work of the three women who were "Motley," and how the Library came to acquire their designs. Professor Sandore will describe the digitization project. Featured will be the original Motley designs themselves.

Library Book Auction Catalogs Now Available

It’s only two months until the Library’s upcoming book auction on March 30, and catalogs are now available for $6 (if sent fourth-class) or $8 (if sent first-class) from the Library Office of Development and Public Affairs, 227 Library, 1408 W. Gregory Dr., Urbana, IL, 61801.

The catalog provides annotations for each of the 375 lots of approximately 600 books available for auction. These include works in virtually every field of interest, including many first editions. The fields of literature, travel/exploration, and Americana are particularly well-represented.

Bids will be accepted both by mail and in person. For those attending in person, all lots will be available for viewing the morning of the auction; the auction itself will take place in the afternoon in Illini Union rooms A, B, and C.

Successful bidders will be notified either by mail or in person. Those paying for their items in person may take them home immediately; those paying by mail will receive their books after payment of an invoice, which will include shipping charges.

The cost for each catalog is $6, which covers the cost of printing and postage.

Anyone interested in travel and exploration, literature, Illinois and American history, theater, art, religion, and many other subjects will find something of interest in the auction.

The list of first editions by famous authors alone is noteworthy—Washington Irving’s Oliver Goldsmith (1849); George Bernard Shaw’s The Intelligent Woman’s Guide to Socialism and Capitalism (1928); Charles Dickens’ Bleak House (1853), Little Dorrit (1857), The Life of Martin Chuzzlewit (1844) and The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby (1839), both with illustrations by Phiz; Harriet Beecher Stowe’s Uncle Tom’s Cabin (1852) and A Key to Uncle Tom’s Cabin: Presenting the original facts and documents... (1853); several first editions of works by Louisa May Alcott; and many others.

Although not a first edition, the auction also contains a beautiful 1732 edition of Samuel Butler’s Hudibras with illustrations by William Hogarth.

For those with a yen for travel, there are many works from the nineteenth century, from Karl Baedeker’s handbooks for various European countries to the diaries of explorers. For instance, there are several works dealing with early exploration of the Arctic, including the beautifully illustrated Journal of a Second Voyage for the Discovery of a North-west Passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific... by Captian William Edward Parry (1821-22).

Historians may find other entries just as interesting, such as Carlo Giuseppe Guglielmo Botta’s 1859 History of the War of the Independence of the United States of America in an 1859 English translation, and much more. For Civil War buffs in particular, there are gems such as Hinton Rowan Helper’s The Impending Crisis of the South: How to Meet It (1857) and the Life and Campaigns of Lieut.-Gen. Thomas J. Jackson by Jackson’s staff member Robert Lewis Dabney (1866).

Many of the books in the auction were obviously well-loved and well-read—in other words, the bindings may be worn or ripped, and the pages may be dog-eared—but many others are in fine condition. Defects in any item are noted in each catalog entry.

We hope you’ll join us for this first-ever auction on March 30!
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