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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library
Library Receives Papers of The New Yorker's William Maxwell

The Library has acquired the personal papers of one of the country's most influential fiction editors, and an award-winning novelist in his own right.

They are the papers of William Maxwell ('30) legendary editor of The New Yorker. The papers include more than 5,000 letters to Mr. Maxwell from some of this country's greatest writers from 1936 to the present, all of whom were edited by Mr. Maxwell for The New Yorker. They include John Updike, J.D. Salinger, John Cheever, Eudora Welty, Vladimir Nabokov, Mary McCarthy, William Carlos Williams, Tennessee Williams, John O'Hara, and Frank O'Connor.

Also included in the new collection are hand-corrected typescripts of nearly all of Maxwell's own novels, and first editions and foreign-language editions of his books.

To celebrate the donation of this remarkable collection, the Library presented a program April 24 featuring a rare public appearance by John Updike and a videotaped interview with Mr. Maxwell himself. More than 800 people attended the event.

"The list of people who have received their educations at the University of Illinois is most impressive... and many of them are of the highest distinction and attainment," said University President James Stukel as he introduced the program. "William Maxwell is one of these. That he holds this campus in the kind of esteem necessary to justify a gift like this is both humbling and, I think, deeply gratifying to all of us here on this campus."

William Maxwell was born and raised in Lincoln, Illinois, lived briefly as a teenager in Chicago, and attended the University of Illinois as an undergraduate and graduate student. It was his experiences at the U of I that, as Mr. Maxwell said in the videotaped interview, "turned me into a writer." Most of his novels and short stories deal with his childhood and college days.

In 1936 he was hired by The New Yorker's art department; within three months, he was given manuscripts to edit. He continued as a fiction editor until his retirement in 1976.

The letters show just how much Mr. Maxwell was not only appreciated, but almost loved by the writers whom he edited.

"Writers like John Updike and Eudora Welty, who remain close friends, and Frank O'Connor and translator Francis Steegmiller were all close friends," says Maxwell biographer and visiting U of I professor Barbara Burkhardt. "In the letters you find a lot about family, children, gardening—just the everyday details of life—in addition to comments on writing."

For instance, an undated postcard from Eudora Welty, written from the Mendenhall Hotel in Mississippi, which billed itself as "The home of the revolving tables," regales Mr. Maxwell and his wife with a long list of foods available at this table. "It would have been good in the Beulah," Miss Welty writes. The Beulah was the fictional hotel of her novel The Ponder Heart, a work that originally appeared in The New Yorker.

Or a letter from John Updike after the death of Updike's mother. "You were among the few people I wanted somehow to notify, and I suppose it relates to mothers—yours by dying when you were so young, and mine, by throwing such a large living, reactive aura right to the edge of my old age, both made themselves extraordinarily felt."

This kind of warm friendship was abundantly evident at the April 24 program as Mr. Updike talked about his long personal and professional friendship with Mr. Maxwell. It was a friendship that began with the day, shortly after graduating from Harvard in 1954, that Mr. Updike first visited the offices of The New Yorker, "...offices that had been the subject of my fancies since I was thirteen."

"There he met the already legendary Mr. Maxwell who, Mr. Updike said, was "...like an exquisitely thin and flaky pastry... I was reminded of Fred Astaire. My feeling was that he could not put a foot wrong, a feeling that has remained for forty years."

The editing process, he said, was generally an editorial collaboration during which both editor and author searched for the perfect expression. "His prose tended to be plain, a speaking prose, startlingly relaxed and idiomatic at times," noted Mr. Updike, "and mine, in my youth, aspired toward baroque, high-modernist effects as were admired in the '50s. Sometimes as I labored over the phone to refine some locution or other to an impossible richness of connotation, he would cut the Gordian knot by suggesting a phrase so direct and simple it had never occurred to me!"

Ultimately, said Mr. Updike, "What was above all important was a sharing of a hope of perfection and his communicating to me a sense of basically boundless gratitude when I had done good work, when I had delivered the goods, so that (continued on page 2)"
New Endowment Creates Library Professorship

John M. Littlewood, assistant documents librarian at the University Library, has made a major estate plan commitment to create the new John Littlewood and Don Laube Professorship in Gay Literature.

The professorship will establish what may be the first full-time position at a university library devoted to this interdisciplinary area.

"The John Littlewood and Don Laube Professorship will make it possible to support an important area of research that intersects with a number of major fields of study," says University Librarian Robert Wedgeworth about the new endowment. "We are truly grateful for the generosity of John Littlewood." The professorship was established in part in memory of social worker Don Laube, who shared a life partnership with Professor Littlewood. It complements the Library's Lambda Literature Library Endowment Fund, established in 1993, which supports collecting in the area of gay literature.

Mr. Laube, who died in 1994, was a graduate of Fordham and Loyola universities and was a licensed social worker in the Chicago and Champaign areas. Professor Littlewood has been on the Library faculty since 1963.

"I've been a documents librarian since 1964, but for the last five years I've also devoted a quarter of my time as the gay literature bibliographer," explains Professor Littlewood. "I wanted to make certain that my work in the gay literature area continues long after I'm gone."

The professorship will cover a wide interdisciplinary area, including sociology, science, art, literature, and bibliography, and will encompass works dealing with gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender issues. As Professor Littlewood has found, it's proven to be a challenging area in which to collect.

"In the past, and to a certain extent even now, much of the publishing has been done by small presses—it's a fugitive literature," he says. "So, most libraries don't even collect these items, and they rarely get cataloged."

That's why it's difficult, if not impossible, to know how many works just the University Library holds, let alone other libraries, on these subjects.

"Other units, such as Women's Studies, the Undergraduate Library, and the Education and Social Science Library, collect in these areas, but there's no one Dewey number because it's such an interdisciplinary field," he continues. "My hope is that the person holding the professorship would be able to do not only extensive collecting, but also become a catalyst for bibliographic control both here and for the statewide and other consortia we belong to."

So how does one locate such hard-to-find items? "When I go to American Library Association meetings in Chicago or New York or San Francisco, for instance, I visit specialized bookstores to find materials that would never be found in standard bibliographies, and sometimes not even in Books in Print," he explains.

"After all, with desktop publishing, where someone can actually publish something himself or herself in their own apartment, something might be published that never makes it into the standard references. But sometimes you can find these at the specialized bookstores, although they may already be out of print."

Although the University currently has no gay studies program as such, a handful of courses are taught each semester dealing with these areas, particularly in the fields of law, psychology, and English. "I try to work with the people doing dissertations or who are teaching courses," he adds. "That way I can try to buy in the areas that are of current interest."

The new professorship becomes the third Library endowment to support Library faculty. The others are the C. Walter and Gerda B. Mortenson Distinguished Professorship for International Library Programs and the Stewart S. Howe Archival Program Endowment Fund, which supports a faculty position devoted to the Archives' student life and culture collection.

Maxwell (cont'd)

Maxwell (cont'd)

Bardeen

(2004)
Art Museum Displays Stunning Photographs from Library's H.G. Wells Collection

The University’s Krannert Art Museum again has presented an exhibition of items from the Library’s collections. From January 24 through March 19, 1997, the museum presented Alvin Langdon Coburn and H.G. Wells: The Photographer and the Novelist, featuring two portfolios of stunning photographs from the Library’s world-famous H.G. Wells Collection.

The first portfolio contains eighteen photographs from Coburn’s 1910 book New York; the second contains ten photographs used to illustrate the first edition of H.G. Wells’ 1911 collection of short stories, The Door in the Wall.

All the photographs had been owned by Wells and were donated to the Library by Wells’ son George in 1958, not long after the Library purchased the first major portion of Wells’ personal papers. "Alvin Langdon Coburn’s photographs are magnificent images by an artist who is slowly gaining more recognition," says the director of the Krannert Art Museum, Martin van de Gucht. "Here is an artistic story to show and tell, with important biographical and literary elements thrown in—a very good mix!"

According to photography historian Tom Hopkinson, Coburn (1882-1966) was "a giant among giants, a genius of photography..." although he never received the recognition of contemporaries such as Alfred Steiglitz or Edward Steichen, with whom he studied.

In 1902 Coburn was elected a member of Photo-Secession, a photographic society founded by Steiglitz, and some of Coburn’s photographs appeared in Steiglitz’s journal, Camera Work. In 1905, Coburn met George Bernard Shaw, who introduced him to Wells. By 1908, Coburn was providing photographs to Wells to illustrate Wells’ upcoming book, The Door in the Wall.

Wells’ work, however, proceeded slowly. In the meantime, Coburn visited New York, capturing its moods at various times of day for his 1910 collection of photographs entitled New York. As Coburn wrote in a 1911 article of Camera Work about the project, "Now to me New York is a vision that rises out of the sea as I come up the harbor on my Atlantic liner, and which glimmers for a while in the sun for the first of my stay amidst its pinnacles; but which vanishes, but for fragmentary glimpses, as I become one of the grey creatures that crawl about like ants at the bottom of gloomy caverns."

Among the eighteen prints, are stunning photographs of buildings and bridges by day and night, capturing not only the immensity of the skyscrapers, but also the hustle and bustle of the city.

When Wells’ The Door in the Wall finally was printed in 1911, it was Coburn who supervised the printing of the original imprint of 600 copies. His photograph of a door in a wall set the mood for the entire book, accompanied by photos depicting a turined, barefoot man dwarfed by the giant gears of a dynamo, sailboats by moonlight, and many other mood-setting landscapes.

All twenty-eight photographs have been reproduced in a catalog prepared for the exhibit, which are available for $23 (includes shipping and handling). If you are interested in purchasing a copy, please contact Judy Graner, annual funds secretary, at 227 Library, 1408 W. Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801; or call (217)333-5683; or e-mail at j-graner@uiuc.edu.

The Library is Looking for...

Funds for microfilm preservation of three volumes of University Library annual reports (1897/1906/07) for the Library and Information Science Library. The unit holds the only complete collection of these early reports, many written by hand, which contain fascinating details about such little-known items as the Library’s "conversation room" and traveling collections. Cost to microfilm these unique items is $150.

$226 to purchase Elsevier’s Dictionary of Biometry for the Mathematics Library. This dictionary covers all areas of biometry, including agricultural and medical sciences, clinical and epidemiological studies, ecology, population and quantitative genetics, and many other fields. It also provides translation terms for Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Russian, and Spanish.

$500 to restore the leather binding and illuminated initials on a magnificent Dutch book of hours for the Rare Book and Special Collections Library. The book, published by Ghetsden van Onser Liever Vrouwen in Delft in 1484, is the second book of hours ever published in the Netherlands.

$560 to purchase microfilm copies of Weekly Mail, South Africa’s leading newspaper, on microfilm for the Africana Reading Room. Approximately 500 students per semester use this newspaper for a course, causing the paper copies to deteriorate rapidly. The microfilm will include June 1985 through May 1990.

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 Friends Welcomes Seven to University Librarian’s Council

Seven Library Friends have joined the ranks of University Librarian’s Council. They are: Haynes W. Dugan, Joyce M. Huber, William G. Huber, John Littlewood, Allan R. Sandage, Charles A. Wert, and Verna D. Wittrock. Mr. Huber, Mrs. Huber, Mr. Littlewood, Mr. Wert, and Dr. Wittrock have become Life Members.

Friends become members of the University Librarian’s Council by donating $5,000 or more within a five-year period. Friends become Life Members by donating at least $3,000 within a twelve-month period.
Lost Yearbook Leads to Unusual Gift

The Library has received an unusual donation from an unusual man with an unusual request—he'd like every alum to help others remember their college days at the U of I.

That's the purpose of a $1,000 donation to the University Archives from 92-year-old Richard N. Jones ('28) of Hanover, New Hampshire. Mr. Jones recently had been looking over memorabilia about his long career as an advertising executive in the publishing industry and as an undergraduate at the U of I, but he could not locate his 1928 Illio yearbook. "I had a rather distinguished career as an undergraduate," he says, "and when I lost the yearbook, I felt like I had lost my life."

Several phone calls to the yearbook's publisher and to the Alumni Association turned up nothing until someone suggested he contact the University Archives. There he found a knowledgeable ear and a source of several extra copies of the 1928 Illio, one of which the Archives sent to Mr. Jones.

"I was just so grateful that they recognized that one of their graduates wanted to know more that I thought there should be a program to encourage others to donate material about their college days," he adds. Shortly, some U of I alumni will receive the result of this request—a brochure asking for donations of materials from your college days to help everyone remember what those days were like.

"We often get requests from alumni seeking information about their student days at Illinois, and we also have a lot of alumni who supply the records, photographs, and scrapbooks that help us document those college days," says John Straw, student life and culture archivist. "Without their support, the memories of those student days would quickly fade and would not be preserved. That's why people like Mr. Jones, who have a love for the university and great memories of their days here, are very valuable to the Archives in doing its work."

Mr. Jones has good reason to remember his college days fondly, being one of the most prominent undergraduates on campus. Not only was he a member of Theta Xi social fraternity and honorary fraternities in commerce and advertising, but he also was on the dance supervision committee, the senior invitation committee, the Illini Board of Control, which oversaw the the yearbook and school newspaper, chairman of the senior hat committee, president of the junior class, and most importantly to him, president of the U of I's interfraternity council.

In that capacity, he was taken by U of I men's dean Thomas A. Clark to the National Interfraternity Council meeting in new York in 1927, where Mr. Jones became the first elected president of the undergraduate division of the council.

After graduation, Mr. Jones became an advertising executive with a small press and eventually for The Architectural Forum, which in 1934 became part of Time, Inc.

In 1948, he was named vice president in charge of sales for Lustron Corp., which World War II GI's may remember as the company originally financed by the government to build 50,000 all-steel prefabricated homes for the returning veterans. When the government subsidy was suddenly withdrawn after the first 2,000 units were built, the company closed, and Mr. Jones returned to Time, Inc.

"It was my good fortune to start my publishing career with a knowledgeable board of faculty members at the University of Illinois, and with a superb business manager—Victor Kranert," remembers Mr. Jones. "My years as an executive with Time, Inc., could not have been possible without this background. What an introduction to ninety-two years of a great life!"

The University Archives is home to not only the country's largest collection on student life and culture in general, but also the Stewart S. Howe Collection on fraternities and sororities, supported by the Stewart S. Howe Archival Program Endowment Fund. Mr. Jones, in fact, knew Stewart Howe (also class of 1928).

The Archives welcomes inquiries concerning the donation of materials or financial support for its student life and culture collections. For more information, contact archivist John Straw at (217)333-7841, or e-mail at jstraw@uiuc.edu. Mr. Jones may be contacted at Conners Room 59, 80 Lyme Rd., Hanover, NH 03755.

Library Struts Its Stuff at U of I's Cyberfest

"I am a HAL Nine Thousand Computer Production Number 3. I became operational at the HAL Plant in Urbana, Illinois, on January 12, 1997."

Nearly thirty years ago, Arthur C. Clarke penned those parting words for HAL, the computer that malfunctioned with fatal consequences in the science-fiction novel 2001: A Space Odyssey.

What better reason for the University of Illinois to strut its cyber-stuff than a birthday party for HAL. Thus was born this spring's Cyberfest, a six-day, campus-wide extravaganza.

As part of the festivities, held March 10-16, the Library sponsored six of the more than thirty displays at the two-day CyberShowcase, held in the Grainger Engineering Library Information Center. According to the festival's organizers, more than 6,000 people from as far away as Australia visited the showcase alone.

Library displays included demonstrations of the Library's new online catalog system (scheduled for introduction in 1998); the Kolb-Proust Archive for Research's interactive web site; an archival display of mechanical information technologies dating back to the 1800s; and a sample of digitization of the Motley Collection of Theatre and Costume Design.

Also on view were an exhibit in the Rare Book and Special Collections Library entitled "Astounding Days: From H.G. Wells' Vision to HAL's Birth," and an exhibit in the Library's main corridor entitled "A Byte of History: Computing at the University of Illinois."

Papers of Two-time Nobel Prize Winner John Bardeen Now Available for Research

When U of I physics professor John Bardeen died in 1991, the U of I and the world in general lost one of the great scientific minds of the century.

Not only was Bardeen the co-inventor of the transistor, but he was also the only person ever to win the Nobel Prize twice in the same field.

Now the personal papers of this quiet, unassuming scientific giant are available to researchers at the University Archives. "Often, scientists are known only for their results, but little attention is paid to the way they achieve these results," says archivist emeritus Maynard Brichford. "These papers provide a striking indication of how John Bardeen achieved these results."

The collection, comprising 721 boxes (41 cubic feet) of material, provides an essentially complete record of the work Bardeen did in the 1950s, along with his graduate students Leon Cooper and Robert Schrieffer, in the field of superconductivity that led to the 1972 Nobel Prize in Physics for the three.

In addition, the papers contain some of his personal research notes from his work on the transistor in the late 1940s while at Bell Telephone Laboratories; extensive documentation of his long association with the Xerox corporation, beginning in 1951 when it was still known as the Haloid Corporation; nearly complete documentation of his later, controversial work on charge-density waves; even letters he received from autograph-seekers and school children working on school research papers.

Also included in the collection are an oral history interview conducted in 1965 by Professor Brichford and a color-film interview produced by Bell Laboratories in 1972.

"Materials in the subject files literally run up to almost the day of his death," says Library Academic Resident Wanda Finney, who processed some of the collection. "One of the last things is a letter asking him to look over proofs of an article he had written for a science encyclopedia, which he did literally within days of his death. So, until the day he died he was still being asked to contribute to his field."

Just a brief glance through the correspondence alone shows that Bardeen was in contact with a veritable "who's who" of physicists over the second half of the century. Among them are Bernard Serin, who in 1950 set Bardeen on the road to superconductivity with his work on the isotope effect; and other major figures in solid-state physics, including Michael Tinkham, P.W. Anderson, Neville Mott, and Brian Pippard.

The correspondence includes not only letters to Bardeen from other physicists, but also copies of Bardeen's often lengthy replies.

A majority of these letters, in fact, provide startlingly detailed information about physics research as it was being conducted over a forty-year span as Bardeen and his colleagues wrestled with research to another, complete with formulas and theoretical discourses.

"One of the most interesting scientific stories I know," says Professor Thorne, a Japanese physicist reported more compelling calculations based on the classical model. What previously had been interpreted as evidence for Bardeen's unexplainable quantum model now could be described by an understandable classical model. It was a conclusion, says Professor Thorne, that Bardeen could not accept.

However, notes Thorne, Bardeen's early work on charge-density waves in the early 1970s has stood the test of time. The collection contains significant amounts of material on the subject, which Professor Thorne calls "one of the most interesting scientific stories I know."

Although Bardeen will always be remembered for his Nobel Prize-winning work on transistors and superconductivity, he also was the inventor, while working for Gulf Research Laboratories in 1930, of an electromagnetic method for oil prospecting.

According to an article in the April 1992 Physics Today by fellow U of I Physics Professor David Pines, the approach was so novel that the company didn't patent it for more than 30 years for fear the patent application would provide too much useful information to industrial rivals.

During World War II, Bardeen's work for the armed forces on magnetism led to the...
Calendar

June
"Centennial of Altgeld Hall." Main Corridor
"100 Years of Library Professionalism at UIUC." University Archives
"Latin-American Women." Newspaper Library
"Ornaments of Green: A Garden Tour." Rare Book and Special Collections Library
"The Big Apple—New York City on Video." Undergraduate Media Center

July
"Where in the World is Fun?" Main Corridor
"100 Years of Library Professionalism at UIUC." University Archives
"Latin-American Women." Newspaper Library
"Ornaments of Green: A Garden Tour." Rare Book and Special Collections Library
"The Big Apple—New York City on Video." Undergraduate Media Center

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