UI LIBRARIES RECEIVES GRANT TO PRESERVE J.N. "DING" DARLING COLLECTION. Canvasbacks—after Lee Jacques by Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling, from the University of Iowa Libraries Department of Special Collections.

Darling (1876-1962), was a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist for The Des Moines Register and a prominent conservationist in the first half of the 20th century. Recently the J.N. "Ding" Darling Foundation provided funding for the preservation and conservation of the original "Ding" Darling cartoons at the University Libraries. The collection includes more than 6,500 full-size original editorial cartoon drawings covering the years from 1907 to 1950. Canvasbacks was Darling's last print, made when he was 84 years old.

THE PAGES of a book are held together by its binding. Sewn together, one after another, each page adds to the book, creating a whole. Bindings represents the continuing relationship between alumni and other supporters of the University of Iowa Libraries, its students and faculty.
The Year In Review

The highest priority for the professional staff of the University Libraries is outreach and user education, and each year new services are developed and existing services are strengthened. At the same time, though, we recognize the importance of asking those for whom we provide services to give us their perspective on collections and services throughout the library system. This is a challenging task with 18,754 undergraduate students, 6,436 graduate students and 1,712 faculty, as well as thousands of University staff.

This year a group of staff have worked very diligently on the first phase of what will be a three-year project to assess the needs and satisfaction among this large constituency that depends on the University Libraries for information to support their teaching, research and independent learning. A research quality project was conducted this year focusing on undergraduate students. The survey was mailed to a stratified random sample of approximately 10% of 1,790 undergraduate students from each of the four class levels—freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors, and from all the colleges with an undergraduate program—Liberal Arts, Engineering, Nursing and Business. We received just under a 40% of these questionnaires. The results indicate a high level of satisfaction with both resources and services while also giving us very valuable information on where we are not fully meeting the needs of undergraduates. This information will be a primary focus for setting priorities this next year in strengthening publicity about services as well as reviewing ways in which all services should be more responsive to the undergraduates. In this coming year, the next phase of the needs assessment project will include graduate students and in the final year, it will focus on the faculty.

In fall 1998, we will be launching a new effort in conjunction with the College of Liberal Arts focusing on the undergraduate. We will work with a small number of general education requirement (GER) courses to include information literacy skills as part of the course offering. In this way, we will test the effectiveness of offering a more systematic way for the undergraduate to develop life-long skills at locating, analyzing and applying a vast array of information resources to their academic and personal learning program.

In all departments throughout the library system—from the Art Library to the Chemistry Library, from the Cataloging department to Government Documents—the staff are committed to continually revising and updating, modifying and streamlining services for the University community. It is a challenge that never ends but one that brings considerable satisfaction in the process.

This also has been a stimulating year in terms of what all of you—Friends of the Libraries—have made possible with your personal support for libraries services and resources. This past year over 1,200 households contributed to the University Libraries. These gifts, ranging from $25 to $100,000, all make a difference to the people who rely on the Libraries as a core resource. Many new books have been purchased with your support, state-of-the art equipment has been secured, and many other initiatives undertaken to support all areas of the academic endeavor of the University.

There is much to celebrate in looking back at the 1997-98 academic year and much to anticipate in this coming year. With your continued support of the University Libraries, we know that achieving an excellent library at the University of Iowa is assured. Thank you.

Sheila D. Creeth
University Librarian
The Impact of Private Giving

Private funds have enabled The University of Iowa Libraries to add to collections and resources and improve access. Donors to the University Libraries can broaden and deepen their support other areas of the interest in the University by giving to the Libraries. Even modest private contributions to the University Libraries have a tremendous impact on students and faculty in University departments from Art to Physics. The following list outlines some examples of how the collections and services at departmental libraries have been strengthened by private donations. If you would like to make a difference with a gift for a specific library or collection, please refer to the ‘gift’ form section of this publication, or on the Web; http://www.uiowa.edu/~uifdn/dcolpgs/library.htm.

- $1,000 of private money helped to purchase important art historical resources for the Art Library. These include a catalogue of the sculptures of the Vatican Museums and a catalogue raisonne of Ossip Zadkine, the 20th century French sculptor.

- $750 enabled the Biological Sciences Library to add the four-volume Comprehensive Biological Catalysis to its collection. This is an important resource for those studying enzyme biochemistry from Biology, Chemical Engineering and Chemistry.

- The Chemistry Library recently purchased the NIST/EPA/NIH Mass Spectral Database. This $1,500 database is the most comprehensive program available for identifying unknown compounds.

- $300 was used to purchase a color printer for one of the workstations at the Geology Library. There is a tremendous amount of materials available now over the World Wide Web which incorporate color (i.e., maps, charts and aerial/earth orbit photos). This purchase benefits all of the library’s users, but especially undergraduates who have less access to WWW stations or color printers.

- The Mathematical Sciences Library added eight volumes of selected titles on the history of computer science and mathematics at a total cost of $800.

- $400 from private funds enabled the Physics Library to add the Hipparcos and Tycho Catalogues to its collection. These Astrometric and photometric star catalogues are derived from the ESA Hipparcos Space Astrometry Mission (17 volumes and 6 CDs) and are used extensively by Astronomy students and faculty.

- The Marvin A. Pomerantz Business Library used $4,000 from private funds to acquire important reference works and a work station. The purchases include the World Competitiveness Yearbook, published by the International Institute for Management and the Blackwell Encyclopedia of Management (10 volumes). The Library also purchased a new work station to run the CD-ROM version of the Wall Street Journal, which is heavily used by both undergraduate and graduate students.

- $400 of private money assisted in the purchase of Comprehensive Clinical Psychology (11 volumes) for the Psychology Library. This work supports courses and contains articles by UI faculty.

-MP
Bridging Communities

The 1998 Advisory Board

The Friends of the University of Iowa Libraries are pleased to announce that Iowa City community business leaders Jane McCune and William H. (Bill) Burger have agreed to serve as Chair and Co-Chair respectively of the 1998-1999 Advisory Board. McCune is co-owner and president of Blank & McCune, The Real Estate Company and a participant in many local not-for-profit boards. Bill Burger is Senior Vice President and Senior Trust Officer for the First National Bank, Iowa City. His public service includes volunteer work for the Iowa Library Association and the Waterloo and Iowa City Public Libraries. Burger will become Chair of the UI Libraries Advisory Board in 2000.

New board members for 1998-99 include Max Allan Collins (Muscatine), Robert E. Fellows (Iowa City), James O. Freedman (Hanover, New Hampshire), Miriam Gilbert (Iowa City), Jean Lloyd-Jones (Iowa City), Marvin A. Pomerantz (Des Moines) and Louise Rosenfield Noun (Des Moines).

Max Allan Collins is an award-winning mystery and comic strip writer, filmmaker, screenwriter and musician. He is well known for his traditional hard-boiled mysteries and his writing of the Dick Tracy comic strip (1977-1993). His ties to Hollywood include screenplays, movie novels and two independent films. He is currently working on a documentary about Mickey Spillane. Collins is a graduate of the UI Writers Workshop.

Robert E. Fellows is a distinguished Medical Scientist and Educator. Since 1976, he has been Professor and Head of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at the University of Iowa, and currently he is the Director of the Neuro-sciences Ph.D. Program. He holds an A.B. from Hamilton College, a M.D. from McGill University and a Ph.D. from Duke University. He serves on numerous College of Medicine, University and National Committees.

James O. Freedman was the President of Dartmouth College from 1987 to June 1998 and was President of the UI from 1982 to 1987. A graduate of Harvard College and the Yale Law School, he served as a law clerk to Justice Thurgood Marshall. In 1991, Freeman received the William O. Douglas First Amendment Freedom Award from the Anti-Defamation League of the B'Nai Brith.

Miriam Gilbert is a distinguished Professor of English at the UI. She received her B.A. from Brandeis University (1965) and M.A. and Ph.D. from Indiana University (1967 and 1969). She joined the UI faculty in 1969 as an assistant professor of English and has published extensively in the area of modern and contemporary drama. Gilbert has been awarded numerous accolades in the form of fellowships, grants, and teaching awards.

Jean Lloyd-Jones is a UI alumna, peace activist, feminist, and served as a state legislator. Lloyd-Jones has been active in local and national civic and political organizations, and worked as the Democratic party precinct committee person, and was on the staff of various political campaigns. She served as a State Representative from 1978 to 1989 and as a State Senator from 1989 to 1994.

Marvin A. Pomerantz is chairman and chief executive officer of Gaylord Container Corp. and chairman and CEO of Mid-America Group. He founded Great Plains Bag Corp. and has served in executive positions with Continental Can Co., Forest Products Brown Systems Operation, and Diversified Group of International Harvester. Pomerantz was president of the Iowa State Board of Regents from 1987 to 1993 and from 1995 to 1996.

Louise Rosenfield Noun is an author, historian, social activist, and philanthropist. In 1992 Noun and the late Mary Louise Smith founded the Iowa Women's Archives located at the UI Libraries. The mission of the Louise Noun, Mary Louise Smith Iowa Women's Archives, made possible through a gift of $1.5 million from Noun, is to collect, preserve, and make available primary source material on the women of Iowa.

The continuing Board Members are: Willis (Bill) Bywater, Chairman, Tru Art Color Graphic Advertising Co., and president of the Tru Art Advertising Calendars and Bankers Advertising Co. divisions of Economy Advertising Company; Kathleen (Kay) Chapman, Attorney and Alumna, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Sheila D. Creth, Ex-Officio Board Member and University Librarian at the UI Libraries; Jeffrey Disterhoff, V. P. of Finance, University of Iowa Community Credit Union, Iowa City; Lois H. Eichacker, Alumna, Fort Madison, Iowa; W. Bruce Johnson, Professor, UI College of Business Administration; Lucia Riddle, Vice President of the Government Relations Department, Principal Financial Group, Des Moines; Brian D. Strayer, Alumnus, Engineering Manager, Seagate Technology, Minneapolis; W. Richard (Dick) Summerhill, President, Iowa State Bank and Trust, Iowa City; and Rhoda Vernon, Volunteer, University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics, Iowa City.

The Friends of the University Libraries are individuals who provide annual support through private contributions. Their gifts enable librarians to strengthen services and collections, and offer special programs that would not otherwise be possible. The Friends Advisory Board provides leadership for the Libraries' fund-raising efforts. The Advisory Board is composed of UI alumni, business leaders, UI staff and faculty, and other supporters of the UI Libraries locally and nationally.

-MP
Reception Celebrates the Haviland Collectors Internationale Foundation Archives

On Saturday, April 18, 1998, the Haviland Collectors Internationale Foundation Archives were dedicated in a ceremony held in the Special Collections Department of the Main Library. The Haviland Collectors Internationale Foundation (HCIF) is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to study and promote the products manufactured by the Haviland families in Limoges, France, and America. Haviland produced fine porcelain which was enormously popular on American tables from the mid-19th century on. Established in 1990, HCIF publishes a quarterly news-letter for its members and holds annual conferences.

The ceremony was attended by officers and members of the HCIF Board of Directors who gathered from across the country. Among those present were HCIF President Arthur Stees (Freeport, IL), former chair of the UI Libraries Advisory Board Virginia Stafford (Ames, IA), and Professor Wallace J. Tomasini (Iowa City). The UI Libraries was represented by Edward Shreeves, Director, Collections and Information Resources and Robert McCown, Manuscripts Librarian. Brief remarks were followed by a reception with refreshments provided by Virginia Stafford. Stafford is a former chair of the Friends of the UI Libraries Advisory Board.

The University of Iowa Libraries began to receive records from the HCIF in 1996 through the efforts of Professor Wallace J. Tomasini of the School of Art and Art History of The University of Iowa. The Collection consists of books, periodicals, catalogs (sale and exhibition), advertising brochures and similar documents concerning the manufacture, the marketing, the function and the collecting of porcelain and ceramic ware produced by Haviland and Co., Theodore Haviland and Charles Field Haviland.

Additions to the collection will include material concerning companies which copied Haviland blanks and designs, plus information on other French companies and on the general history of the manufacture of porcelain and ceramics. The collection is available for research by members of the HCIF as well as the interested public. For additional information, contact the University of Iowa Libraries Special Collections Department at 319/335-5921.


(left to right) Virginia Stafford, Wallace J. Tomasini and Edward Shreeves view part of the exhibition installed in Special Collections in association with the dedication.
A Master Bookbinder’s Tale
The Bill Anthony Collection of Fine Bindings

It represents a homecoming of sorts. Thirty books, from the private collection of former master binder and conservator William Anthony, were recently added to the UI Libraries Rare Books Collection. These books, several of which were made during Anthony’s tenure as University Conservator at the UI Libraries, provide an important resource for researchers and students of the book binding craft, and illustrate the evolution and achievement of his technique.

William Anthony came to The University of Iowa Libraries in 1984 to establish the Conservation Department in the Main Library. He was brought to Iowa at the suggestion of Kim Merker, former Director of the UI Center for the Book. “One of Kim Merker’s greatest achievements in creating the Center for the Book,” said Timothy Barrett, the current director, “was his success in bringing Bill Anthony to Iowa City. His early and very unexpected death was devastating for all of us. For me, that’s why these books are so important. Not just because of the exquisite craftsmanship they embody, but because they keep Bill Anthony with us.”

The next four years were productive ones as Anthony implemented an ambitious program in conservation and book binding. He directed a state of the art conservation facility, established an apprenticeship program in conservation and introduced credit courses in bookbinding. Anthony died in 1989, but the legacy of his achievements is substantial and continues to influence the University and world community of librarians, conservators, and artists.

Twenty-six of the books in the collection were donated by Anthony’s widow, Mrs. Bernadette Anthony Dowling, and their four children—John Anthony, Linda Jensen, Lisa Dubcek, and Caroline Swann—for the enjoyment and study of those with an interest in the areas of binding and conservation. The Libraries were also able to purchase four of Anthony’s bindings with the generous support of many individuals, including Julie Scott and James Fluck, who provided a significant donation towards this acquisition.

Other contributors included Timothy Barrett, Dale and Mary Gail Bentz, Jocelyn Chateauvert, Judy Ferenbach, Walter Hamady, Thomas Hedges, Valerie Lagorio, James and Penny McKean, Jane Megg, David Oholins, Cheryl Jacobsen, Francis Paluka, Jana Pullman, Norma Rubovitz, Jerome Schulman, Bu Wilson, R. K. Courtney, and Lawrence Yerkes who led an effort to raise funds for the collection.

For more information on William Anthony and the Fine Bindings Collection, contact the Special Collections Department at 319/335-5921.
THE ART OF GIVING

Julie Scott and Jim Fluck are working to create opportunities that nurture the arts and the cultural life of the University. They do this with enthusiasm, and a sense of responsibility—at work and in pursuing their personal interests. Julie has worked in the Hancher Auditorium administrative office since 1971 and Jim joined the UI staff in 1977, working first at Hancher and later moving to UI Information Technology Services. Julie also served on the Libraries Advisory Board.

Over the years, Julie and Jim have supported a variety of areas at the UI but it is their gift to the UI Libraries. The William Anthony Memorial Fund supports the apprentice program in conservation at the UI Libraries, ensuring that Anthony’s commitment to the education of the next generation will continue. The fund also supports selected projects in conservation.

Some of this money was used to purchase four of the books now in the William Anthony Collection of Fine Bindings. Jim notes, “The newly acquired bindings are vivid examples of the beauty and the craftsmanship of his work. We would like to think that Bill would have wanted these splendid examples of fine binding made available at the University Libraries for students of the book and conservation arts.”

Julie agrees. “We are happy to have been a part of this acquisition.”

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DR. ALFRED MARTIN: A History of Giving

UI alumnae Alfred S. Martin—already one of the Libraries’ most generous benefactors—has made another substantial gift.

As a graduate student earning his M.A. and Ph.D. in History from 1938 to 1941, Dr. Martin was a frequent user of the Libraries. Later, as the CEO of a manufacturing company, he continued his interest in history, and supported the library’s purchases of books, and later microfilm for the collection in European History. This year, he offered to finance the purchase of a new microfilm reader/printer for the Media Services department. Martin was an early experimenter with microfilm technology, using a specially adapted 35mm camera to photograph print materials in England in the 1930s.

“Reader/printers are one of the most heavily used machines by both faculty and students,” said Becky Johnson, Team Leader, Information Services. “Sometimes people have had to schedule time on one of these machines several days in advance. This gift will be in constant use and is much appreciated by all of us. It’s only had it less than two weeks and have already made more than 1,300 copies on it!”

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Staff and patrons of the Media Services department express their thanks to alumnae Alfred S. Martin, who donated the cost of a new microfilm reader/printer. Pictured left to right,

BACK: Paul Young, patron; Aaron Park, patron; Pamela Barta-Kacena, Library Assistant in Media Services; Rebecca Johnson, Team Leader, Information Services; Chris Babey, Libraries staff;
FRONT: Trena Crocker, Libraries staff; Sally Shafio, patron; Carol Hughes, Head, Information, Research and Instructional Services.
Each summer junior high and high school students travel to The University of Iowa to participate in a variety of residence-based programs. Librarians work with these programs to develop and conduct tailored instruction to strengthen participant's information literacy skills. Librarians support these activities through instructional sessions at the Main Library, the Hardin Library for the Health Sciences (HLHS), and other branch libraries.

The American Library Association defines information literacy as “the ability to recognize when information is needed and to have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information. Ultimately, information literate people are those who have learned how to learn.” (From: American Library Association Presidential Committee on Information Literacy, Final Report, Chicago: ALA, 1989.)

The following is a partial listing of groups the University Libraries worked with this past summer. (HLHS stands for Hardin Library for the Health Sciences.)

- The Policy Debate ‘division’ of the Summer Debating Institute meets on campus for several weeks each summer. This summer, over 150 high school debaters researched their topic of current US relations with Russia. The University Libraries provided instruction at the Main Library tailored for their topic.
- Upward Bound is a program for 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students who are considering college or vocational school after graduation. These students are from low-income families and/or are potential first generation college students. This year, the Main Library conducted skill building sessions for 30 students.
- Participants in the six-week Secondary Science Training Program, affiliated with Opportunity at Iowa, study and conduct hands-on scientific research in one of the many laboratories across the UI campus. This past June, HLHS provided instruction in the use of information resources to over 40 11th and 12th grade high school participants from across Iowa and the country. Students receive three hours University credit.
- The McElroy Health Sciences Center Summer Camp, also affiliated with Opportunity at Iowa, is for selected students from the Waterloo Community School District. As a part of this program, HLHS conducted two instructional sessions covering information literacy, the Internet and other health-related information resources instruction for over 40 participants.
- Twenty 7th and 8th graders participated in Women Challenging Science, a one-week residency program affiliated with the Belin-Blank Center. These students received library instruction at HLHS. A web page was developed in support of the informational needs of this program, and is at: http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/hardin- www/education/summer/women.html

This is only a partial survey of the services the University of Iowa Libraries provides to primary and secondary students and the community. For more information visit the University Libraries main website at http://www.lib.uiowa.edu, the User Education web site at: http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/user-ed or the HLHS website at http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/hardin.ww education/index.html.
Chicago Event

Fans of the UI Libraries—and of fine food—gathered at Chicago's Newberry Library to hear David Schoonover, Curator of Rare Books, describe the Chef Louis Szathmáry collection of books on cuisine and the culinary arts. The slide presentation, "Much More Than Recipes," explores the variety and richness of the Szathmáry collection, which is one of the nation's foremost collections of cookbooks and related culinary materials. It has been shown in several cities, but had a special significance for the Chicago audience: Szathmáry's restaurant, the Bakery, was a Chicago landmark for many years. About 40 people attended the June 11 program, including Szathmáry's widow, Sada, and their niece, Cheryl Soderholm. The program was co-sponsored by the UI Alumni Association. Following the public presentation, the Libraries hosted a special dinner at the Drake Hotel for Libraries donors and others interested in how they might become more involved in supporting the University through the Libraries.

34th Annual Friends Event

A record number of Friends and Supporters of the University Libraries met at the 34th Annual Friends Event on March 12, 1998. The theme was "Impressionism and French Cuisine" and the program was as beautiful to look at as it was delicious. The event included a formal presentation and theme buffet. UI President Mary Sue Coleman was present to welcome guests, and thank them for their support of the University Libraries. Alexandra Leaf, guest speaker was introduced by Pamela White Trimpe, Assistant Director of the UI Museum of Art. After dinner remarks were made by Jane McCune, Chair of the Friends of the Libraries Advisory Committee and Sheila D. Creth, University Librarian. -MP

CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT

(1) Sheila D. Creth, University Librarian with Mary Ann and John W. Colloton. The Collotons were honored at this year's event in recognition of a $100,000 gift to the Libraries. John W. Colloton served as Director of the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics for 23 years, and Mary Ann Colloton is a UI School of Nursing alumna and active community volunteer.

(2) Dr. James A. Clifton, Mary Ann Colloton, John W. Colloton, and UI President Mary Sue Coleman wait for the start of the slide lecture. Dr. Clifton and Mrs. Clifton and Mrs. Clifton (not pictured) are long-time supporters and Friends of the Libraries and the James A. Clifton Center for Digestive Diseases at the UIHC is named in Dr. Clifton's honor.

(3) Selden Smith, Director of Development for the University Libraries with contributor Janett Vander Mass.

(4) Pamela White Trimpe, Assistant Director of the UI Museum of Art, UI Professor Emeritus Robert Wachal and Sheila D. Creth at the event reception.

(5) Buffet Station Center Piece
Special Events

PUBLIC READING: T.C. BOYLE
November 12, 1998
Buchanan Auditorium, 8:00pm
Room # W10, first floor, Pappajohn Business Administration Building
A book signing will follow the program.
Free

Co-sponsored by
Prairie Lights Books, Iowa City
The program will be simulcast Live at Prairie Lights on WSUI (AM 910)

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Libraries/Alumni Association Outreach Programming

These programs are co-sponsored by the University Libraries and The University of Iowa Alumni Association. Outreach programs are free, but reservations are required. For more information or to make reservations, please call the University of Iowa Alumni Association at 1-800-469-2586.

WOMEN MYSTERY WRITERS
Sandra Ballasch and Lois Cox
October 8, 1998, 5:30 - 7:00pm
North Lobby, Main Library
A reception with light refreshments will be served at 5:00pm
The discussion begins at 5:30pm
Free

Iowa City Friends and Alumni are invited to join us for a special program on women mystery writers. Sandra Ballasch is a reference librarian and computer whiz at the University of Iowa Libraries, but also a self-taught expert on the mystery genre. She has curated two special exhibitions on the subject. Lois Cox is a professor of law at the UI during the day, but an unofficial 'sister in crime' in her free time. She is a member of a local mystery book club, regularly attends Bouchercon, the annual international mystery convention, and has participated in a number of programs on the subject.

Intrigued? Read the short article by Sandra Ballasch on the opposite page and come to this free program to learn more. A fun webpage for mystery aficionados is The Mysterious homepage: http://www.webfic.com/mysthome/

This program is partially supported through a generous donation from Lensing Funeral and Cremation Service, Iowa City, IA.

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OUTREACH PROGRAM IN LOS ANGELES—INFORMATION AND THE INDUSTRY: A FORUM ON THE ROLE OF LIBRARIES AND RESEARCH COLLECTIONS IN SHAPING TELEVISION AND FILM PRODUCTIONS
Los Angeles Public Library
Mark Taper Auditorium
630 W. 5th Street, Los Angeles
December 3, 1998: 6:00-7:30pm
Reception and Registration: 6:00pm
Program begins promptly at 6:30pm

Friends and Alumni are invited to join us for a special program featuring University of Iowa Alumni who are working in the film and television fields. Among the participants will be Marian Rees, a well-known television producer. The other panelists have not all been confirmed at the time of this printing... so watch your mail box for an update.

Advance Notice

ANNUAL FRIENDS EVENT
35th Anniversary Celebration of the Founding of the Friends of the UI Libraries
2nd Floor Iowa Memorial Union
Saturday, May 1, 1999
6:30 - 11:00pm
$35 per dinner

Rock and Roll! Join us for a special 35th Anniversary Celebration of the Friends of the University of Iowa Libraries. We are still busy in our planning process, but this year our format will include a dinner/dance focusing on a 1960s musical theme (the Friends were founded in 1964). Come as your favorite 60s personality and win our costume contest! We are planning a very special menu this year and there will be a special acknowledgment of long time supporters and Friends. Additional details will be included in the Spring edition of Bindings.
Exhibitions
(all exhibitions are located in the North Exhibition Hall of the Main Library unless otherwise noted)

KEEPING OUR WORD: PRESERVING INFORMATION ACROSS THE AGES
October 1998 through January 1999

“All that mankind has done, thought, gained or been: it is lying as in magic preservation in the pages of books,” said 19th-century British historian Thomas Carlyle. Yet the preservation of our cultural heritage has extended beyond books over the past ten millennia. This exhibition celebrates the myriad efforts made during this time to preserve information. Centering on three major facets—paper, books, and digital (or electronic) technologies—the exhibition illustrates how inseparable the drive to retain recorded information has been from the basic urge to record. A selective survey of important events, from the development of cuneiform writing (between 8000 and 3000 B.C.) to the recent evolution of digital information, runs throughout the display. How has information—transmitted via formats from stone to paper to electronic media—been saved over time? What preservation challenges do we face in the future? These questions and others are explored in the exhibition.

Earlier in this century, British writer John Galsworthy said, “How to save the old that’s worth saving, whether in landscape, houses, manners, institutions, or human types, is one of our greatest problems, and the one that we bother least about.” Among those who traditionally have “bothered” to collect and maintain historical material have been librarians and archivists. Besides considering what has been kept over the centuries, we also consider the keepers within this exhibition. The evolution of libraries and archives and their role in preserving the cultural record is examined. Wedding traditional display methods with digital technology, a virtual exhibit presents still another means of keeping our word.

This exhibit will explore preservation issues through a long history of efforts to preserve our cultural history. Our recent access to digital information has led many to the mistaken assumption that it solves the preservation challenge or that information in paper format now has very limited usefulness. The exhibit will focus on new and not-so-new preservation challenges, including the durability of paper and emergent technologies for preservation.

There will be a free screening of two videos on the subject of preservation in Shambaugh Auditorium at the Main Library on Tuesday, November 10, 1998. “Slow Fires” will be shown from 2:30-3:30 p.m., and “Into the Future” from 3:45-4:45 p.m. The public is invited to attend either or both screenings.

A virtual exhibit for Keeping our Word: Preserving Information Across the Ages may be found at: http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/ref/exhibit.

Libraries staff who worked on this exhibit are: Regina Sinclair, Lissa Lord, Karen Zimmerman, Rijn Templeton, Kathryn Neal and Bob Joly.

The Woman Mystery Writer - the Weaker Sex?

Sandra Ballasch, Team Leader, Database Maintenance/Special Projects and Reference Librarian

There is a good deal of truth mixed in with the chauvinism of Rudyard Kipling’s comment that “the female of the species is more deadly than the male.”

Throughout time women have made lethal use of the advantages that underestimation of “the weaker sex” has handed them. It has sometimes surprised the unwary reader of an unknown mystery writer that not only the female characters, but the female authors can be just as ruthless and brutal as the males.

Yet those who are familiar with the history of the genre know that women have been actors on and off the page ever since the very beginning. Anna Katherine Green (1846-1935), the author of The Leavenworth Case (1878), wrote contemporaneously with Arthur Conan Doyle, the author of the Sherlock Holmes stories. Better known to the general reading public are the likes of Agatha Christie and Dorothy Sayers, who were both first published in the 1920’s and 30’s. Even today, it is likely that if the average person was asked to name any five mystery authors (regardless of sex), the names of Christie and Sayers are likely to be on the list.

In today’s market, the impact of women writers is felt in many ways. First there is the sheer numbers of women mystery writers today. Look at any list of current mysteries and detective novels and you will find as many women’s names as men’s—Nancy Pickard, Mary Higgins Clark, Sue Grafton, Sara Paretsky, P.D. James, Amanda Cross and Ruth Rendell—are only a few of the women writers currently publishing in the field. Second, it is now frequently impossible to guess the sex of the author from the nature of the story. There are women who write private eye stories, both the hard- and soft-boiled varieties, and there are women who write cozy domestic mysteries. Some of the strongest private eye mystery series going at present are those written by Sara Paretsky and Sue Grafton. One of the most notable features of these series is that not only are the authors women, the detectives are also.
Marking the Millenium
MASTER PRINTER BARRY MOSER ILLUSTRATES THE KING JAMES BIBLE

The Libraries Advisory Board has announced a drive to acquire a very special edition of the Bible, both to mark the new millennium and to build the University’s outstanding collection of small-press books.

The Moser Bible, which is now in the design phase, will be an extremely high-quality, limited edition of the Old and New Testaments, designed and illustrated by renowned artist and printer Barry Moser. Printed on hand-made paper and bound by hand, the Moser Bibles will cost approximately $10,000 each. Many members of the Board have pledged their support for this effort, and all Friends of the Library are invited to contribute.

Some of Matthew Carter’s newly designed Pilcrows and Fleurons.

Barry Moser has been described by the Chicago Tribune as “the best wood engraver in the country”. His accomplishments include receipt of the coveted American Book Award as well as membership in the National Academy of Design. The University of Iowa Libraries holds a comprehensive collection of Moser’s work including both commercial and private press publications, several of the later, contain original engravings. In 1989, Moser was commissioned by the University Libraries to create a limited edition poster representing the connection between the State of Iowa and the Libraries.