



LIBRARY

*A Newsletter of the
Oberlin College Library*

PERSPECTIVES

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Oberlin Alumni Librarian Conference



Sixty-five alumni returned to Oberlin for the first Oberlin Alumni Librarian Conference, which was held on campus November 13-14, 1999. Participants came from as far away as California, Florida, Canada, and the United Kingdom and represented Oberlin classes ranging from 1933 to 2000. For many this was the first trip back to Oberlin since graduation.

The conference presented a unique opportunity for librarians from different types of libraries and library positions to come together to share perspectives on issues facing the profession and to reflect on how their common experience as graduates of Oberlin affected their career choice and their work in the field.

The conference was coordinated by Molly Raphael '67, Director of the District of Columbia Public Library, and was held in conjunction with the annual

dinner of the Friends of the Oberlin College Library. Yale University Librarian Scott Bennett '60 was the keynote speaker. President Nancy Dye presented welcoming remarks, touching on the values of librarianship and their link to Oberlin College values (see page 2).

Topics explored at the conference included "The Importance of Libraries for Society," "The Oberlin College Library Today," "The Library of the Future: Exploiting the Power of Technology while Preserving Humanistic Values," and "How Oberlin Shaped My Career." A pre-conference session on "Careers in Librarianship" was held for current Oberlin students. The conference concluded with a slide talk entitled "A Light-Hearted Look at Oberlin Library History," delivered by Director of Libraries Ray English.

Conference panelists included Elliot Shelkrot '65, Director of the Free Library of Philadelphia; Paula Matthews '72, Associate Director of the Bates College Library; Richard Rubin '71, Professor of Library and Information Science at Kent State University; and Gordon B. Neavill '66, Professor of Library Science at Wayne State University.

The response of participants to the conference was very enthusiastic, with one calling it "the most satisfying professional meeting" she had ever attended.

According to English, "We believe this event is the first of its kind held by any U.S. college or university. Oberlin has produced an unusually large number of alumni who work in libraries, and it was a wonderful experience to have so many of them return to our campus to get to know one another and share perspectives through the conference discussions."

President Dye's Welcoming Remarks at the Alumni Conference

Welcome back to Oberlin! It is a pleasure for your College to host what Ray English tells me may well be the first conference of alumni librarians anywhere.

Oberlin is proud to have produced so many librarians! We hope that your interest in librarianship was sparked at least in part by your experiences here. I don't need to tell you that Oberlin has long had a great library – the depth and breadth of our collections and the extent to which our library is embracing new library technologies continue to set Oberlin apart from virtually all of its peers.

Given the vitality of our library and the nature of Oberlin, it doesn't surprise us that so many of our graduates have chosen library careers. Oberlin's values and the values of librarianship have much in common. Yours is at once a scholarly and a socially engaged profession. As librarians you simultaneously foster the creation of new knowledge and enhance the quality of life in your communities. Your positive impact on individuals and on the broader society is exceptionally strong. Let me give a few examples of what I mean:

I'm thinking of the children's librarian who encourages a love of books and reading in small children, and who



helps open up new realms of imagination and knowledge.

I'm thinking of the librarian in a branch of the New York Public Library in Queens, New York, who has worked tirelessly to build collections of contemporary fiction and non-fiction works written in the many languages that her immigrant patrons read, and being published in the many nations from which they have come.

I'm thinking about the reference librarians here at Oberlin who are always enthusiastic about introducing students to the complex world of information that is now available to them and

giving them skills and tools that will enhance their learning throughout their lives.

I'm thinking of those who build library collections in colleges and universities that enable faculty and students to advance research and knowledge in every area of human inquiry, and those in public libraries who develop collections that represent a wide variety of viewpoints on issues, encouraging tolerance and openness to ideas.

This College has always recognized that librarians change lives and advance knowledge. You build a more informed citizenry and improve our society in immeasurable ways. Librarianship, I think, is a very Oberlin kind of thing.

This must surely be the most exciting time in the history of libraries to be a librarian. I hope that this conference will help you and your College come to an even greater appreciation of the humanistic values of librarianship and the remarkable social and technological possibilities for libraries that the future holds.



Ray English, Director of Libraries, with Conference Participants Richard Rubin, '71, Dawn Thistle '78, and Mary Rosenbloom '80

Library Perspectives, a newsletter for users and Friends of the Oberlin College Library, is issued two times a year. Printed from an endowed fund established by Benjamin A. and Emiko Custer. Editors: Ray English, Jessica Grim, and Megan Mitchell.

The Five Colleges of Ohio Awarded Mellon Grant for Information Literacy

The Five Colleges of Ohio, a consortium whose members are The College of Wooster, Denison University, Kenyon College, Oberlin College, and Ohio Wesleyan University, has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$475,000 from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to strengthen the teaching of information literacy.

The three-year grant, called "Integrating Information Literacy into the Liberal Arts Curriculum," will involve both collaborative efforts among the five schools at a consortial level as well as initiatives on each campus. The goal of the grant is to increase students' skills and capabilities in using library and information resources. Its primary focus involves building partnerships between faculty and librarians in order to integrate information literacy into courses across the curriculum.

Initiatives involving consortium-wide collaboration will include a spring 2000 symposium for librarians involved in instruction, creation of a Web site containing instructional resources and core documents on information literacy, and support for librarians' participation in conferences and training institutes relating to information literacy.

Central to the initiatives on each of the campuses will be a series of course development grants that will enable fac-

ulty, working in partnership with librarians, to focus on conceptualizing, producing, and implementing projects that integrate information literacy into new or existing courses. Projects that address the development of information literacy skills through the major course sequence will be particularly encouraged.

Following these initial efforts at each of the five campuses, during the second and third years of the grant, there will be a series of workshops for faculty and librarians that will provide opportunities for participants to share resources, experiences, and ideas relating to the projects they have developed.

According to Director of Libraries Ray English, who will direct the grant project for the consortium, "The Mellon grant puts the Five Colleges of Ohio in a leading position among liberal arts colleges in fostering the development of students' information literacy skills, which are an essential component of liberal arts education." The grant project overall promises to be both groundbreaking and instructive, and, ultimately, of great benefit to the students enrolled at all five institutions.

For earlier articles related to information literacy, see the March 1997 and February 1998 issues of *Library Perspectives*.

Recent Gifts

Hugh and Greta Pallister '41 have made a major gift to the Art Library for current acquisitions, and they have also designated a portion of a charitable remainder trust for the Library.

Joseph Elder '51, Professor of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, has donated 34 paintings from Mithila in the Bihar region of northeast India. The paintings, which illustrate various aspects of Indian culture, will support courses taught by Paula Richman, Irving E. Houck Professor of Religion; and Michael Fisher, Professor of History.

Jeanne Walker Anderegg '55 has donated two rare works on lichenography for Special Collections, one of which is an 18th-century text.

William Norris, Professor of Sociology, has donated a sizable number of books and issues of sociology journals.

Charles Wells '62, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at Case Western Reserve University, has donated more than 200 volumes of books and issues of journals in the field of mathematics.

Arthur Vining Davis Grant for New Science Library

The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations have awarded Oberlin a grant in the amount of \$200,000 to support construction of the new science library. Scheduled to open in the fall of 2001, the new library will be a central part of the College's new science center (see *Perspectives*, February 1999).

Dr. Jonathan T. Howe, Executive Director of the Foundations, made a campus visit in July 1999 at the invitation of Associate Vice President David Love. Dr. Howe toured the present science library, viewed and discussed plans for the new library with Science Librarian Alison Ricker, and met with Director of Libraries Ray English, President Dye, and members of the science faculty.

Friends of the Oberlin College Library Spring 2000 Programs

**Monday, March 20, 4:30 pm,
Mudd 050**

Jessica Grim, poet, former literary magazine editor, "Small Press: The Real American Literature"

**Monday, April 17, 4:30 pm,
Mudd 050**

Scott McMillin, Associate Professor of English, "Our Preposterous Use of Literature: Emerson and the Nature of Reading"

**Saturday, May 27, 3:00 pm,
King 106**

Commencement Weekend Program, talk by Barbara Wolanin '66, author of *Constantino Brumidi: Artist of the Capitol*

Herbert Shore Awarded Friends Life Membership

The Friends of the Library awarded a life membership to **Dr. Herbert Shore** at their annual dinner on November 13. Life membership is granted on a selective basis to individuals who have made generous contributions to the Friends of the Library. Carl Peterson, President of the Friends of the Library, announced the award.

Dr. Shore, Emeritus Professor at the School of Theater of the University of Southern California, is giving the Oberlin College Library and Oberlin College Archives his entire professional library. The library includes books, journals, and archival material related to his career as a poet, professor of theater, artistic consultant, and Director of the UNESCO Program on Technol-

ogy, the Arts, and Cultural Transformation. Professor Shore's gift includes rich collections of materials in the fields of African studies; poetry, fiction and creative writing; drama, film, television and multimedia; folk life and folk culture; as well as archival materials related to his career.

Dr. Shore announced the initial portion of his gift at an Oberlin Conference honoring Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane, Class of 1953 and father of Mozambique's movement for independence from Portugal.

All materials donated by Professor Shore will become part of the "Herbert Shore Collection in Honor of Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane."

New Acquisitions from the Friends of the Library

At its November meeting, the Friends of the Library Council authorized the use of Friends' funds to acquire a variety of resources to enhance the Library's collections. Purchases will include rare books, major reference works, source materials for teaching and research, and materials to support a new curricular area. The approximate cost of these acquisitions, which are described below, is \$23,000.

New Curricular Area: 19th and 20th-century Architectural History

The Art Department is adding new courses in 19th and 20th-century architectural history and is recruiting a new tenure track faculty member with that specialization. Funds will be used to purchase monographs, back runs of periodicals, and art exhibition catalogs to support these new courses.

First Editions and Rare Books

Libro del Maestro: Codice 65. (The Book of the Master, Piacenza, Biblioteca Capitolare, Codex 65). Piacenza: Tip. Le. Co. Editore, 1997. 3 vols. A full facsimile reproduction of a 12th century liturgical manuscript; a

major source for the study of medieval art history and musicology.

Das Mittelalterliche Hausbuch (The Medieval Housebook), ed. by Christoph Waldburg Wolfegg et al. Munich: Prestel Verlag, 1997. A full color facsimile of a 15th century artist, the Housebook Master. An excellent source for the study of art history, book illustration, and late medieval life in general.

Baker, Cathleen A. *By His Own Labor: The Biography of Dard Hunter*. Red Hydra Press, 1999. 368 pages. Ltd. ed. 155 press-numbered or lettered copies. A fine addition to the Library's collection on Dard Hunter, the leading American scholar and practitioner of papermaking.

Major Reference Works

Indexes of British Parliamentary Papers (CD-ROM). House of Commons, 1801-1944/45, House of Lords, 1801-1922. Sessional Index, General (Subject) Index, Index of Names. Tokyo: Bunsei Shoin, 1997. The Library owns a large portion of the Parliamentary Papers for the nineteenth century.

1999-2000 Friends of the Library Council

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Librarian
Ray English, Director of
Libraries

This new index will provide much improved access to these materials.

CIS US Congressional Committee Prints Index (1830-1969). 5 vols. Congressional Information Service, 1969. A comprehensive index to background and investigative reports issued by the U.S. Congress in the form of Committee Prints.

Encyclopedia of Environmental Science and Engineering, ed. by James Pfafflin and Edward N. Ziegler. 4th ed., rev. 2 vols. Gordon and Breach, 1998. A new edition of an encyclopedia that covers all aspects of environmental engineering: water, air, and soil pollution, medical and legal information, and current government regulations.

Encyclopedia of Microbiology, ed. by Joshua Lederberg. 2nd ed., 4 vols. Academic Press, 2000. Provides com-

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Moving Images at Oberlin: the Library's Video Collection

From John Ford to Jean Luc Goddard, Lina Wertmuller to Akira Kurosawa; whether you're looking for documentary films or Hollywood flicks, opera productions or poetry readings, chances are the Oberlin College Library will have just the video for you.

The video collection at Oberlin, which began in the early 1980s and now includes over 3,000 titles, has expanded greatly in recent years, primarily in response to the increased interest on the part of Oberlin College faculty in the use of videos to support classroom teaching. The video collection has thus developed around the curriculum, and provides direct teaching support for a broad range of subjects and disciplines, from women's studies to art to sociology.

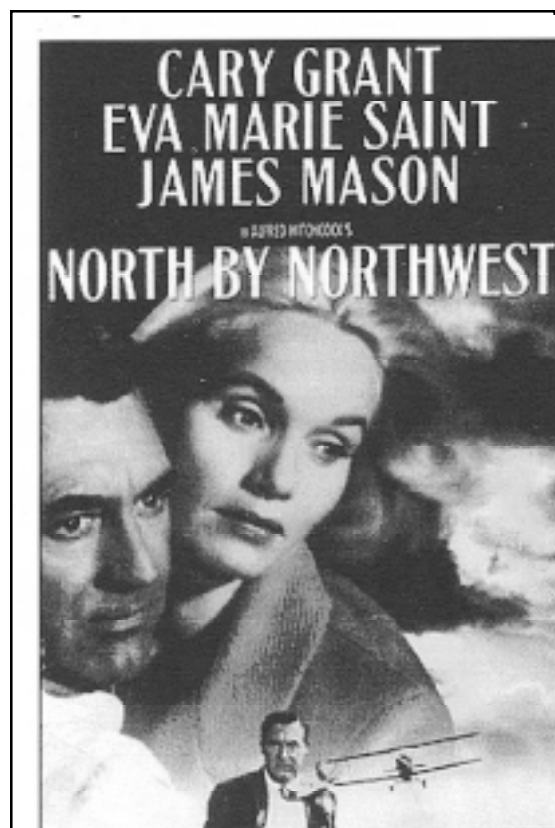
Although great dramatic directors such as Hitchcock, Fellini, and Capra are well represented in the collection, another interesting and perhaps surprising aspect of the collection is the number of documentary films included. These films span a fascinating range of subjects, viewpoints, and ideologies. Included in the collection are titles such as: *My America, or, Honk if You Love Buddha*, in which the filmmaker "goes on the road, à la Jack Kerouac, to record the voices and personalities of Asian Americans everywhere from Chinatown, New York to a debutante ball in Anaheim, California;" *Shakespeare's Globe Restored: Learning by Performance*, which documents eighteen months of planning, rehearsal, location work, and post-production by

the University of California at Berkeley Shakespeare Program, culminating in the performance of one of Shakespeare's greatest plays at the restored Globe Theatre; *Woodstock: Three Days of Peace and Music*; *The Yiddish Cinema: A Documentary Narrated by David Mamet*; *God is Angry, Says Farrakhan: Black Power 1996*; and *Still Killing us Softly: Advertising's Image of Women*.

The video collection also contains over fifty titles in the Lannan Literary Videos series, which are essentially video recordings of poetry and fiction readings by such important contemporary authors as Adrienne Rich, Alice Walker, Czeslaw Milosz, Ernesto Cardenal, Robert Creeley, Joy Harjo, and Galway Kinnell.

While videos in the collection are used primarily for classroom teaching support, they are also employed for a range of other projects, such as the study and learning of particular accents by theater production students, and the careful study by voice majors of famous opera parts.

According to the Collection Development Librarian, Eric Carpenter, the



growth and development of the Library's video collection reflects the very core of the changing and evolving curriculum at Oberlin. As a natural "next step" in the expansion of its collection of visual materials, the Library is now beginning to acquire materials in DVD format. While videos cannot be checked out by students for use outside the Library, they can be viewed in a number of "viewing rooms" in the Main and Conservatory Libraries.

New Acquisitions. . . from page 4

prehensive coverage of microbiology and related fields.

Seas at the Millennium: An Environmental Evaluation, ed. by C. Sheppard, 3 vols. Pergamon Press, 1999. A new encyclopedia that covers all aspects of human interaction with the seas and their biological and physical systems.

Source Materials to Support Teaching and Research

Slavery, Abolition, and Emancipation: Writings in the British Romantic

Period, ed. Peter Kitson, et al. London: Pickering & Chatto Publishers, 1999.

A collection of writings on all aspects of slavery by British Romantic authors, assembled from pamphlets, periodical articles, and separately-published monographs. Includes works by major authors, such as Blake, Coleridge, and Wordsworth, as well as lesser known figures.

Japanese Bamboo Baskets: Masterworks of Form and Texture. ed. by Lloyd Cotsen et al. Paragon Book Gal-

lery, 1999. A special, profusely illustrated edition that surveys nineteenth and twentieth-century baskets of Japan, their place in history, and the elevation of bamboo craft work to an art form.

Complete Collection of Famous Treasures from the MOA Museum of Art. 2 vols. Kodansha, 1999. Catalog of a rich, private museum collection in Atami, Japan. Contains illustrations of 328 important works of calligraphy, paintings, and various handicrafts.

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The **Friends of the Oberlin College Library** provide significant support for special acquisitions and programs that help the Library fulfill its fundamental role in the academic life of the College.

JOIN US. BE A FRIEND.

Members receive the *Library Perspectives* newsletter, invitations to Friends programs, and other privileges. Most of all, Friends have the satisfaction of supporting Oberlin's outstanding Library.

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**New Acquisitions. . .from
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Collection of the Complete Works of Sesshu (1420-1506), compiled by Nakamura Tanio. Kodansha, 1984. The largest single volume collection of works by an artist whom many critics consider to be Japan's greatest painter.

Manuals, Tutors and Methodes for Woodwinds, Brass and Other Instruments, 1730-1923. Two microfilm sets: *Philip Bate Private Library Collection at Oxford University, England*, and *The F. J. Fetis Collection of Music Tutors at the Bibliotheque Royal Albert I, Brussel*. Music tutors were issued by instrument makers to promote the use of a new system of keys or valves or to introduce new instruments. These tutors are a rich source of documentation for the study of historical performance on early instruments.

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