



# LIBRARY

A Newsletter of the  
Oberlin College Library

# PERSPECTIVES

NUMBER TWENTY ONE

SEPTEMBER 1999

## Scott Bennett to Speak at Friends Dinner

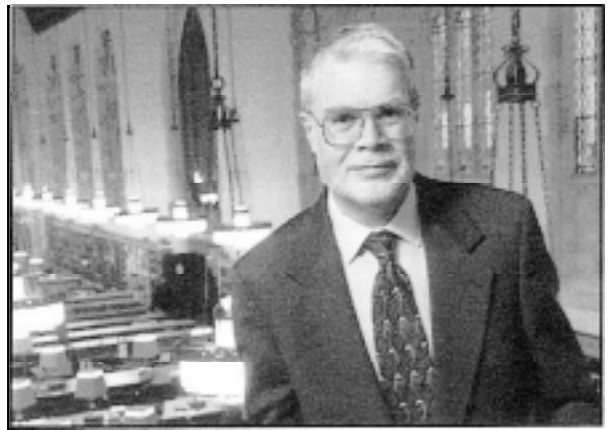
Yale University Librarian Scott Bennett '60 will be the featured speaker at the Friends of the Library annual dinner on November 13. This year's dinner is being held in conjunction with a conference of Oberlin alumni librarians, who will be on campus November 13-14.

At Yale Bennett has led one of the nation's largest and most complex library systems. His efforts have focused on space planning, organizational development, information technology, and library services. From 1989 to 1994 he was Director of the Milton S. Eisenhower Library at Johns Hopkins University. He held previous library positions at Northwestern University and the University of

Illinois Urbana Champaign.

Bennett served as the President of the Friends of the Library during the organization's inaugural year (1991-92) and was also a member of the Library Visiting Committee. He graduated from Oberlin magna cum laude with a B.A. in English and went on to earn his masters and Ph.D. degrees in English from Indiana University. His M.S. in Library Science is from the University of Illinois.

Bennett has been a frequent



Scott Bennett

speaker and author on such subjects as scholarly communication, national and regional collection preservation planning, copyright, and intellectual property. The title of

*continued page 5*

## JSTOR Titles Now Online at Oberlin

The Library has recently become a participant in JSTOR, a groundbreaking effort to provide long-term electronic access to back issues of core academic journals.

JSTOR, which stands for Journal Storage project, currently covers 101 journals primarily in the social sciences and humanities, with 117 titles slated for inclusion by the end of 1999. The disciplines represented in the collection are: African-American studies, anthropology, Asian studies, ecology, economics, finance, history, literature, mathematics, philosophy, political science, population studies, sociology, and statistics. Future cover-

age will include more general science journals as well as titles from the fields of botany, medicine, classics, and art history.

Unlike many other electronic journal ventures, JSTOR focuses on providing retrospective, rather than current, access to journal issues. The full run of each title is included back to its first volume, but there is a "moving wall" between the issues available in print and those for which JSTOR provides electronic access. The gap, which can vary between 1 and 5 years, is negotiated with the journal publishers and insures that they won't lose their print sub-

scription base.

Given its emphasis on retrospective access (some titles date back to the nineteenth century) JSTOR has proved especially valuable for research into the history of language and ideas. Its full-text search capability opens up access to journals in ways that would have previously been impossible. Recent press coverage has cited numerous examples of phrases and words (such as "double standard" and "hopefully" used as a sentence modifier) that have been traced through JSTOR to earlier usage than is documented in *the Oxford*

*continued page 5*

## Gifts to the Library

The Library gratefully acknowledges major monetary gifts from Lloyd Frank '47, Arthur and Bess Friedman '46 and '49, Dr. Eleanore Jantz, Richard and Geraldine Meyer '42, Dr. Robert I. Rotberg '55, Jennifer and Marcia Sable, and Bela Robert Schwartz '79.

The Library appreciates the following gifts-in-kind:

Professor Helen Damico, Director of the Institute for Medieval Studies at the University of New Mexico, has donated a substantial collection of materials related to theater and film.

For the fourth consecutive year the Foundation for Advanced Information and Research of Japan has granted the library a number of current Japanese language publications. The most recent gifts have been facilitated through Peter Gourevitch '63, who is an international associate member of the foundation.

Substantial gifts-in-kind have been received from Emeritus Professor of Art Athena Tacha, Emeritus Professor of Composition Edward Miller, Emeritus Professor of Pianoforte Joseph Schwartz, and from the estate of Thomas Linehan, Professor of English.

The Library also appreciates smaller gifts-in-kind that are received on an ongoing basis from many donors. During 1998-99 a total of 9,952 volumes were given by 391 donors.

*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 and Megan Mitchell.

### Friends of the Oberlin College Library Fall 1999 Programs

#### Friday, September 3, Hall Auditorium

Fiftieth anniversary celebration of *Shane*, western novel written by Jack Schaefer, OC '29. Film showing at 7:30 pm; film introduction by William Patrick Day, Associate Professor of English. Second showing at 10:15 pm.

#### Friday, September 24, noon - 2:00 pm, Mudd A-Level

Library Book Sale: Friends Pre-sale.  
Book sale runs from 3-8 pm Friday, 10 am - 5 pm Saturday.

#### Friday, September 24, 4:00 pm, Fisher Auditorium

Harold Jantz Memorial Lecture, "The Utopian Project of German Expressionism," Reinhold Heller, Professor of Art History, University of Chicago.

#### Saturday, November 13

- 9:00 am Friends Council and Membership Meeting  
Goodrich Room, Mudd
- 5:45 pm Friends Annual Reception and Dinner  
Root Room, Carnegie
- 8:00 pm Featured speaker: Scott Bennett '60, Yale  
University Librarian

#### Saturday and Sunday, November 13-14

Oberlin Alumni Librarian Conference

#### Wednesday, December 1, 4:30 p.m., Mudd 050

Talk by Marlene Merrill, author of: *Yellowstone and the Great West* (University of Nebraska Press, 1999).

## Friends Update

1998-99 was a very successful year for the Friends of the Library. \$32,340 was contributed to the Friends organization during the year. This very generous level of contributions enabled the Friends to fund a number of important acquisitions for the Library's collections, in addition to sponsoring ongoing programming of interest to the membership and the College community.

Friends purchases included major reference works, special collections materials, and titles supporting new faculty and new curricular areas (Expository Writing, East Asian Art, Jewish Studies).

Programs sponsored by the

Friends included the exceptionally successful annual dinner address by Harvard Biologist Edward O. Wilson, faculty talks by Professor of History Marcia Colish and Emeritus Professor of Classics Nate Greenberg, and a Commencement Weekend lecture by Henry Mayer, author of an award-winning biography of the abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison.

The Friends had a total of 658 current members in 1998-99: 472 regular members, 102 who became members by virtue of their donations to other Library funds or their gifts-in-kind, 55 student members, 26 life members, and 3 honorary members.

## Branch Library Heads Reflect on First Year

Two branch library heads have recently completed their first year at Oberlin.

**Barbara Prior** has been Art Librarian since August of 1998. She came to Oberlin from Cornell University, where she had been assistant head of the Art Library for four years. She earned both her BA in Art History and her masters in librarianship at the University of Kentucky; her MA in Art History is from the University of Louisville, where she also worked as a reference librarian.

While her previous experiences have been at larger institutions that offered graduate degrees, Barbara says Oberlin compares favorably: "Oberlin feels like an Ivy League institution with the high caliber of the faculty and the impressive array of library resources, especially electronic resources." She's also impressed by the amount of faculty-student interaction, and the level of personal attention students receive here.

Barb has high regard for the Art Library's collection: "I'm still getting to know the collection, but so far I've found it remarkably strong." In the near future she looks forward to building the collection in the area of architectural history in support of a new faculty position.

Sounding a common theme among the branch librarians, Barb indicates that collection space is a major concern: "We have to create some space and quickly! At our current rate of growth we have only 2-3 years of space left." Over the course of the summer she has been engaged in a project designed to identify and eliminate examples of excessive duplication of individual volumes.

In keeping with the Library's ongoing efforts to integrate information literacy training into the curriculum, this fall Barb will teach a one-credit lab on library research skills in conjunction with "Approaches to Western Art History," an introductory course taught by faculty members Susan Kane and



*Barbara Prior and Deborah Campana*

Erik Inglis. "The purpose of the lab is to teach students how to conduct research on artists and artworks, how to search indexes and databases, and how to analyze the information critically." Although the information literacy credit hour is optional, it will be strongly recommended for students planning to major in Art History.

In addition to her contact with the students and faculty Barbara enjoys working with the staff of Allen Memorial Art Museum: "It's wonderful serving the curators. It's very different from working with students—it adds a different dimension to my job."

Barb and her husband Steve have two sons.

**Deborah Campana** joined the staff of the Oberlin College Library as Conservatory Librarian in June of 1998. Before coming to Oberlin, she was the Music Public Services Librarian at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, where she also held positions as the Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Studies at the School of Music and Acting Head of the Music Library.

Debbie finds herself in familiar territory at Oberlin. She grew up in Amherst, Ohio, and graduated from Ohio University. She went on to earn her

Masters of Music and her Ph.D. in Music Theory at Northwestern University, completing her dissertation on John Cage. Her Arts Masters in Library Science is from the University of Chicago.

Reflecting on her first year, Debbie remarked, "It's rewarding to work in a library that is so well integrated into the Conservatory community, a library that people use and seem to appreciate. It's also great to have such a hardworking, professional, and warm staff. They made me feel at home immediately."

Debbie has been very impressed with the Conservatory, particularly the dedication of the faculty, the enthusiasm of the students, and the number and calibre of performances. "This is such an exciting place to be. There is incredible talent and the atmosphere is very positive."

The project foremost in her mind at the moment is space planning. The second floor of the addition to the Conservatory Library, which opened in the fall of 1988, remains unfinished and there is an urgent need to complete it in order to have adequate space for the collections. Debbie would also like to improve service points on the first floor, specifically by expanding the electronic resources area with additional seating for people to consult reference materials. Other long-term goals include a digital

*continued page 6*

*Focus on the Collections:*

## Oberlin's Anti-Slavery Collection

The story of the Anti-Slavery Collection in the Oberlin College Library is virtually as old as the College itself. The Oberlin Collegiate Institute was founded in 1833 by avowed abolitionists John Shipherd and Philo Stewart; two years later the Oberlin Anti-Slavery Society was founded. As Geraldine Hopkins Hubbard said in her work *A Classified Catalogue of the Collection of Anti-Slavery Propaganda in the Oberlin College Library*, "it was inevitable that the library should contain many of the most popular items of anti-slavery propaganda."

The collection grew considerably thanks to the efforts of John Keep and William Dawes, who, on their fund-raising trip to England between 1839 and 1940, collected not just money, but also books, including many British anti-slavery materials.

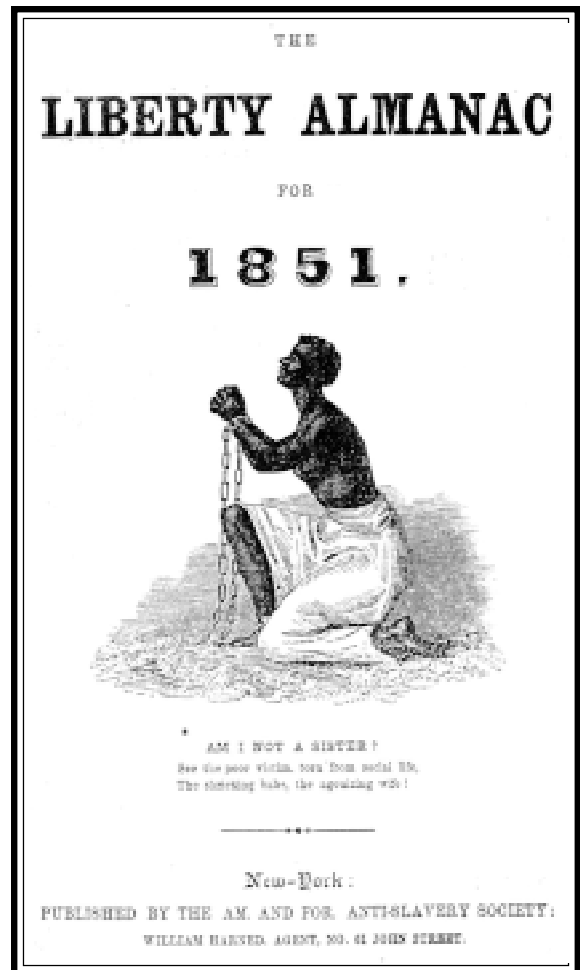
The next major phase of development in the collection occurred around 1885, when the College's Spear Library opened. Henry Matson, Oberlin's first full-time librarian, issued several appeals for gifts for the collection. In his words: "We have a very valuable collection and desire to make it complete. We desire to secure a copy of every book, pamphlet, report, speech, tract, newspaper or private letter bearing upon the subject." In a manner reminiscent of today's public television fund-raising efforts, the Library even offered premiums to donors—small pieces of wood from the poles of the "Oberlin Tent" which had been used by Charles Grandison Finney for revival meetings. On the card that accompanied the wood, Matson wrote: "Sold for the benefit of the Historical Collection on Slavery in the Oberlin College Library. Contributions of money, relics, or books, especially rare

books, pamphlets, letters and newspapers, are solicited."

As a result of one of these campaigns the Library obtained the personal collection of leading abolitionist William Goodell, whose grandson, William Goodell Frost, was a member of the faculty. One item from this acquisition of particular note is the original draft of the *Declaration of Sentiments of the American Anti-Slavery Society*, which is in the hand of William Lloyd Garrison. The collection also includes a copy of the final declaration printed on silk.

Today the collection contains more than 2,500 items. The most recent addition, acquired with funds donated by the Friends of the Library, was *Speech of Hon. Daniel R. Tilden, of Ohio, on the Mexican War and slavery: delivered in the House of Representatives, February 4, 1847.*

While the vast majority of the collection consists of printed materials—books, pamphlets, manuscript papers, etc.—there are also physical objects such as a glass seal designed by Josiah Wedgwood, a neck chain, and leg shackles. According to Whitney Pape, Special Collections and Preservation Librarian, "These objects are really moving for students. In fact, last semester a student displayed the shackles in the classroom while presenting a project on the Middle Passage." The collection's particular strengths are



anti-slavery tracts of a religious nature, children's literature, and American as well as British propaganda. The value of many items is enhanced by autographs and annotations by key figures.

In the 1960s the Library contracted with Lost Cause Press of Kentucky to have the collection reproduced on microcards [a technology that preceded microfiche]. This served the twin purposes of preserving the collection, which received regular use from scholars near and far, and providing greater access to it. In the future the Library hopes to digitize this marvelous collection so that it can be immediately accessible to scholars around the world through the Internet.

## New Digital Media Resources

Building on its strengths as the nation's premier statewide consortium for the delivery of print and electronic academic library resources, OhioLINK has introduced a new Digital Media Center (DMC) available at <http://dmc.ohiolink.edu>. The DMC is charged with creating a unified searchable website that will make non-textual materials available for downloading to OhioLINK's 75 member institutions, including Oberlin. The website will include still images, videos, audio files, and other complex data sets.

The DMC's initial offerings consist of two large sets of commercially produced, high-resolution art images. The Art Museum Image Consortium (AMICO) files on the DMC comprise over 50,000 high-resolution digital images. The 27 current members of AMICO include many superb museums, such as the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the J. Paul Getty Museum. The DMC also provides access to 3,000 art and architecture images produced by Saskia, Ltd. This collection, which includes all images found in the standard textbook,

*Gardner's Art through the Ages*, will be useful in many disciplines including art history, architecture, classics, literature and history.

DMC resources will increase substantially as OhioLINK member institutions begin to catalog and add their own historical, art, and scientific images, as well as audio and video files. Pilot projects at selected OhioLINK member institutions are underway and will be available to the public later this year. These collections include views of Ohio historic architecture, vessels of the Great Lakes, construction photographs from the Cleveland Union Terminal, the E. W. Scripps Papers between 1868-1926, and the Visual Archive of Cincinnati Architecture.

Oberlin has established a Digital Media Workgroup, co-chaired by Associate Director of Libraries Alan Boyd and Slide Curator Joseph Romano, which will assist the college community in digitizing local media resources in support of the teaching needs of the faculty and will help make them more readily accessible on either OhioLINK's DMC or new local campus systems.

## JSTOR Now Online. . .from page 1

*English Dictionary.* JSTOR is also showing that many "new" ideas have long histories.

JSTOR presents exciting possibilities for the Library's electronic reserve system. Students reading their course syllabi online will be able to link directly to reserve reading articles in the JSTOR collection with a click of the mouse. Such ready, distributed access should also make it possible for the Library, at some point, to free shelf space currently occupied by some of these journals. JSTOR, in fact, keeps two electronic copies of each article: a scanned image that replicates the printed page and is pre-

sented to the reader, and a plain text version, which is the part of the database against which the full-text searches are executed.

JSTOR was established in 1995 with initial funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Participating libraries pay an initial membership fee and an annual subscription. The project now has more than 600 member libraries around the world.

JSTOR titles are accessible through the electronic text section of the Library's web pages, and more information about the project is available on the Internet at: [www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org).

## Online Journal Access Expands

OhioLINK has recently added access to electronic journals from four new publishers. As of the end of August titles published by Springer Verlag, Wolters Kluwer, John Wiley, and the American Physical Society are available online.

Journals published by the Institute of Physics were made available to the campus community in the spring of 1999 through a consortial arrangement with Oberlin Group libraries.

These publishers add approximately 1,600 titles to the current electronic journals that are available to the campus community. They can be accessed through the electronic text section of the Library web pages.

## Bennett . . .from page 1

his talk at the Friends dinner will be "Second Chances."

The alumni librarian conference (see *Library Perspectives*, February 1999) will bring to campus a variety of alumni who work in libraries or library-related careers. Panelists at the conference will include Elliott Shelkrott '65, Director of the Free Library of Philadelphia; John Dove '60, President and CEO of SilverPlatter Corporation; Richard Rubin '71, Professor of Library Science at Kent State University; Molly Horst Raphael '67, Director of the District of Columbia Public Library; and Gordon B. Neavill, Professor of Library Science at Wayne State University.

The Friends annual reception dinner provides an excellent opportunity for members of the Friends to meet alumni engaged in librarianship and to gain first hand a deeper appreciation of the rich library culture that characterizes Oberlin.

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.

- Annual membership categories:     \$1 Student     \$5 Recent Graduate  
 \$30 Friend     \$40 Couple     \$50 Associate  
 \$100 Sponsor     \$500 Patron     \$1000 Benefactor

Please return this coupon with your membership contribution to:

**Friends of the Oberlin College Library  
Mudd Center, Oberlin, OH 44074**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Oberlin College.  
Friends contributions are tax deductible.

**Branch Library  
Heads Reflect on  
First Year. . . from page 3**

sound archive for Oberlin Conservatory performances and continuing to develop the Library's collections.

Debbie's husband, Mitchell Arnold, is an orchestral conductor on the faculty in the Conservatory, and their ten-year-old son Ian is a violinist with the Northern Ohio Youth Orchestra.

*Printed on recycled paper*

***Library Perspectives***

Oberlin College Library  
Mudd Center  
148 West College Street  
Oberlin, OH 44074

Non-profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Oberlin, Ohio  
Permit No. 8