In January 2004, the Smithsonian Institution Libraries (SIL) will breathe new life into an American research classic with the launch of a new website about The United States Exploring Expedition, 1838-1842.

Also known as the U.S. Ex. Ex., this Smithsonian Institution Libraries project is an effort to make the scientific adventure known as the U.S. Exploring Expedition, 1838-1842, available to a wider audience. The project is led by Nathaniel Philbrick, who has recently published a modern account of the scientific adventure, Sea of Glory: America’s Voyage of Discovery - The U.S. Exploring Expedition 1838-1842.
The Smithsonian Institution is rich with Boards. Starting with the Board of Regents, which is responsible for the Smithsonian’s programs and operations, the Institution enjoys the advice and contributions of 24 boards. Some are Smithsonian-wide bodies, such as the SI Council, a group of scholars and museum experts who meet annually to advise the Smithsonian on programmatic aspects of its operations. Others are legislated by the U.S. Congress, such as the National Museum of the American Indian Board of Trustees. The Boards and Commissions have varying amounts of authority over collections and other programmatic decisions. But all of them engage a growing number of members of the general public in helping to forward the Institution’s mission.

One of the most exciting developments of the last five years has been the establishment and growth of the Smithsonian Libraries Board. Perhaps every Director thinks his or her Board is special, but I can truly say that ours is engaged, interested, and contributing in many important ways, both collectively and individually. For example, a new Board subcommittee will help us draft a compelling strategic plan, one that is not filled with government, bureaucratic, or librarianish jargon, one that the general public will find attractive and worthy of support. One of our members, a museum education consultant in her day job, is helping us look at how the Libraries can contribute to the

Joseph F. Cullman 3rd Library of Natural History opens

One of the major highlights of the year was the official opening of the Joseph F. Cullman 3rd Library of Natural History on October 12, 2002. The Special Collections Department staff, with the able assistance of many others at SIL, worked feverishly to have the Library ready for the grand opening gala at 6:30 p.m. During a success and a great prelude to the regular use of the Library by researchers.
are necessary for scientific and historical research. In 2004, the case will feature books and museum specimens from the U.S. Exploring Expedition.

The National Air and Space Museum is also a new exhibition venue for the Libraries with rare astronomical books in the Explore the Universe exhibition. Fourteen SIL books will be displayed over the next seven years in this exhibition, which showcases some of the most significant observational tools astronomers have devised over the past four centuries.

Requests for SIL materials to display in other museum exhibitions are increasing. Over the past year, SIL books appeared in six different Smithsonian museums as well as the Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art in Logan, Utah, and the von Leibig Art Center, Naples, Florida. SIL also collaborated with the National Museum of American History and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service on Doodles, Drafts and Designs: Industrial Drawings from the Smithsonian. The exhibition features eleven pieces from SIL’s historical trade catalog collection and will travel to twelve venues across the United States in 2004-2005.

SIL supplements its exhibitions with a variety of related educational programs. Twice a month for the past year, library exhibitions services

W hat’s N ew in the SI Libraries Exhibition Program?

While you may have seen the SI Libraries’ exhibitions in its gallery at the National Museum of American History, Behring Center, did you know that SIL has an exhibition presence in two other Smithsonian museums? Were you aware that SIL materials are also used in exhibitions by other institutions as well? Or that the Libraries is committed to educational programming to enhance its own exhibitions?

The SI Libraries Exhibition Program finds new ways to share more of its collections with museum visitors. In 2002, the Libraries received a permanent display case in the National Museum of Natural History. Located in the museum’s Constitution Avenue lobby, the theme of the case has been the “Smithsonian Institution Libraries in the Service of Science.” On a rotating basis, the case displays rare books from the Joseph F. Cullman 3rd Library of Natural History. Currently featured are the beautiful plates of pheasants drawn by Daniel Giraud Elliot (1835-1915). More than just magnificent illustrations, these books

CH ASING V E N U S: O bserving the T ransits of V enus, 1631-2004


Preparing to view the 1769 transit of Venus in Tahiti

Transits of Venus are exceedingly rare. No one alive today has witnessed such an event; the last transit occurred in 1882 and the next one will take place on June 8, 2004.

W hat is the fascination with this curious astronomical phenomenon?
Letter from the Director

continued from page 2

Smithsonian’s educational outreach activities within our current resource limitations. Another member, a company CEO, has given us a model spreadsheet to track our activity with funding proposals, solicitations and donor interactions. Yet a third, a journalist and management consultant, has visited every one of our 20 libraries and written beautiful descriptions that highlight the unique aspects of each library and how it serves its principal user groups. As the basis for a new publication, these will help researchers, students, and visitors learn of our highly special collections and better understand how our libraries can help solve their information needs.

Board members give us ideas for programs and critique our publications. They bring their friends to our exhibition openings, lectures, and other events, help us find others to join them in financial support of our most important needs, listen to our frustrations, and celebrate with us in our successes. In our appreciative response, my staff and I serve as their entry into the wider world of the Smithsonian, provide them with marvelous educational and exhibition offerings and behind-the-scenes peeks, and broaden their acquaintance with the Smithsonian’s fascinating staff.

All of our Board members’ efforts are purely voluntary. They provide hours of service to the Smithsonian, which is after all, their--and your--continued from page 2

Partners in Discovery Campaign
Breaks $5 Million Mark

With the help of the Smithsonian Libraries Board, the Libraries has achieved a milestone this year, with cumulative gifts and pledges to the Partners in Discovery capital campaign reaching $5.5 million, or 27.5% of the campaign’s $20 million goal. This fiscal year the Libraries raised close to $1.4 million, primarily from individuals, to support a variety of the campaign’s priorities including acquisitions, preservation, and digital projects. Chief among them was a handsome gift from Joseph F. Cullman 3rd to help the Libraries acquire the Russell E. Train Collection of Africana. In addition, over $164,000 was raised from internal Smithsonian funds for which the Libraries had to compete; these funds were targeted for equipment and cataloging projects.

Six new endowments were created at the Libraries this year, four by current members of the Libraries Board. Board-established endowments include the Bailey Family Endowment (unrestricted), given by Juliane and Robert Bailey; the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum Acquisitions Fund, given by Margery and Edgar Masinter; the C. Michael Gooden and Diane Oksanen-Gooden Endowment (unrestricted); and the Brian J. and Darlene Heidtke Preservation Endowment. In addition, the Libraries’ Director and her husband established the Nancy E. Gwinn and John Y. Cole Endowment (unrestricted) and founding Spencer Baird Society member Shelby Shapiro.

Meet the Libraries Board

Jay Freedman

Jay W. Freedman of Bethesda, Maryland, is a partner in the D.C. office of Foley & Lardner and a member of the firm’s Business Law Department. He has a broad corporate practice, including mergers, acquisitions, securities regulation, estate planning and administration practice. He represents a variety of private and publicly held companies in their business activities.

Received his undergraduate degree from Williams College (B.A. 1964).

Jay Freedman has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Libraries since 1996, and is the Chairman of the Libraries’ Development and Marketing Committee. He has been a long-time supporter of the Smithsonian Libraries and the Libraries’ initiatives. He also has been a member of the Board of Directors of the National Museum of American History and the National Portrait Gallery. He has served as President of the National Museum of American History and the National Portrait Gallery. He is a member of the National Portrait Gallery’s Board of Directors and the National Museum of American History’s Board of Trustees.

He has been a member of the Smithsonian Libraries Board of Directors since 1996 and has served as Chairman of the Libraries’ Development and Marketing Committee. He has been a long-time supporter of the Smithsonian Libraries and their initiatives. He is a member of the National Portrait Gallery’s Board of Directors and the National Museum of American History’s Board of Trustees.

He has an undergraduate degree from Williams College (B.A. 1964).
In 1993, two hundred friends and colleagues of former Smithsonian Secretary S. Dillon Ripley gathered to celebrate his 80th birthday. To honor his many accomplishments, the group created the S. Dillon Ripley Library Endowment to purchase books supporting research across the Smithsonian. Through the continued generosity of these friends and many others, the endowment has grown to become the most important provider of external funds supporting the Smithsonian Libraries' general collections. In its first few years the endowment purchased an average of 150 books per year; today it enables SIL to purchase more than 500 books annually that have been identified by curators, researchers, and librarians as vital to current areas of Smithsonian study.


As a scholar and ornithologist, Secretary Ripley knew that the heart of the Smithsonian was in its object collections. Along with the acquisition and study of thousands of new museum objects and specimens, Secretary Ripley also addressed the importance of protecting and interpreting those collections by creating the Museum Support Center and by unifying all of the subject-specific libraries to create the Smithsonian Institution Libraries. In 1968, the newly created Smithsonian Libraries system began organizing and managing the Institution's vast library holdings. Today the Libraries administers the world's largest museum library with 20 branches and 1.5 million volumes, including more than 40,000 rare books and manuscripts. Through computer technology, the Libraries has increased access to its collections with a complete on-line catalog and the Galaxy of Knowledge website, featuring digital exhibitions and editions of rare books and other remarkable items.

The S. Dillon Ripley Library Endowment is an essential component to the Libraries' support to...
SIL on the Town

Smithsonian staff and researchers using Smithsonian network computer workstations now have access to many online databases and electronic journals.

Databases and Electronic Journals may be accessed from the Libraries' homepage (www.sil.si.edu) and selecting "Tools for the Researcher" at the bottom of the page.

ProQuest Historical Newspapers offers full-text and image articles for several major national newspapers dating back to the 19th century.

WorldCat - the world's foremost bibliographic database, with over 49 million bibliographic records representing 400 languages.

Newest additions: Anthropology Plus; Gordon's Print & Photography Prices; Walker's Mammals of the World; The World of Learning

Public Access Databases
Public databases are accessible by the general public via the SIL website. These include:

ITIS: International Taxonomic Information System

PubMed (MedLine): 14+ million citations from the National Library

SIL has expanded its outreach by joining with other area institutions and Smithsonian departments to support education and reading.

On October 3, SIL participated in Teachers Night organized by the Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies (SCEMS). Attended by more than 2500 local teachers, the event brought together representatives from the Smithsonian museums, as well as many of Washington D.C.'s other museums and cultural institutions, to provide teachers with information about the many educational resources that are available to them and their students at the Smithsonian.

SIL also participated in the Library of Congress' National Book Festival, which attracted nearly 75,000 book lovers to the National Mall on October 4 to hear readings by around 80 of America's most popular authors. SIL was one of the Reading Promotion Partners in the festival's "Let's Read America" pavilion, joining many other organizations that included SCEMS and the National Museum of the American Indian.

Museum Studies Reference Library Reopens

In the summer of 2002, consolidation of the Central Reference Library with the Museum Reference Center began in earnest to form the new MUSEUM Studies Reference Library (MSRL), latest member of the 20 Smithsonian Institution Libraries branches. With the merger completed at the Museum of Natural History building in the spring of 2003, MSRL became an information center and library with a collection location had an immediate positive fiscal impact on the Smithsonian Libraries, because facilities and equipment duplications were permanently eliminated, thereby freeing resources to flow to other areas.

The Museum Studies Reference Library has more than 28,000 books, over 280 periodical titles, and substantial multimedia material. Subject areas covered
The Dibner Library welcomed four Scholars-in-Residence since the last issue of Information:

**Neil Safier** is a Ph.D. candidate in the History Department at The Johns Hopkins University. He was also a fellow at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris. At the Dibner Library he studied the transformations in the astronomical and geographical sciences that occurred in the early 18th century. A number of the Dibner Library's works detail the observational procedures used to create cartographic representations in the years leading up to La Condamine's South American expeditions, the area that he is currently researching.

**Dr. Gildo Magalhães dos Santos** is Professor of History of Science and Technology in the History Department of the University of São Paulo, Brazil. His research project at the Dibner Library was “Electromagnetism and Natural Philosophy in the Early Nineteenth-Century.” Dr. Santos' research focused on the marvelous collection of works on electricity, especially a number of titles and manuscripts by Ampère, Arago, Fresnel, Gauss, Kirchhoff, and Ørsted.

**Dr. Michael Schiffer** is Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Laboratory of Traditional Technology at the University of Arizona. At the Dibner Library he worked on a research project titled “Electrical Science from Volta to Edison.” Dr. Schiffer used works by authors such as Ampère, Ørsted, Faraday, Arago, Biot, and Maxwell to look at the changing application of electrical technology after the advent of Volta's battery.

**Dr. James Day** is Associate Professor of Physics at Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky as well as Curator of the Moosnick Science Museum at Transylvania, a large collection of scientific and medical nineteenth-century teaching apparatus. Dr. Day used the Dibner Library collections to research the museum's scientific instruments. Instrument descriptions in the Dibner Library by firms...

### Development Watch

established the Jean Axelrod Endowment (acquisitions) in memory of his grandmother. These bring the total number of donor-established endowments at the Libraries to 14. Endowed funds are becoming more and more important to the Libraries as federal funds for such core activities as purchasing books and preserving the collections diminish.

Gift opportunities for the Partners in Discovery campaign encompass a wide range of choices, with a variety of projects at all funding levels. For more information on how you can participate, contact Gwen Leighton, Development Officer, at 202-786-2875 or leightyg@si.edu. Thank you!
New, Ongoing, and Upcoming

Smithsonian Libraries Exhibitions and Programs

2004

Author Nathaniel Philbrick will speak about his newest book, Sea of Glory: America's Voyage of Discovery. The U.S. Exploring Expedition 1838-1842 on January 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the Baird Auditorium of the National Museum of Natural History. This event will launch the SIL digital edition of the U.S. Exploring Expedition 1838-1842.

For information about attending this event please call 202-357-2240 or email silrsvp@si.edu


Chasing Venus: Observing the Transits of Venus, 1631-2004 opens in the same space the week of March 22

Smithsonian Libraries on the World Wide Web

SIL Digital Collections

Instruments for Science, 1800-1914: Scientific Trade Catalogs in Smithsonian Collections. Funded by The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, this digital collection site highlights the scientific instrument catalogs in SIL’s extensive trade literature collection. The currently available online collection consists of 86 trade catalogs and over 4,400 images.

Scientific Identity: Portraits from the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology

1,008 portraits of notable scientists and inventors throughout history are extracted from the scientific portrait collection in the Dibner Library. The images form a fine research complement to the thousands of scientific books and manuscripts in the Dibner Library of the History of Science.
Come Scope Out the Brightest Stars Now Appearing in Our Cyberspace ...

Galaxy of Knowledge

Direct to you via the Smithsonian Institution Libraries’ award-winning website, www.sil.si.edu.

Visit the Smithsonian Libraries’ Galaxy of Knowledge at www.sil.si.edu and explore the many magnificent books and images from the world’s largest museum library.

New Editions- Enjoy online access to complete electronic publications of rare and out-of-print books. The newest digital edition is:


The entire account of the United States’ first formal voyage of scientific exploration. This site will go online in January 2004 with approximately 15,000 images. The Wilkes expedition was the first to collect large amounts of plant and animal specimens in the South American and Pacific regions (these collections were ultimately deposited at the Smithsonian Institution). Funded in part by the Smithsonian’s Atherton Seidell.

Other New Editions are also available in subjects such as history, culture and the arts. Come view splendid illustrations from works on French furnishings, American Indian dress, Aztec plants, seashells from the 18th Century, bird illustrations, early sewing machine history, Renaissance machines, and many more editions from the SIL New Media Office and Special Collections Departments.

Grand Collections - Explore images and information from the Libraries collections that has been organized by expert staff to give users extensive access in a single place.

♦ Scientific Identity: Portraits from the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology. www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/hst/scientific-identity

More than 1,000 portraits of scientists and inventors compiled from the scientific portrait collection in the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology. Featuring essays by Ronald Brashear, Head of Special Collections and Curator of Science and Technology Rare Books, and Deborah Jean Warner, Curator, Physical Sciences Collection, National Museum of American History, Behring Center.

♦ Instruments for Science, 1800-1914:

Scientific Trade Catalogs in Smithsonian Collections. www.sil.si.edu/DigitalCollections/Trade-Literature/Scientific-instruments


“On Display” - experience the diversity of the Smithsonian’s 20 libraries as presented by the librarians and staff who know them best. Each On Display is a virtual exhibition case filled with some of the more precious but often overlooked jewels of the Smithsonian print collections.

♦ The Making of a Homemaker - www.sil.si.edu/ondisplay/making-homemaker

Featuring images and excerpts from domestic guidebooks written for the 19th century woman, including Godey’s Lady’s Book and Harper’s Bazaar. The books of this “On Display” were aimed at teaching the middle and upper class female, who saw keeping a healthy and happy home as her role in life. Titles such as The Skillful Housewife’s Book or Complete Guide to Domestic Cookery, Taste, Comfort and Economy allude to the detailed contents.
Drawing from Life: Caricatures and Cartoons
www.sil.si.edu/ondisplay/caricatures
Using the drawings of cartoonists such as Jay N. Darling (of the Des Moines Register), Luther Daniels Bradely (of the Chicago Daily News), and Bud Fisher (known for his “Mutt and Jeff” comic strip), this “On Display” highlights the Ray Smith collection of caricature and cartoon books in the Smithsonian American Art/Portrait Gallery Library’s Special Collection.

Other “On Display” attractions include collections from the Warren M. Robbins Library of the National Museum of African Art, the Botany and Horticulture Library, The National Zoological Park Library, and more.

Online Exhibitions brings you into the Smithsonian Libraries’ gallery to experience complete reproductions of the Libraries’ spectacular exhibitions.

An Odyssey in Print: Adventures in the Smithsonian Libraries
www.sil.si.edu/exhibitions/Odyssey
An invitation to see the universe through the courage of explorers, the curiosity of scientists, and the imagination of artists. This exhibition gathers together six centuries of rare books, manuscripts, art, and artifacts from the Smithsonian Institution, and illuminates how Smithsonian staff use these resources in their everyday work.

Wonder Bound: Rare Books on Early Museums
www.sil.si.edu/Exhibitions/wonderbound
Exhibited from May through November 2002 in the National Museum of Natural History.

More online exhibitions available are:
Celebrity Caricature, Frontier Photographer: Edward S. Curtis, From Smithsonian to Smithsonian: The Birth of an Institution, The Underwater Web: Cabling the Seas, and Make the Dirt Fly! Building the Panama Canal.

Other resources available in the Galaxy of Knowledge include:

Bibliographies prepared by Libraries staff in conjunction with museum curators in subjects such as: American History, Colonial Mail, Elections and the Presidency, Local Mail, The U.S.-Mexico Border, Transatlantic Slavery, James Wong Howe, Cinematographer, Women’s Health, and Women and Technology

Illustrated Lectures hosted by the Libraries on topics such as Celebrating a Collector’s Vision, Extraterrestrial Life, and Scientific Discoveries

Research Guides about the Libraries’ collections in subject areas such as Grinnell Stamps, African Artists’ Files, Artist Audiotapes, Artist Videotapes, Hirshhorn Museum Photo Collection Inventory, Modern African Art, Library and Archival Exhibitions, Books for Zoos and Aquariums, American Seed and Nursery Industry, and Anthropology for Kids and Teachers.

Fact Sheets for frequently sought information about Old Books, African Art Book Dealers, and African Art Museums.