Board Elects Ripley, Discusses Campaign

The Smithsonian Institution Libraries Board unanimously elected Rosemary Livingston Ripley of New York City as Founding Chair at its meeting on October 15. Ms. Ripley is a daughter of S. Dillon Ripley, Secretary Emeritus of the Smithsonian.

Upon her election, Ms. Ripley expressed her enthusiastic support for the Libraries and Director Nancy E. Gwinn. "I am proud to be able to serve a portion of the Institution that my father cared deeply about, and which I have also come to value for its wonderful collections and its significant efforts to make the Smithsonian's library resources available to the world beyond Washington," Ms. Ripley said. "It is the Board's goal to make the Smithsonian Libraries known throughout the nation, and to work closely with Nancy Gwinn and her staff to ensure a successful campaign for the Libraries." Ms. Ripley, a former investment banker, is Vice President, Corporate Business Development for Philip Morris Companies in New York City.

Plans for the Smithsonian Libraries' participation in the Institution's capital campaign were furthered at the meeting. The Board focused on several issues critical to its future, including the creation of a new annual giving society for the Libraries (see article on the Baird Society on p. 4).

continued on p. 7

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1998 Smithsonian Libraries Report Insert
Letter from the Director

Taking a Lesson from Alice

Each year in the fall, staff from SIL branches outside of Washington join their colleagues on the Mall for a week-long Annual Meeting. This year we devised a conference format called “SIL in the New Millennium: Challenges and Opportunities.” Invited to give the opening address, I took *Alice in Wonderland* as my theme. As an adult reading Lewis Carroll’s long-lasting fantasy, I was struck with its parallels to our modern age. Alice caught sight of the white rabbit and ran headlong into the rabbit hole. We are plunging into the new century with the same curiosity mixed with not a little trepidation. Alice faced one new experience after another, but she kept her head and tried to adapt to each. Just as Alice kept shrinking, growing, or stretching until she learned to control and manipulate her size to reach her goal—entrance into a beautiful garden—we’ll have to find ways to make new technologies useful for our purposes without discarding the past.

Using her innate common sense, Alice saw right through the non-sense of the Mad Hatter and the threat (“Off with their heads!”) of the Queen of Hearts. We must also keep our common sense and look for what will serve our purposes, not waste our time and resources on untested promises. Alice sought advice from the caterpillar but took upon herself responsibility for trying things out, taking risks, learning what she needed to do. Faced with constant computer upgrades, new and better software, and the changing nature of our work, I feel strongly that all of us must follow Alice’s example of taking individual responsibility for acquiring the information and skills we need in the work place and at home.

At the annual meeting, energetic and poised SIL staff showed they are doing just that. They presented new projects, plans and initiatives designed to lead us into a future more heavily dependent on electronic communication but still firmly grounded in traditional services and collections. SIL’s soon-to-be-opened Digital Imaging Center, a how-to on planning for digital facsimiles for the Internet, progress on creating an African Art Index, and plans for an SIL Learning and Information Center were just a few of the offerings. Never have I been more proud of the skills and commitment of the Libraries’ enthusiastic corps, nor more optimistic that we can embrace our future fearlessly.

In this issue is our first published annual report. Read about our accomplishments, and I’m sure you’ll agree that SIL is well-positioned to enter the new millennium.

Nancy E. Gwinn
Director

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Garnett Appointed Assistant Director

Nancy E. Gwinn established the Information Systems Division (ISD), headed by Tom Garnett, who was named Assistant Director and appointed to the Libraries Executive Committee. “This step recognizes the increasing importance of information systems management and coordination to SIL’s internal operations, to SIL’s leadership in helping the Institution articulate its strategies for information management, and to the development of information products that will support SIL’s program initiatives in education and outreach to a rapidly broadening community of users,” Gwinn announced. The new division is responsible for planning, developing, and coordinating the Libraries’ use of electronic tools and systems, for implementing and maintaining electronic hardware and software, and for creating digital products for SIL users.

In addition to reassignments among current Systems Office staff, Martin Kalfatovic has been transferred to ISD to develop and implement SIL’s electronic products. After helping to establish workflow for the Digital Imaging Center, Courtney Danforth will be transferred to ISD later in the year. Susan Blaine, head, Preservation Services Department, will manage the Digital Imaging Center as a production unit of that department.


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continued in next column
National Museum of Natural History Branch Library

When in 1881 Spencer Fullerton Baird, second Secretary of the Smithsonian, donated his library to the Smithsonian's new National Museum, little did he realize how important a contribution to the Institution his collection would become. That collection of books formed the core of what has developed into one of the largest natural history collections in the United States and the oldest library collection within the Institution.

The Natural History Branch is composed of 18 scientific specialty collections which are housed in locations throughout the National Museum of Natural History. With more than 215,000 volumes, the branch provides services for over 500 museum staff working in basic research, exhibition planning, and education and public programing. Countless international researchers have come to use library collections on site or borrow them through interlibrary loan. The main collection, centrally located, incorporates materials heavily weighted in the fields of geology, paleontology, evolutionary biology, general ecology, and the classification of plants and animals. Other library collections focus specifically on mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, fishes, insects, mollusks, echinoderms, worms, and minerals.

Branch staff are assigned to specific subject specialties and consequently have become bonded to the collections they manage and the researchers they serve. An esprit de corps is enjoyed within the work environment, though the pace is quick and the informational needs are demanding. The enthusiasm of the natural historians in the Museum has certainly rubbed off on our library staff.

Ann M. Juneau
Head, Natural and Physical Sciences Department

Reference Query Highlights

Courtney Ann Shaw, senior reference librarian for vertebrate zoology, located a photograph of an African landscape for a graphics designer in the Museum of Natural History. The image was digitized and used as a natural-setting background for the superimposed image of the elephant in the museum Rotunda to demonstrate computer capabilities.

David Steere, senior reference librarian for the geosciences, responded to an email from a Museum of Natural History curator then working in Paris, confirming that SIL did have a copy of a particular Belgian journal issue, saving the curator from the cost and trouble of having it copied in Paris.

Bob Skarr, senior reference librarian for invertebrate zoology, located pictures of heads of soldier termites (genus Nasutitermes) for the Natural History Office of Exhibits. He found the pictures in a publication at SIL's Museum Support Center Branch.

Responding to a question from the Entomology Department, Bob Skarr found no evidence in the ZooRecord database or in several obituary indices that the two entomologists depicted in H. G. Wells’ short story, "The Moth," were taken from life. The characters were either fictional or based on people who could not be identified.

Ann M. Juneau
Baird Society Created

The Spencer Fullerton Baird Society, established by the Smithsonian Institution Libraries Board in 1998, will provide crucial support for the Libraries’ acquisitions, preservation, and programmatic priorities. The society is made up of donors who make annual unrestricted gifts of $500 or more to the Libraries. Individuals who join by September 30, 1999, will be recognized in the Baird Society brochure as Founding Members.

The Libraries is moving to share more widely its nationally known historical and scientific collections. Increasing use of the collections by students and teachers, scientists, scholars, and collectors makes clear that we have many useful resources to offer. To continue to build and preserve the collections, and develop programming for the general public requires funding beyond the Libraries’ current budget.

For more information about the benefits associated with Baird Society membership or to make a gift, contact:

Gwen Leighty
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Smithsonian Libraries
NHB 24 Mz
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Development Watch

Cullman Makes Additional Pledge for Preservation Endowment

Joseph F. Cullman 3rd doubled his pledge to the Cullman Endowment for the Preservation of Natural History Rare Books, established at the Libraries in 1997. This brings his total commitment to $200,000. Mr. Cullman’s contribution will help ensure that priority preservation treatments in the natural history special collections are carried out. His generosity serves as a model for private support of the Libraries’ prime campaign objectives. The Smithsonian’s Executive Director for Development, Bob Hanle, expressed the Institution’s appreciation to Mr. Cullman, noting that “it is very heartening that former National Board members continue their steadfast support for the Smithsonian.” In addition to his new pledge, Mr. Cullman donated two handsome books to the Libraries: Audubon’s Birds of America (The Audubon Society Baby Elephant Folio) by Roger Tory Peterson and Virginia Marie Peterson (1981) and Men’s Lives: The Surfmen and Baymen of the South Fork by Peter Matthiessen (1986). We are proud to count Mr. Cullman among the Libraries’ major donors.

Event in New York Highlights the Libraries’ Special Collections

The Smithsonian Institution Libraries Board, led by Rosemary L. Ripley, hosted an “Evening of Exploration” in New York City on October 1 at The Grolier Club, an organization for literary study and promotion of the arts pertaining to the production of books. Director Nancy E. Gwinn welcomed the guests, and introduced William E. Baxter, Janice Stagnitto Ellis, and Leslie K. Overstreet, members of the Libraries’ special collections and conservation staff, who gave brief presentations. Other Libraries’ staff attending were assistant directors Bonita Perry and Mary Augusta Thomas, Cooper Hewitt, National Design Museum Branch librarian Stephen Van Dyk, and Gwen Leighty.

Eighteen rare works from the Libraries’ collections were displayed in the exhibition hall during the event for guests to explore and examine. These works are but a tiny fraction of the 40,000 rare books and manuscripts held by the Smithsonian Libraries.

Gwen Leighty
The Smithsonian Institution Libraries in

1998

Fiscal Year October 1, 1997-September 30, 1998

The Collections

In Fiscal Year 1998

- 7,409 acquisition purchase orders prepared
- 18,847 titles cataloged
- 171 electronic journals and 30 other electronic titles cataloged
- 12,205 volumes labeled, bound, and boxed
- 1,479 inventory records created for uncataloged Special Collections materials
- 466 volumes treated in the Book Conservation Laboratory
- 208 brittle books microfilmed
- 13,644 journal issues checked in

In the Collections

- 1,215,848 volumes
- 6,126 current serial/journal subscriptions
- 184,515 microform units
- 2,102 manuscript units (groups)

Acquisitions

- 46% of the books added to SII collections were acquired as gifts or from exchange partners

The Libraries offered 177 full-text journals online this year to library users on the Smithsonian staff. Published by Academic Press, these journals cover the fields of science, technology, and medicine.

With a $10,000 grant from the Latino Initiatives Fund, the Libraries purchased a number of printed materials in the field of Latino Studies.

Gift and Exchange Program

- 4,651 Exchange partners
- 5,455 books received as gifts were added to the collection
- 3,142 journal titles received on exchange

In 1998...

The Collections

Services to Our Users

New Enterprises

How We Make It Happen

Education and Service

Exhibitions and Publications

Supporting The Libraries' Efforts

Smithsonian Institution Libraries

Leslie Overstreet
Curator of Natural History Rare Books
**Services to Our Users**

**User Benefits**
- 50,010 reference questions were answered by branch library staff
- 51,014 items were charged out to users
- 260,361 circulation transactions handled by staff
- 129,455 items were browsed by users on site
- Interlibrary loan services to Libraries' users were improved with the establishment of the Ariel Internet service which facilitated delivery of 468 articles borrowed from other institutions

**African Art Indexing Project**
By the end of FY 1998, 18,869 records had been entered into the African Art Index, with 6,911 added during the fiscal year. These records, compiled by Janet L. Stanley from published literature about African art (pamphlets, journal articles, chapters in books, conference proceedings) are available in the SIL catalog on SIRIS (www.siris.si.edu) and in OCLC, the international bibliographic database. A keyword search of AFINDEX will retrieve a complete sub-set of the African Art Index records. The project is support by a grant from The Getty Grant Program.

**Renovations & New Spaces**
- The number of branch libraries expanded to 19 as planning continued for the FY 1999 opening of the National Museum of the American Indian Branch in Suitland, Maryland, and the FY 2000 opening of the Natural History Rare Book Library in the Natural History Building
- Anthropology Branch and Birds Library relocated and continued operations with reduced collections during building renovations
- Central Reference and Loan Services closed for building renovations. Relocated staff continued to provide reference and Interlibrary loan services
- Preservation Services Department made room to accommodate a digital imaging laboratory scheduled to open in FY 1999

**Interlibrary Loans of SIL Items**
4,312 books and articles from SIL items were loaned to other institutions in 1998

**More than 400 items were loaned to**
- National Agriculture Library

**100-250 items were loaned to**
- World Wildlife Fund Library
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- National Institute of Standards and Technology
- University of Delaware
- University of Georgia

**50-100 items were loaned to**
- State University of New York Albany
- University of Maryland College Park
- National Geographic Society Library
- Johns Hopkins University
- Louisiana State University
- Georgetown University
- University of Puerto Rico
- Texas A&M University
- George Washington University

**Endowment Support**
The Wineland Research Library Endowment was established to provide support for activities and research relating to Native American and exploration literature in conjunction with the purchase of the Charlotte and Lloyd Wineland Collection of Native American and Western Exploration Literature.

**Ripley Library Endowment**
The S. Dillon Ripley Library Endowment, established in 1983 on the occasion of Secretary emeritus Ripley's 80th birthday, has enabled the Libraries to acquire 444 books in the past five years to enrich the non-rare collections, many specifically requested by Smithsonian curators and scholars to support ongoing and new research projects. In 1998, 94 works were purchased for 16 branches.

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"And the staff coped magnificently with disruptions, displacements, noise, debris, sudden returns of large office collections, fumes, leaks, sprinklers going off, cold air, moves and closing of branches."

_Nancy E. Geiwill, SIL Director_
NEW ENTERPRISES

SIL HOME PAGE <www.sil.si.edu>

- 756 was the average daily number of visits to the SIL web site
- By September, the average daily number of "hits" on SIL’s Home Page reached 9,001
- Nearly 14% of online visitors came from outside the U.S., from Singapore and South Africa to Brazil and Sweden
- June 18, 1998, was the busiest day of the year
- The Internet Reference Tools section was the most popular portion of the SIL web site

The Home Page was re-designed in September, introducing a new subject guide to the Internet that organizes web sites by subject disciplines investigated by Smithsonian staff. The new design features images from the collections.

GRANTS

The Atherton Seidell Endowment Fund awarded the Libraries $47,690 to initiate a project to digitize rare literature in the Natural History collections. A digital imaging production unit headed by Susan Blaine, head of the Libraries’ Preservation Services Department is being set up at the Libraries’ facility on North Capitol Street.

The Libraries established a Natural History Rare Books Advisory Committee to make recommendations about which books will be digitized. The goal is to bring research treasures from the collection to an international audience on the World Wide Web.

The Smithsonian Women’s Committee funded a project to preserve a collection of nineteenth-century books in the Horticulture Branch. The Libraries’ will use the award of $3,780 to clean and purchase protective enclosures for over 500 books.

PUBLISHING FOR THE WORLD-WIDE
AUDIENCE ON THE INTERNET

The Libraries’ online exhibition, From Smithsonian to Smithsonian: The Birth of an Institution, was launched in April with an attached set of Lesson Plans created by the Smithsonian Office of Education for high school students relating to themes of history and government. Notices about the educational online exhibition and the history class curriculum materials were mailed out to 5,000 history teachers in schools which have Internet access. The schools, reaching into all 50 states, included middle, junior high and high schools, public and private schools, and schools in urban and rural settings and with large and small student populations. The notices and the mailing were supported by a grant from the Smithsonian Office of Education.

The Libraries published on its Home Page (www.sil.si.edu) a digital edition of Jakob Sturm’s Verzeichniss meiner Insecten-Sammlung (1796) with an introduction by Leslie Overstreet, Curator of Natural History Rare Books, and an appendix with an alphabetical index to the species described in the text and illustrated in the plates.
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Development Officer
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Washington, DC 20560-01
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Email: gleighty@sil.si.edu

How We Make It Happen

The People

The Libraries had 112 members on its staff in FY 1998 (nine joined the staff this year) and two student workers.

Volunteers

Donate their time and skills in 12 of the branch libraries and in several offices, from Acquisitions Services to Information Systems. This year > 8,942 hours were contributed by 57 volunteers. From that total, > 2,465 hours from 14 volunteers in the National Museum of African Art Branch > 1,019 hours from volunteers at the National Air and Space Museum Branch > 1,207 hours from 10 volunteers at the Book Conservation Laboratory, Preservation Services Department

We thank them, one and all, for helping the Libraries bring better service and fulfill its mission.

Alternate Work Schedules

In January the Libraries implemented an alternate work schedule policy, allowing most Libraries' staff to develop schedules flexible enough to respond to ongoing educational and family needs and other commitments. The plan was the result of hard work on the part of an interdivisional task group, which took into account the varieties of schedules, types of positions, and workloads across the Libraries.

Training Librarians

- Libraries’ staff helped organize “Just in Time,” a 2-day disaster-preparedness workshop for paper-based collections held in September at the Smithsonian Center for Materials Research and Education, and 20 of the Libraries’ staff participated
- The Libraries co-sponsored with the Research Libraries Group a 3-day Digital Imaging Workshop in October
- The Libraries’ Preservation Services Department hosted for 8 months intern Tina Mason, a graduate student in the University of Texas Austin’s Preservation and Conservation for Archives and Libraries program.
- Valerie Wheat, Museum Reference Center Librarian, completed the 1-year Association of Research Libraries Leadership and Development Training Program for librarians from racial minorities

The Financial Resources

Funding Sources

- Federal Appropriation $6,478,285
- Trust Fund Allocation 1,002,000
- Gifts & Grants 242,691
- Endowments Income 34,996
Total $7,757,975

Expenditures

- Personnel Costs $5,648,748
- Library Materials (Collections) 1,256,203
- Program Support 347,576
- Cataloging Support 187,856
- Miscellaneous 109,908
- Staff Development 60,092
- Public Programs 37,249
Total $7,647,431
**EDUCATION ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE**

**Interacting with local universities**
- Two branch libraries, the Cooper Hewitt, National Design Museum Branch in New York City and the National Museum of American History Branch in Washington, DC, are serving as the principal libraries for Master’s degree students of the Parson’s School of Design.
- The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Branch gave 133 orientation tours to students from the Republic of Panama and central America this year.
- The Museum Support Center Branch maintained reserve-reading shelves for students in a conservation class at George Washington University.
- Margaret Dittemore, Anthropology Branch, did a presentation for Museum Studies students from George Washington University.
- William E. Baxter, Special Collections Department, spoke to U.S. Naval Academy midshipmen.
- Alvin Hutchinson, National Zoological Park Branch, met with psychology students from Georgetown University.
- The Anthropology Branch supplied books for a George Washington University anthropology class.

**Staff service in the American Library Association**
- In ALA’s Association for Library Collections and Technical Services.
- Sherry Kelley was chair of the Committee on Metadata and Cataloging.
- Ned Kraft was chair of the Out-of-Print Discussion Group.
- In ALA’s Library Administration and Management Association, Mary Augusta Thomas was chair of the Fiscal and Business Officers Discussion Group and chair of the Editorial Advisory Board of the journal, *Library Administration and Management*.
- Martin R. Kalfatovic is editor of ALA’s Library & Information Technology Association’s newsletter, published electronically at <www.lita.org/>.

**Other professional service by SIL staff**
- Amy de Groff chairs the Education Working Group of the Federal Library and Information Center Committee.
- Mary Augusta Thomas is president of the District of Columbia Library Association.

**Providing financial support to scholars**
- The Dibner Fund supported three SIL Dibner Library Resident Scholars this year who spent productive hours working with materials in the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology.

**LECTURE**

Harvard Professor Katharine Park discussed “Visible Women: Anatomical Illustration and Human Dissection in Renaissance Italy” at the 1998 Dibner Library Lecture, supported by The Dibner Fund.

**An educational brochure** published for the Libraries’ exhibition Frontier Photographer: Edward S. Curtis was supported by funds from the Smithsonian Office of Education. The fold-out brochure geared to high-school students featured an illustrated time-line of Curtis’s life, “Things to Think About,” and a list of suggested readings.

**LICENSED PRODUCTS PROFITS**

The Libraries earned $16,578 in royalties in 1998 from the sale of licensed products authorized by the Smithsonian Office of Product Development and Licensing. Images from Libraries’ collections appeared on china place settings, men’s socks, silk scarves, Christmas ornaments, and jewelry made by licensees.

**LIBRARIES BOARD ESTABLISHED**

With the approval of the Board of Regents, the Libraries established a Board with seven founding members this year. The inaugural meeting was held on May 20. The Board will provide leadership during the upcoming campaign, help develop new constituencies and generate support nationwide for the Libraries’ services, programs, and collections.

And SIL staff made 25 professional presentations this year at a variety of conferences and annual meetings, and served on numerous committees, planning groups, and task forces.
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EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

EXHIBITIONS

In the Libraries Gallery, Washington, DC
- to July 1998, Audubon & the Smithsonian, guest curated by Helena Wright (National Museum of American History)

In New York City

SIL Books Loaned to Exhibitions

Two major exhibitions in the newly renovated space at the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum displayed materials from the Libraries’ collections at the CH Branch. Fountains: Splash and Spectacle featured 24 rare books describing and illustrating fountains from the Renaissance to the present day. Twenty-eight trade catalogs illustrated the theme of Opening Our Doors, including pamphlets and books describing silver dining flatware, needle and sewing catalogs, fabrics, and wallpapers. The Libraries loaned a copy of De Beghinselen der Weegheconst by Simon Stevin (Leiden, 1586) to the Pabellon Villanueva, Botanical Garden of Madrid for an exhibition celebrating the reigns of Philip II and Charles V.
- Of the 58 books loaned by the Libraries for exhibition, 5 were shown in exhibitions in Washington, DC, 52 in New York City, and 1 in Spain.

VISITORS

- 200 national and international visitors toured the branch libraries this year

PUBLICATIONS

- Modern African Art: A Basic Reading List by Janet L. Stanley, Museum of African Art Branch Librarian, was the Libraries’ first original work published online

Eleven staff members published 37 articles, reviews, and bibliographies, and three books this year.

- Research Associate Silvio A. Bedini was awarded the J. T. Fraser Prize for his book, The Trail of Time: Time Measurement with Incense in East Asia (1998) by the International Society for the Study of Time
- Janet L. Stanley, Museum of African Art Branch Librarian, also published in print this year. Volume 6 of her The Arts of Africa, An Annotated Bibliography was released by the African Studies Association Press
- Mary Augusta Thomas co-edited an American Library Association volume, Information Imagineering
- Amy de Groff, Janice Stagnitto Ellis, Carolyn Hamilton, and Martin R. Kalfatovic published articles this year, Amy Levin published a bibliography online, and Nancy E. Gwinn, Sheila Riley, Amy DeGroff, Martin R. Kalfatovic, and Mary Augusta Thomas published reviews

“Three Chiefs – Piegan” by Edward S. Curtis (Montana, 1900)
**Supporting the Libraries’ Efforts**

**Donors of Financial Support**

**$25,000 and up**
- Nancy Wineland Castle
- Joseph E. 3rd and Joan Cullman
- Mrs. Jefferson Patterson

**$5,000 - $24,999**
- Anonymous
- The Edward S. Curtis Foundation
- The Dibner Fund (David and Frances Dibner)
- The Jaques Adair Law Firm

**$1,000 - $4,999**
- Howard H. Baker, Jr.
- Christopher Cardozo
- The Curtis Centennial Project
- The Curtis Collection
- Robert J. Hurst
- Frank A. Weil
- Caspar W., Sr. and Jane Weinberger
- Charlotte Wineland

**$500 - $999**
- James M. Kemper, Jr.
- Dudley and Lois Rochester
- David Spencer

**$250 - $499**
- John and Lois Eberhard
- Bill Lambert
- Rosemary L. Ripley
- Rodris Roth
- Russell Train
- Bruce Wasserstein

**Campaign Feasibility Study**

To prepare for the Smithsonian capital campaign, the Libraries commissioned a campaign feasibility study to assess potential donor interest in the Libraries’ stated campaign funding priorities and to assist in refining the Libraries’ plans and campaign goals. The results were very positive, and the Libraries’ goals were viewed as reasonable and achievable.

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**Rychkov’s Journals**

The first part of Nikolai Petrovich Rychkov’s ‘46-1784) journal, *evnyia zapiski putes–tvia v Kirgis-kaisatskoi oblasti* (1772), consists of daily notes and detailed descriptions of his 1771 journey in the Kirgizia steppe, a region which had not been covered by naturalists P.S. Pallas (1741-1811) or I.I. Lepthelin (1737-1802). The second part, *Prodolzhienie dnevnik* (1772), records Rychkov’s earlier 1770 travels along the Volga and Ural Rivers. Both works (bound together) are first-edition copies re-published by the Academy of Sciences. Rychkov’s journals will be used by researchers from the museum of Natural History’s departments of anthropology, botany, and zoology.

*Leslie Overstreet*
Curator of Natural History Rare Books

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**New Book Purchased**

The Libraries is moving
Washington, DC 20560-0
Email: gleighty@sil.si.edu
NHB24MZ
Development Officer
gift, contact:
membership or to make
beyond the Libraries’
Smithsonian Libraries.
Gwen Leighty
about the benefits assoc
For more information
current budget.
acquisitions, preservatii
and programmatic prio
acquisitions, preservatii
and programmatic prio
the Smithson to Smithsonian,
Sheet music for “Smithsonian Polka” by W.
Bergman (1855) seen in online exhibition, From
Smithson to Smithsonian, at www.sil.si.edu

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**Baird Society Created**

The Spencer Fullerton Baird Society, established by the Smithsonian Institution Libraries Board in 1998, will provide crucial financial support for the Libraries' acquisitions, preservation, and programmatic priorities. The society is made up of donors who make an annual unrestricted gift of $500 or more to the Libraries. Individuals who join by September 30, 1999, will be recognized in the Baird Society brochure and as Founding Members.

The Libraries is moving to share more widely its nationally known historical and scientific collections. Increasing use of these collections by students and teachers, scientists, scholars, and collectors makes clear that we have many useful resources to offer. To continue to build and preserve the collections, and develop programming for the general public requires funding beyond the Libraries' current budget.

For more information about the benefits associated with Baird Society membership or to make a gift, contact:

Gwen Leighty
Development Officer
Smithsonian Libraries
NHB 24 Ms
Washington, DC 20560-0240
Tel: 202-786-2875
Email: gleighty@sil.si.edu

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Special Collections

Smithsonian Libraries 1998 Dibner Library Resident Scholars

Harry Kitsikopoulos was the second of the three Dibner Library Resident Scholars to work in the collections of the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology this year (see Information #84 for Sarah Lowengard’s report). An adjunct assistant professor of economics at New York University and the New York Institute of Technology, Mr. Kitsikopoulos reported, “My research looks at the process of technological diffusion during the British Industrial Revolution. The diffusion of major innovations across sectoral lines during the period 1770-1870 is of particular interest to economic historians because it traces the trajectory of productivity improvements as well as of output growth in particular sectors and of the overall economy. My ultimate aim is to show that, contrary to the conventional wisdom, the process of technological diffusion and economic growth started accelerating well into the 19th century, as opposed to the 1770s, that is, when the use of steam engines became truly widespread.

“The Dibner Library has a variety of primary sources containing information on the number of steam engines used in Britain and their horsepower. John Farey’s 728-page *A Treatise on the Steam Engine* (London, 1827) is a particularly useful source of information, and a practical book on the steam engine is Thomas Savery’s *The Miner’s Friend* (London, 2nd edn, 1829). The sources provide clues explaining the factors behind the diffusion of steam engines such as their improvements in efficiency over time, and purchasing prices.”

Harry Kitsikopoulos

Dr. Kitsikopoulos earned his Ph.D. at the New School for Social Research and his B.A. at the Aristotelian University, Thessaloniki, Greece.

Shannon Allen Brown, the third 1998 Resident Scholar, is completing research for his dissertation on the electrification of the U.S. Army between 1880 and 1920. Mr. Brown argues that the advent of electricity was a significant factor that contributed to the evolution of the infrastructure and organization of the modern U.S. Army. Working in the Smithsonian Libraries’ distinguished collection in the history of electricity and the development of electrical technology and electrical science, he plans to draw as well on the notable and extensive trade literature and world’s fairs collections. Mr. Brown earned a B.A. at California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo and an M.A. at University of California Santa Cruz.

The program, supported by The Dibner Fund to encourage study of the history of science and technology, has funded sixteen scholars since its inception in 1992.

Rychkov’s Journals

A new book purchased with funds from the Special Collections Endowment adds depth to the Libraries’ collection of expedition materials. The first part of Nikolai Petrovich Rychkov’s (1746-1784) journal, *Dnevnyia zapiski pute-shestvii v Kirgis-kaisatskoj stepe* (1772), consists of daily notes and detailed descriptions of his 1771 journey in the Kirgizia Steppe, a region which had not been covered by the naturalists P.S. Pallas (1741-1811) or I.I. Lepeshkin (1737-1802). The second part, *Prodolzhenie zhurnala ili dnevnykh zapisok* (1772), records Rychkov’s earlier 1770 travels along the Volga and Ural Rivers. Both works (bound together) in this first-edition copy were published by the Imperial Academy of Sciences. Rychkov’s journals will be used by researchers from the Museum of Natural History’s departments of anthropology, botany, and zoology.

Leslie Overstreet
Curator of Natural History Rare Books

* * *
Featuring...

Ron Brashear (left) with Shannon Allen Brown

The Libraries welcomed Ron Brashear to the position of Curator of Science and Technology Rare Books in the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology. Brashear came to the Libraries in June from the Huntington Library in San Marino, California, where he was Curator of History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, and Institutional Archivist for ten years. Prior to that appointment, he was a research assistant at The Johns Hopkins University and served briefly on the Space Telescope History Project at the National Air and Space Museum. Mr. Brashear received his B.S. and M.S. from the University of Louisville and spent four years at Hopkins studying for his Ph.D. in the history of science. His research interests include the history of astronomy and he has recently contributed encyclopedia entries for the History of Astronomy (1997) and Instruments of Science (1998).

1998 Dibner Library Lecture

Park Lectures on "Visible Women"

Professor Katharine Park's illustrated lecture on "Visible Women: Anatomical Illustration and Human Dissection in Renaissance Italy" drew a crowd of scientists and humanists, from members of the Washington Society for the History of Medicine to cultural and social historians. The 1998 Dibner Library Lecture was held on May 20, and The Dibner Fund, which supports the lecture series, was represented by its Executive Director, Marci Sternheim. Professor Park is the Zemurray Stone Radcliffe Professor of History of Science and Women's Studies at Harvard University. She recently published Wonders and the Order of Nature, 1150-1750 (1998) with Lorraine Daston and is working on a book about gender, generation, and the origins of human dissection.

Curtis Exhibition Attracts Crowds

Frontier Photographer: Edward S. Curtis, the Libraries' 1998-99 exhibition, opened on September 23 to an enthusiastic reception from gallery visitors. Reviews of the Curtis exhibition carried on wire services of the Washington Post and Associated Press as well as a mention on public television's program Around Town have contributed to the regular flow of visitors to the Libraries' Gallery in the Museum of American History. William E. Baxter, head of the Libraries Special Collections Department who curated the show, reports that groups of schoolchildren are among the visitors to the gallery.

Secretary and Mrs. Heyman, who loaned a Curtis photogravure of the Canyon de Chelly (Arizona, 1904) to the show, attended the opening reception and spoke eloquently about Curtis's legacy.

continued on p. 7

At right. Secretary and Mrs. Heyman at the Curtis exhibition
Libraries Staff on FLICC Program

The 1998 FLICC (Federal Library Information Center Committee) Institute for Federal Library Technicians, held August 10-14 at the Library of Congress, offered a broad overview of federal library work to the 70 registrants. Stephen Kerchoff, the organizer, gave special thanks to the Smithsonian Libraries for its significant contributions towards both planning and program participation. Sheila Riley (Cataloging Services) worked with the Library of Congress staff organizing the institute, and other Libraries' staff were on the program. Ned Kraft and John Dick (Acquisitions Services) offered a team introduction to Acquisitions and the Gifts and Exchange program while Martin Smith and Polly Lasker (Central Reference and Loan Services) combined forces for a presentation on Circulation and Patron Services. Martin Kalfatovic (Central Reference and Loan Services) provided an automation overview on integrated library systems. Mary Augusta Thomas (Assistant Director, Management and Technical Services), this year's president of the District of Columbia Library Association (DCLA), served as representative of both DCLA and the American Library Association on the Professional Associations Panel where she spoke on benefits of professional memberships. Tom Bickley (Anacostia Branch) facilitated discussions among library technicians who worked in Academic and Research Libraries. Dave Thompson (Museum of African Art Branch) attended the institute.

Sheila Riley

Curtis exhibition, continued from p. 6

The exhibition was supported by Christopher Cardozo, The Curtis Centennial Project, and The Edward S. Curtis Foundation, with contributions from the Special Exhibition Fund, Office of the Provost, Smithsonian Institution. Additional donations were provided by a number of individuals as well as The Curtis Collection, and the Charlottesville Camera Club. An educational brochure was prepared by Elizabeth Sharpe with funds from the Smithsonian Education Outreach Fund.

Photography Credits

We thank the following photographers from the Smithsonian Office of Imaging, Printing, and Photographic Services: Larry Gates for Rychkov's Journal (p. 4); Don Hurlbert for Libraries Board (p. 1) and NMNH Branch staff (p. 3); Richard Strauss for Secretary and Mrs. Heyman (p. 5) and Cardozo (p. 6); Hugh Talman for Brown and Kitsikopoulos (p. 5), and Brashear and Park (p. 6). We also thank Elena Olivo for Grolier Club event pictures (p. 4); Eileen Colton for Garnett picture (p. 2); Gwinn photo (p. 2) is by Brooks/Glogan Photographers.

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Board members attending were Nancy Wineland Castle of Smithsburg, Maryland, Jeannine Smith Clark of Washington, D.C., Shirley M. Gifford of Washington, D.C. and Woods Hole, Massachusetts, and Frank A. Weil of New York City and Washington, D.C. Other members of the Board are Barbara J. Smith of State College, Pennsylvania, and Kevin Starr of Sacramento, California. Ms. Ripley is the second founding chair of the Libraries Board. Leonard Jaques, the first chair, died in June.

IN BRIEF

An article about Bern Dibner published this autumn in the American Scientist (v. 86, no. 5, Sept.-Oct. 1998: 416-420) recounts his activities as one of the pioneering collectors of rare books in the history of science and technology. Dr. Dibner's book, manuscript, and medals collections form the core of the Libraries' Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology. "From Connections to Collections," written by Henry Petroski, describes highlights of Dibner's life and his inventions, many relating to electrical connectors. Petroski, whose award-winning books on pencils, paperclips, and other inventions have reached wide audiences, was the Libraries' 1998 Dibner Library Lecturer (see Information # 84).
Calendar of Exhibitions and Lecture

Smithsonian Institution Libraries
Exhibition Gallery

National Museum of American History, first floor, west wing
10:00 am - 5:30 pm daily (except December 25)

To September 27, 1999
Frontier Photographer: Edward S. Curtis
William E. Baxter (Libraries), Curator

Opening November 1999
“Make the Dirt Fly!” An Exhibition on the Building of the Panama Canal
Jeffrey K. Stine and William Worthington (National Museum of American History),
Guest Curators

On the World Wide Web
Visit at <http://www.sil.si.edu/exhibits.htm>

On View Now
From Smithson to Smithsonian: The Birth of an Institution
Science and the Artist’s Book

Lecture

March 9, 1999
The 1999 Dibner Library Lecture, by Charles Brownell
“Horrors! Changing Views of the American Victorian House”
Reception Suite, National Museum of American History, at 4:00 pm
A Washington Collegium for the Humanities Lecture Series Program