Gifts to the Libraries

THE STRENGTH OF A RESEARCH LIBRARY IS MEASURED in part by how well its collections and services support the work and research of its users. Increasingly the Smithsonian Institution Libraries (SIL) depends upon gifts and contributions from private sources. In 1991 SIL established an Honorary and Memorial Gift program to encourage contributions of cash, securities, and bequests. Efforts are underway to fund endowments for specific collections, for staff positions, and for preservation efforts. Exhibitions in the Libraries’ public gallery also depend upon outside funding.

The collections of SIL have been enriched by gifts from its users, benefactors, and exchange partners since the mid-19th century. The generosity of donors continues to bring valuable materials that lend essential support to the curation and research of the Institution’s collections.

Two unusual gifts recently received illustrate the range of collection interests in one specialty, natural history. The drawing of prehistoric animals dining is from the 1872 anniversary banquet menu of the Palaeontographical Society, London. The cover, a tribute to Richard Owen, first director of the British Museum (Natural History), depicts a dodo, a sabre-tooth tiger, a pterodactyl, and several dinosaurs. On the tablecloth is pinned a notice reading, “Please do not eat your bones but save them for Prof. Owen.” The menu was the gift of Professor J. W. Wells, Cornell University (emeritus).
GIFTS TO THE COLLECTIONS

Recent gifts that have enhanced the Libraries' collections:


The Libraries received the J. Horace McFarland collection of 195 books and periodicals and 1,400 seed and nursery catalogs on horticulture and garden design. The materials are housed in the Horticulture Branch Library. The gift was given by the Roebuch Printing Company of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

The Libraries, through the Museum of American History Branch, received a collection of 227 volumes on weapons and firearms from Harold L. Peterson, former Chief Curator of the National Park Service.

The Special Collections Department received a gift of two books on radiochemistry containing signatures of Elisabeth Rona, one-time assistant of Marie Curie. The donor is Mrs. Albert Kendrick of Lafayette, Indiana.

Some 350 books from the collection on popular, regional, and ethnic music donated by Sam De Vincent were presented to the Museum of American History branch. Mr. De Vincent, a musician, began collecting sheet music and books on gospel singing, musicals, vaudeville, country, blues, and barbershop ballads 60 years ago.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Rising Costs Challenge Libraries’ Ability to Meet Users’ Needs

Research Libraries across the land are establishing sophisticated fundraising and development programs. One visible sign of these undertakings is a polished newsletter. I trust that you will note with this new version of our newsletter that we, too, are eager that those who use the Libraries and those who help us meet our obligations be informed. Information is published with them in mind. The Libraries will continue to succeed in these difficult times only when our users and benefactors know of our needs, accomplishments, and obligations, and know the people who make up the Smithsonian Institution Libraries, as well.

These are indeed difficult times for libraries. Many have been forced to curtail spending and meet research and education needs with fewer dollars because of reduced institution funds. Since 1986 the Libraries’ budget for books and journals has lost half its purchasing power, a result of an inflation rate for library materials that exceeds the Consumer Price Index. To maintain a useful collection of journals we have sacrificed book purchases hoping that books can be purchased later or borrowed as needed from other institutions. In 1990 we cut 450 journal titles in order to stay within our budget. Inflation is again straining our resources and we find that we must once again identify titles to cancel this year. As we discontinue subscriptions, we are required to meet user needs increasingly with loan of materials, or by acquiring photocopies of articles from other institutions or from document delivery services. These means of doing business have their own costs. Prompted by reports of dramatic increases in library lending and borrowing, the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and the Research Libraries Group have begun a study of these costs. Some 5.2 million items were loaned or borrowed by ARL libraries in 1990-91 alone. If we cannot afford to purchase what our users need, we must examine carefully how we are meeting the information needs of the Institution’s research community. A user survey is underway to assist us in this effort.

On the bright side, this past year we were awarded a grant from the James Smithson Society to establish the Database Center with a CD-ROM service. The service permits the Libraries to mount research tools such as Biological Abstracts, Art Index, Humanities Index, and Wildlife and Fish Worldwide at one location. Eventually researchers across the Institution will be able to access these databases from their offices and branch libraries. The Center will increase researcher productivity and eliminate the need to purchase duplicate copies of commonly needed resources. Although technological enhancements of data gathering activities do not necessarily reduce costs, efficiency is improved and needs are met in convenient ways heretofore impossible.

It is ironic that as libraries gain increasing recognition as leaders in the development of and application of technology to assist scholars and researchers, they are increasingly hampered by lack of resources to continue to serve. None of these limitations is more dramatic than the impact of the escalating cost of journals and other periodic publications. As we continue to wrestle with our budget to meet our obligations to our users, we need your help and understanding. We trust that Information will help us gain both.

Barbara J. Smith
Planning and Administration Office

The Libraries' Planning and Administration Office (PAO) is the link between the Libraries' scattered branches and offices and the Institution's central units responsible for procurement, accounting, planning and budget, human resources, space planning and construction, travel, and security.

The support services offered by PAO with its staff of ten free Libraries' staff in the collections management and the systems and technical services divisions as well as in the branch libraries of the research services division to concentrate efforts on their own specialized services, Mary Augusta Thomas, Assistant Director for Planning and Administration, has responsibilities for long-range planning for the Libraries. Duties of Laudine Creighton, Administrative Services department head, range from contracts and budget preparation to overseeing fiscal, personnel, and accessibility issues. (The position of Personnel Officer is currently vacant.) Rosie Collins has responsibility for travel, annual contract orders, cash accounts, and safety regulations. Loreen Lacy compiles statistics for all divisions, arranges for staff training, serves as liaison to building services, and is a resource person for computer programs and equipment.

Emma Huebner handles all forms, supplies, and equipment (including repairs and inventories) and heads the Shipping, Receiving, and Supplies section, staffed by Jim Bloodworth, Ron Johnson, and 2 part-time staff, Chuck Martin and Angela Pitts (who is scheduled to join PAO staff soon). This section is responsible for delivery of library materials, equipment, and supplies throughout the whole system. They aim for delivery within 24 hours between the various departments and branches. Without the daily support provided in each of the crucial areas of responsibility, the Libraries would not be able to meet its responsibilities in support of the Institution's research and programs.

Development Watch

Two major grants in fiscal year 1991 helped the Libraries meet important goals. The James Smithson Society provided $50,060 to establish a Database Searching Center which opened in December 1991. The center now has 8 databases, 2 local workstations, and 4 ports for dial-in from remote locations. The Institution's Special Exhibition Fund provided a grant of $60,765 to support the World's Fairs exhibition in the Libraries' Exhibition Gallery (open February-September 1992) and a symposium held in cooperation with the National Museum of American History (see pp. 4 and 5).

SIL's Historian Emeritus Silvio A. Bedini has been honored by the New York Public Library. The Christopher Columbus Encyclopedia which he edited was selected by NYPL librarians as one of 25 outstanding reference books published last year.

Sylvia Churgin, Librarian of the Museum Reference Center, participated in a panel discussion on "Getting the Facts About Museums" at the annual meeting of the American Association of Museums in Baltimore.

Cataloger Margaret D'Ambrosio delivered a paper at the 11th International Numismatic Congress in Brussels, Belgium, on "Subject access to numismatic literature: a cataloger's perspective."

Hollis Gentry, Automated Bibliographic Control, visited Hampton, Virginia, and gave a presentation before the Virginia Society for Black Genealogical Research on documenting black family history at the National Archives. Hollis also discussed some of SIL's holdings that relate to black family historical research.

Nancy E. Gwinn delivered an illustrated lecture to Resident Associate Program members on April 30. Her topic was "From the Ferris Wheel to the Photograph: World's Fairs Publications and Artifacts, 1851-1940."

John Hyltoft, Head Conservator, gave a workshop on "Millimetre Binding" for the Canadian Book Artists and Bookbinders Guild in Ontario, Canada.
African Art Librarian Janet L. Stanley organized and headed a panel of four practicing artists on “The artist as rebel: the moral imperatives of art” at the Ninth Triennial Symposium on African Art held at the University of Iowa in April. Janet also coordinated the Triennial book exhibition and chaired the Bibliography sub-committee of the Archives Libraries Committee of the African Studies Association which met concurrently.

In the profession . . .

Margaret D’Ambrosio, Cataloger, serves on the American Library Association’s Cataloging and Classification Section’s Committee on Cataloging Asian and African Materials.

Nancy E. Gwinn, Assistant Director, serves on the Quantitative Measures for Collection Management Committee of the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services, and the Scholarly Communication Committee of the Association of College and Research Libraries, both of the American Library Association.

Ann M. Juneau, Head, Natural and Physical Sciences Department, is chairman of the Federal Library and Information Center Committee’s Preservation Working Group. She is also convener of the Natural History Caucus of the Special Libraries Association.

Vija L. Karklins, Deputy Director, serves on the Policy Working Group of the Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC).

ON MARCH 20 THE LIBRARIES HOSTED A SYMPOSIUM on “World’s Fairs and Modern Life” in cooperation with National Museum of American History. A capacity crowd attended the day-long program featuring four panels which presented a multi-disciplinary approach to the study of world’s fairs and their historical importance as modernizing forces within increasingly complex societies.

SIL Director Barbara J. Smith and Art Molella, Museum of American History, of the co-sponsoring offices, welcomed the crowd. The keynote address was delivered by Robert W. Rydell, Montana State University professor of history who wrote the introductory essay to SIL’s The books of the fairs (see Publications, p. 5). A panel moderated by Rydell on “Rituals of representation: ethnic stereotypes and colonized peoples at world’s fairs” featured Burton Benedict of the Lowie Museum of Anthropology, University of California/Berkeley, with comments by Ivan Karp, Museum of Natural History Anthropology Department, University of Michigan’s David Scohey’s talk “What shall we do with our walls? The Philadelphia Centennial and the cultural politics of design” was commented on by Charles F. Mcgovern, Museum of American History, in a panel moderated by Carolyn Carr of the National Portrait Gallery, “Popularizing science and technology: Brussels 1958” was the theme of the panel moderated by Peter Kuznik of The American University, with Brigitte Schroeder-Gudehus of the University of Montreal delivering the principal address and Miriam Levin of Case Western Reserve University as commentator. The final panel on “Documenting the fairs” was moderated by Barbara J. Smith, with SIL’s Nancy E. Gwinn and two staff members of the Museum of American History, Jon B. Zachman (Division of Community Life) and Fath Ruffins (Archives Center), discussing the collection and care of library and archival materials and museum objects relating to world’s fairs. The day concluded with Gary Kulik, assistant director of the museum’s Office of Academic Programs, introducing James B. Gilbert of the University of Maryland Department of History who delivered a summary of the day’s proceedings, commenting that Disneyland theme parks are a current manifestation of fairs.

The audience came from cities around the nation and included collectors, exhibition specialists, students, and scholars. The symposium was funded by the Smithsonian Special Exhibition Fund, World’s Fair magazine, Research Publications International (the publisher of the microfilm set of SIL materials on world’s fairs), the American Library Association (publisher of the illustrated The books of the fairs), and members of the Friends of the Cooper-Hewitt Museum Library. Arrangements for registration and services were made by the Institution’s Office of Conference Services.
EXHIBITIONS

SIL Exhibition Gallery’s Third Show

A TWO-HEMISPHERE WALL MAP that illuminates city locations in three colors to show the scope and density of world’s fairs between the 1851 Crystal Palace (London) and the 1940 New York fair is attracting crowds in the Libraries’ Exhibition Gallery in the Museum of American History.

The exhibition grew out of the Libraries’ project to preserve its world’s fairs materials (see The books of the fairs, Publications, this page). Guest curator Robert W. Rydell chose as his theme how fairs affected cultural representations and stereotypes, especially with respect to the colonial villages built on fairgrounds. Books, sheet music, posters, and objects from thirteen world’s fairs are presented in the cases and on the walls of the gallery. The exhibition and a symposium were funded by the Institution’s Special Exhibition Fund. Artifacts loaned from museum collections include Eiffel Tower crystal candlesticks and an elaborately carved “Centennial Chair” from the 1876 Philadelphia exhibition.

The SIL Exhibition Gallery opened in October 1990 in the National Museum of America History. The gallery has drawn thousands of visitors to its three exhibitions. The opening show, “Turning Over Old Leaves,” presented a sampler of written records reflecting in microcosm the variety of subjects studied in the Institution. It was funded by the Special Exhibition Fund. In 1991 “Nusantara: Lands and Peoples of Indonesia,” funded by the James Smithson Society, was featured. Celebrating the international Festival of Indonesia, this exhibition displayed accounts of the Europeans’ discovery of the ancient cultures and the sophisticated arts of the Indonesian islands.

Map showing global scope of world’s fairs, 1851-1940

PUBLICATIONS

Selected publications and reviews of the Libraries and/or members of its staff:


AUDUBONIANA AT SIL. National Audubon Society (NAS) President Peter A. A. Berle (l.) addresses guests at a March 31 reception in SIL’s Dibner Library. Effective August 1991 NAS entrusted to the Libraries’ care complete sets of John James Audubon’s The Birds of America, the first, double elephant folio edition (with viewers, r.), Viviparous Quadrupeds of America, the first imperial folio sets of 155 color lithographs, and a collection of related manuscript items, 1829–1843.
**Publications (continued)**

Updated and reprinted; available free of charge by contacting the Office of the Director, SIL. More than 2,000 copies of earlier editions have been distributed.

[SIL] Catalog of the Library of the National Museum of African Art Branch of the Smithsonian Institution Libraries, Boston: G. K. Hall & Co., 1991. 2 vols., 1,665 pp., 17,000+ records. The records in this 2-volume set are derived from SIL's online computer records (on SIBIS) with entries arranged in dictionary format and convenient access provided by multiple listing of subjects, authors, titles, and series.

**Book Reviews**


**Libraries' Staff Publications**


---

**Users Committee Established**

In November 1990 Libraries' Director Barbara J. Smith established a Users Advisory Committee as a consultative advisory body. To reflect the pan-Institutional mission of the Libraries, members appointed by the SIL Director are selected from bureaus and offices reporting to the Assistant Secretaries for Science, for Arts and Humanities, for Education and Public Service, and for External Affairs. Committee members serve in alternating terms. Just completing a two-year appointment are Frank Ferrari (Museum Support Center), Sally Maran (Smithsonian magazine), Spencer Crew (National Museum of American History), and Victor Springer (National Museum of Natural History). Continuing members are Portia James (Anacostia Museum) and Peter Seitel (Folklife Programs) who replaced Art Molella (National Museum of American History) and Betsy Eisendrath (Office of Elementary and Secondary Education), members in the first year.

Among the matters that have been taken up by the committee are privacy of users' records (adopted as policy by the Libraries in November 1991), users' surveys, fund raising, and budget planning. Project Access (the Libraries' new electronic information service), book and paper preservation, and interlibrary loan and document delivery were discussed at this year's meetings.

---

**MUSEUM OF AFRICAN ART BRANCH LIBRARY CATALOG PUBLISHED.** Barbara J. Smith (center), SIL Director, shows published catalog of the Museum of African Art branch library to Sylvia H. Williams (l.), Director of the National Museum of African Art. African Art branch librarian Janet Stanley (r.) published the first bibliography in a series on the arts of Africa. See Publications (this page) for both the published branch library catalog and a review of Stanley's bibliography. (Museum of African Art photo by Jim Young)
New Resident Scholar Program for History of Science and Technology Research

WITH SUPPORT FROM THE DIBNER FUND, the Libraries made its first awards in the new SIL/Dibner Library Resident Scholar Program in January. Michael P. Kucher, doctoral candidate in the Department of History, University of Delaware, came to SIL in April to conduct research on technical writers in the early Renaissance, and Gregory Dreicer, graduate student in the Department of Science and Technology Studies at Cornell University, arrived in June to study the development and transmission of information on engineering technologies in the 19th century. Both scholars expect to spend three months working in the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology and in relevant collections elsewhere in the Libraries’ system. The awards are designed to encourage study of the history of science and technology. The program is administered with the cooperation of the Smithsonian Office of Fellowships and Grants. Nancy E. Gwinn, Assistant Director, Collections Management, is managing the program for SIL. Ellen B. Wells, head, Special Collections Department, served on the selection committee with Steven Lubar, Department of the History of Science and Technology, National Museum of American History, and Sharon Nishiaki, Office of Fellowships and Grants. Core holdings in the Dibner Library were collected by the late Dr. Bern Dibner and donated to the Smithsonian Institution by the Burndy Library of Norwalk, Connecticut, in 1976.

Gifts, from p. 1

An extremely valuable compilation of unpublished plates for Thomas Martyn’s *Universal Conchologist* (1784) was donated by M. G. Harasewych, curator of Invertebrate Zoology, National Museum of Natural History (see right).

This newsletter will regularly feature noteworthy gifts to the collections and will acknowledge financial support received from individuals, foundations, and corporations. In Fiscal Year 1991 benefactors contributed $13,873. With $110,825 awarded from two grants (see Development Watch, p. 3), the Libraries received a grand total of $124,698 in private support last year.

The coupon below invites your cash contribution.

---

**Publications (continued)**


---

M. G. Harasewych with Ellen Wells, Special Collections librarian.
Calendar of Exhibitions

**SIL Exhibition Gallery**
National Museum of American History, first floor, west wing

- Through September 18, 1992
  - **World’s Fairs**
    - Robert W. Rydell, Curator
    - With support from the Special Exhibition Fund

- Opening October 12, 1992
  - **Science in the Age of Columbus**
    - Ellen B. Wells, Curator
    - With support from The Dibner Fund

**SIL Library Hall**
National Museum of Natural History, first floor, east hall

- Through July 13, 1992
  - **Facsimiles of Mexican Manuscripts in the Anthropology Library**
    - Mary Kay Davies and Ellen B. Wells, Curators

- Opening August 1992
  - **Cristobal, Christoforo, Christopher: Images of Columbus**
    - from the National Museum of American History Library
    - Margaret D’Ambrosio and James Roan, Curators