

Founders' Type

A Newsletter of the Friends of the Northern
Illinois University Libraries

Issue no. 24
Summer 2000

*Books give not wisdom
where none was before,
But where some is, there
reading makes it more.*

-- Sir John Harrington:
Epigrams I

Up-coming Program:

*Nelson Algren: Chicago,
the Radical Vision*

Presented by: Dr. James Giles
Wednesday, September 20,
2000, 7:30pm
**Staff Lounge, Founders
Memorial Library (Lower Level)**

The Friends web-site:
<http://libws66.lib.niu.edu/friends/>

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From the President ...

Happy 18th birthday to our FNIUL! Having just completed the roster of 1999-2000 programs and special events, our worthy organization heads into next

fall with membership strength, quality resources, an energetic board, respect from the academic community and a history of growth. Joining this impressive group as head of Special Collections is GLEN GILDEMEISTER, who has graciously expanded his ongoing responsibilities as director of the Regional History Center and the University Archives to help us out. Welcome, Glen!

But before looking ahead to next year, it's worth taking a quick look at the past. And, the people who helped orchestrate our most recent past—1999-2000—deserve our appreciation. Many thanks to our program presenters: Craig Abbott, Thomas Joyce, Beth Witherell, and Thomas Woodstrup for sharing their expertise, time and enthusiasm with us. And thanks also to the FNIUL Board—Byron Anderson, William Blair, Rodney Borstad, Ralph Crafton, Rosalie Hewitt, Harriett Kallich, Ron Klein, Sam Manivong, Jerry Zar and ex-officio member Art Young, as well as special help from Mark Williams and Kathy Sherman, and an aer-o-gram thanks to Sam Huang. And last, but definitely not least, thanks to our supportive membership.

It's interesting (as well as wonderful for us) that the first president of FNIUL and the president for this coming year of 2000-2001 are one and the same: Ronald Klein, who has been a part of FNIUL since its beginning. Ron joined Verna Beardsley, William DuBois, Kathleen Eyster, Martin Kallich, Mary Gaither Marshall, Eleanor Price, Peggy Sullivan, and Maryann Ziemer as part of the first FNIUL board. Besides his "other life" as attorney, book collector, and gourmet, Ron served as president for the first four years FNIUL was in existence, and then once again somewhere in the middle. His life-long love of books caused him to become involved at FNIUL's onset and has kept him working behind the scenes to make our organization successful. (Perhaps the only downside of Ron's interest in books is his wife Karen's observation, that "Every book Ron collects enters the house dusty.")

Getting together with lots of people who revere "dusty" books and serving as president this past year for FNIUL has been extremely enjoyable for me. Oliver Goldsmith in *She Stoops to Conquer* said: "I love everything that's old; old friends, old times, old manners, old books, old wines." I would agree with him. Have a happy summer.

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Christa Even

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Sam Manivong

Jo Monat

Jerrold Zar

Newsletter Staff

Glen Gildemeister

Kathy Sherman

Mark A. Williams

Friends' Board Elections

The Friends of NIU Libraries Board met at the Country Inn Restaurant on April 27, 2000, to vote on the Board nominations for the next academic year. The following is the new Board for the 2000-2001 academic year:

Ron Klein	-	President
Christa Even	-	Vice President
Byron Anderson	-	Secretary
Mark Williams	-	Treasurer
Sam Manivong	-	Publicity
Ralph Crafton	-	Program Committee Chair & President-Elect
Rosalie Hewitt	-	Program Committee
Harriett Kallich	-	Program Committee
Linda Schwarz	-	Program Committee
Jerrold Zar	-	Program Committee

Members at Large

Marc Allen (2000-2003)

William Blair (1999-2002)

Rodney Borstad (2000-2003)

Ralph Crafton (1998-2001)

Barbara Johnson-Wint (2000-2003)

Sam Manivong (1998-2001)

Jo Monat (2000-2003)

Jerrold Zar (1998-2001)

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Submissions for the NEXT edition of *Founders' Type* are welcome. All submissions will be considered and printed as space allows. Please direct any such materials to: Mark Williams, Northern Illinois University Libraries, DeKalb, IL 60115. All unsigned items are contributed by the editors.

Obituary

Maurine Cottew, former reference librarian at the Northern Illinois University Libraries, passed away on June 25, 2000, in Missouri at the age of 88. Ms. Cottew was a long-time employee of the NIU Libraries, until her retirement. A memorial fund has been established for Ms. Cottew. Contributions may be made by check or money order, payable to the Friends of NIU Libraries, with notation stating they are intended for the Maurine Cottew Memorial Fund. All contributions can be sent to the Friends of NIU Libraries, NIU Libraries, DeKalb, IL 60115.



Archives, Manuscripts, Rare Books, and Special Collections

An unsigned memorandum dated January 22, 1970 recently surfaced as I was preparing to add some new materials to the University Libraries Record Group held in the NIU Archives. It was an annotated blueprint

for the future entitled "Organization of the Special Collections Department of the University Library." It began plainly enough: "The Special Collections Department will be comprised of the following units: 1. University Archives, 2. Local History, 3. Specific collections (collection of collections), 4. Rare book and manuscript collection."

While all of these kinds of collections have been established and built over the past 30 years they have not shared a common roof. The University Archives and local history collections have been in the Regional History Center in Swen Parson Hall and the Rare Books and Special Collections in Founders Memorial Library. The opportunity presented by the upcoming major expansion of storage capability in the library basement will bring all these collections together at long last. The first phase of the expansion and renovation has already built a new reading room and offices for the Regional History Center on the fourth floor of the library. The completion of the second, larger phase, which will bring badly needed space for storage to the library, will allow moving the Center's archival and manuscript collections from Swen Parson Hall to Founders Memorial Library.

The eventual transfer of the archival records and merger of these closely related functions will provide the library with a unified location for all facets of historical and literary research, and, more importantly, will provide researchers with better access and more resources. Currently the staffs of both Rare Books and the Regional History Center are too small to provide any weekend or evening hours and, with the staffs combined in adjacent areas, we should be able to extend our welcome a bit. We will also benefit by sharing equipment, supplies, and space.

All of these collections also depend in large measure on

donations, and many of you have worked with the various collections to help us strengthen our holdings. Pulling the archives, rare books, manuscripts, and special collections together will also provide us much better synergy in the continued effort to build our collections. Many of the collections we look at in the field have print, manuscript, and archival materials combined. By bringing to bear the expertise of the rare book librarian with the manuscript curator and the archival specialist we can provide better services both to the donors and to the researchers.

While new construction always brings a myriad of problems and moving 5,000 linear shelf feet of historical records is not easy, all of us are looking forward to the changes coming in the next few years. The challenges are as exciting as the opportunities these changes will provide for us and for our researchers. What is most exciting is to see the product of all this work, a major research facility on the fourth floor which can offer primary source materials as disparate as a palm leaf manuscript, a Civil War diary, a rare copy of a dime novel, the literary manuscripts of a premier African American writer, or the magnificent Curtis prints of native Americans.

The Friends of NIU Libraries have always worked closely with the Regional History Center as well as with Rare Books and Special Collections. I look forward with great eagerness to continuing and strengthening that relationship in the future. The Friends will continue to find a warm welcome with us and we hope you will come up to visit and check on progress from time to time. We are currently engaged in a national search for a Rare Books Librarian and expect to conclude that within the next six months. And, no doubt, we will have a gala "grand opening" when all the construction and moving is done. But there is no need for you to wait; the collections are here now, just waiting your visit. Stop by and see us sometime!

-Glen Gildemeister, Director
Regional History Center, Rare Books and Special Collections

Witherell Presents Thoreau Project



Why a new edition of the writings of Henry David Thoreau? This question was posed as part the fourth and final presentation in the Friends of NIU Libraries 1999-2000 program series. Entitled "Thoreau in the Library," the speaker, Dr. Elizabeth Witherell, was introduced by Lihong Xie, Assistant Editor of the Thoreau Editions Project. Dr. Witherell has been associated with the project since 1974, and for the past 20 years has served as Chief

Editor. The Project came to the Northern Illinois University Libraries in 1999 from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Thoreau in the Library has a double meaning. Thoreau made a lot of use of the libraries in his day, and now libraries provide access to his writings, help preserve his work, and provide support for efforts like the Thoreau Project. Thoreau was able to get borrowing privileges to the Harvard University library (the largest academic library then as now), made use of other private libraries, including Ralph Waldo Emerson's, and built his own library composed of over 400 volumes.


Founded in 1966, the goal of The Thoreau Edition is to recover the lost words of one of America's most influential writers and to answer the pressing need for a complete, definitive, annotated and readily available edition of his writings. The series will present a new scholarly study of Thoreau's writings in a text that is as close to Thoreau as possible. This new edition will appeal to the scholar, but will also be of interest to the general reader. The series, entitled The Writings of Henry David Thoreau, is being published by Princeton University Press with financial support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. To date, 12 volumes out of a projected 30 have been printed. These texts differ from their predecessors, either because they contain previously unpublished manuscript material or because they correct and augment texts already in the Thoreau canon.

By the end of his life, Thoreau had authored only two books, *A Week on the Concord and Merrimac Rivers* and *Walden's Pond*, and a handful of essays. Yet, he was a prodigious writer. Thoreau's writings are found in his journal, correspondence, and manuscripts. The original manuscripts were sent out to a firm where four women spent two years transcribing. When completed, the original copies were most likely tossed out. The transcription had many inaccuracies, both in grammar and punctuation, and the text did not represent Thoreau accurately. The transcriptions were further complicated by Thoreau's handwriting, said to come from "a miserable hand." Thoreau had no heirs to keep his papers, and eventually his writings were divided among collectors W. A. White, W. K. Bixby, Steven Wakeman and Houghton Mifflin.

Early editions of Thoreau's work came from these collections, especially from Houghton Mifflin. The 20-volume 1906 set of Thoreau's writings, the only edition that attempts completeness, represents about half of the material now available. Editors picked out what they wanted and left the rest behind; for example, Thoreau's careful observation and recording of plants was edited out of his published journal. Other editors would eliminate potentially offensive segments, for example, Thoreau's writing on pantheism. Each publisher of Thoreau's writing had a format and design style that altered what the author said. Punctuation was sometimes changed that in turn changed the meaning. The Thoreau Project will attempt to correct these inaccuracies. Ultimately, the project's editors would like to place on the Internet a copy of the original manuscript side-by-side with the translated copy; however, the expense is prohibitive at this time.

The offices of the Thoreau Editions Project are located in Founders Memorial Library, Room 337. Friends are welcome to visit in person or browse the Web site at <http://libws66.lib.niu.edu/thoreau/>.

--Byron Anderson



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A Welcome to the NIU Libraries' New Website

In what has become an annual late spring / early summer ritual, the University Libraries presents the new look for its website. The first stage of this ritual involves looking at what other libraries are doing, re-examining both the positive and negative comments we have received about the current website, and peering into our cracked crystal ball to predict the improvements in library web design. Then we begin writing code, previewing, reviewing and tweaking the new design until it is just right. This year, however, the ritual took a different course.

As if to celebrate the start of a new millennium, the review process included not only the design but also the very way the website works. In the five years since its initial launch in 1995, the Libraries' website has exploded in the number of web-based resources it offers. The first website had no electronic journals, and FirstSearch was the sole provider

In the five years since its initial launch in 1995, the Libraries' website has exploded in the number of web-based resources it offers.

of web-based indexes and abstracts. Today the website offers access to over 5,000 electronic journals and 102 web-based indexes and abstracts. We also have developed an elaborate subject-based collection of recommended websites for our patrons. Additionally, there are patrons' forms for interlibrary loan requests, book recommendations, and reference assistance. While such growth can be unruly to manage, it has moved the University Libraries from a physical entity on campus, to a library that is available 24/7 to our patrons who are themselves evolving from on-campus patrons to remote users of the Libraries' resources.

Let's take a closer look at the new website:

The first immediate change is the opening page. Instead of launching to a graphically intense page, the patron is asked to choose graphics or text. The text option is provided primarily for patrons with disabilities who must use screen readers. The content of the site is the same in either environment. In this article we will concentrate on the graphic version of the Libraries' website.

The opening page of the graphic website presents the user with the basic schema of the website. The links in the left-hand column are travelling links which connect the user to the second level of the website, and the links in the center of the page are unique to that page. The graphic version of the website is much improved over earlier versions, thanks in great part to Charles Larry, subject specialist for the performing arts. Professor Larry has created a unifying look for the whole website. His design is intended to be visually appealing while providing efficient use of space.

On this first page are the first of many new links that provide the patron with more information about Libraries happenings. The four new links are: E-CRIER, SITEMAP, NEW AT THE LIBRARIES and WEBSITE OF THE MONTH.

E-CRIER is a listserv the Libraries has established for anyone interested in receiving information about new services, and new databases directly to their electronic mailboxes. Click on E-CRIER to receive further information about subscribing.

SITEMAP is a list of what appears under each left-hand column link. If you are not sure where an informational link would be found, try the SITEMAP link.

NEW AT THE LIBRARIES is an updating service. Here you will find a link to the NEW BOOK TITLES the Libraries have purchased for the previous month broken down by Library of Congress Classification and also by special location such as Faraday, Map, Music and the satellite campuses. You can also discover what new web-based resources the Libraries have purchased under NEW DATABASES. Clicking on NEW SERVICES will reveal the Libraries' most recent outreach services. Finally, meet new library faculty and staff with a click on NEW EMPLOYEES.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH will be an interesting link to visit each month. In the near future we will be asking our patrons to

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continued on page 6 ...

recommend websites they have found useful or interesting in their travels through the Internet. Each suggested site will be examined, with the best linked for a month. We will create an archive of past sites. So start considering your favorite websites for possible inclusion!

The links in the left-hand column are the travelling links. We have tried to make the text on these links as clear as possible—a difficult task, which will never be completely finished. The arrangement of these links is also an ongoing point of discussion, but for now the links are sorted from most requested information to least.

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take you to its individual page, providing you with not only hours but also, for Hoffman Estates and Rockford, directional maps and contact information for the library. Our new Naperville link will have this information available soon.

Is it Illinet Online, IO, “Online Catalogs,” or “Books at NIU?” The next link **ONLINE CATALOGS** is perhaps the most discussed text found on the website. This link connects you to Illinet Online (the online card catalog for our collection at NIU and at 44 other libraries in the state of Illinois), **VIC** (Virtual Illinois Card—the online card catalog for other libraries not included in Illinet Online), and **WorldCat** (an online card catalog that includes the world). While the discussion continues about its naming convention, this link will help you find material at NIU, throughout the state of Illinois, and from around the world.

Doing research and need to locate research materials in your subject area? Check out **RESEARCH DATABASES**. You will find an alphabetical list of the 102 web-based indexes and abstracts to which the Libraries subscribe, and a link to subject-based recommended websites. The **GENERAL REFERENCE TOOLS** link will provide you with a list of basic reference sources—style sheets, almanacs, and currency converters to name a few. This is one area of the website

that will be undergoing major change throughout the next year. We will be adding searching capabilities to the indexes and abstracts section, allowing a patron to search by title and by broad subject area. Watch for this in the coming months.

As I mentioned before, the Libraries have access to over 5,000 electronic journal titles in addition to the 13,000+ print serials. To help our remote patrons, our new link, “Journals,” will provide the location and information for all 18,000+ titles. In the future, our patrons will be able to search all of these entries by title, by subject, and by format.

Looking for a subject specialist in your area? Need to know what the guidelines are for E-Reserves? Wonder what is in the Libraries Collection Development policy? Click on **PATRON SERVICES**. Under this moniker we have brought together policies, faculty/staff contact information, and guidelines for each of the major areas of service in the Libraries. It’s a one-stop-shopping place for internal Libraries information!

The next six links provide a connection to the Libraries’ special collection areas, and partnerships the Libraries are involved with. We are a federal depository library, and therefore we automatically receive 85% of all materials printed by the federal government. Interested in the history of the university or the region? The **REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER** link will give a quick overview of the variety of information available to answer your questions. Under the **SPECIAL COLLECTIONS** link are links to our Rare Books and Special Collections and our Southeast Asia Collection. The Southeast Asia Collection is one of the strongest collections of this type of material in the nation. Our Rare Books and Special Collections area has extensive collections in dime novels, science fiction, writers of the 19th century, and Horatio Alger.

In the last three years, the University Libraries have gained a national reputation for our digital projects. The **DIGITAL PROJECT** link provides access to the Lincoln Digitization Project (including all manner of information about President Abraham Lincoln during his Illinois years), Illinois



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Periodicals Online (we are digitizing and indexing magazines and journals with an Illinois focus published in the state), and a new project, the Beadle and Adams project (a leading 19th century publishing house of dime novels, a recent area of great interest to historians). You will also find a link to the

COOPERATIVE COLLECTION MANAGEMENT program is a statewide effort to create centers of collection strengths in its member libraries. Their site provides an overview of the consortium's activities.

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Electronic Text Center. The Libraries are offering to work with and provide access to our equipment for NIU faculty who are interested in digitizing material for curricular or research purposes.

The website for the award-winning Friends of NIU Libraries can be found under LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT AND FRIENDS OF NIU LIBRARIES. This section of the website is still under construction—visit this site later in the coming year.


The THOREAU PROJECT is a national effort to transcribe from original manuscripts the writings of Henry David Thoreau. Their website will give you insight into this momentous project.

That's a quick tour of the new graphic version of the website. We have re-arranged many of the links, presented the information in new ways, and enhanced what is available. We continue to strive to create a friendly place for our NIU patrons on the Internet. As webmaster for the site, I encourage people to use the site and to send comments to me through the ASK A LIBRARIAN form. You will also want to keep watch—in the next 18 to 24 months, the website will be gone, replaced by, hopefully, a more user-centered and user-friendly site.

The University Libraries participate actively in numerous consortiums both within Illinois and outside Illinois. The

- T. J. Lusher
 Associate Dean for Automated Library Systems

MEMBERSHIP



The Friends of the Northern Illinois University Libraries provide support to the libraries in many ways. Membership dues are placed in an endowment fund, the interest income from which is used for the purchase of books and materials the libraries could not otherwise afford. The Friends hold a program series every academic year with a variety of speakers on interesting topics. These programs are free to members and their guests. Every April, the Friends hold their Annual Book Sale. Books that are donated to the library for the book sale are sold to the public. Proceeds from this event are placed in the endowment fund. We are very proud of our Friends group because their activities benefit and strengthen our libraries and the University. If you are already a Friend, please share this newsletter with a friend or colleague, or consider giving a membership in the Friends as a gift.

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 - Junction Book Store, DeKalb.
 - Heartland Books, Woodstock.
 - Ed Ripp Fine Art Books, Chicago.
 - The Book Rack, St. Charles.

Please clip this section and return to: Friends of the NIU Libraries, c/o Mark A. Williams, University Libraries, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115

Upcoming Programs

Mark your calendars for these exciting programs!

Title: *Nelson Algren: Chicago, the Radical Vision*

Presenter: Dr. James Giles

Wednesday, September 20, 2000, 7:30pm

Staff Lounge, Founders Memorial Library (Lower Level)

Title: *The Art of Book Binding and Preserving*

Presenter: Matt Eggleston

Wednesday, October 18, 2000, 7:30pm

Staff Lounge, Founders Memorial Library (Lower Level)

Title: *History of Illinois Valleys*

Presenter: Mr. Steve Stout

Wednesday, February 21, 2001, 7:00pm

Ellwood House, DeKalb. Dessert buffet provided by Country Inn Restaurant (reservation and advance payment required)

Title: *The First American Civil War: Violence in the Countryside, 1775-1783*

Presenter: Dr. Allan Kulikoff

Thursday, April 12, 2001, 7:30pm

Staff Lounge, Founders Memorial Library (Lower Level)

Annual Book Sale

April 17-19, 2001, Lobby, Founders Memorial Library

Ice Cream Social

April 27, 2001

Rare Books & Special Collections

Founders Memorial Library

For more information, please call (815) 753-9838 or email libraryfriend@niu.edu.

Welcome New Members!

Family: Bob & Roberta Burk, Susan Drow and Tim Griffin, and Carol Furpahs & Steve Mikals.

Individual: Patricia Dieck, Victor Dzinounik, Richard Green, Julia Olsen, Leticia Olvera, and Steven Roman.

Student: April Arrecis, Christian Arrecis, Marcella Beacham, David Bell, Steven Chorak, Rebecca Cooper, John Garcia, Tonita Long, Daniel Lupash, and Cheng Wang.

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