2002

Volume 8, Number 1: February/March 2002

Suzanne Zack
University of Connecticut - Storrs, suzanne.zack@uconn.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.uconn.edu/libr_news

Part of the Library and Information Science Commons

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.uconn.edu/libr_news/31
Charles Olson's Investigative Work on Melville's Library
Unveils a New Resource for Melville Scholarship

Herman Melville (1819-1891), author of Moby Dick and other important nineteen-century novels, occupies such a lofty position in the American literary canon today that it is often hard for us to remember that he died in obscurity, having failed commercially as a novelist, magazine writer, lecturer, and poet. Today Melville is read and admired for his rich prose, his experimental narrative techniques, his deep insights into society and the individual, and his combination of evocative symbolism and searching questions about faith and absolute values.

Charles Olson (1910-1970), an innovative poet, literary theorist, and essayist whose work had an international influence on young writers during the 1950s and 1960s, began a serious study of the life and works of Herman Melville while a graduate student at Wesleyan University in the early 1950s. Olson’s Master’s thesis, The Growth of Herman Melville, Poet Writer and Poetic Thinker, was completed in 1953, but his work on Melville continued. After his death in 1970, Olson’s papers became part of the Literary Archives in Archives & Special Collections at the University of Connecticut.

Olson was one of the first scholars to consider the importance of Melville’s reading and marginalia. In the 1950s, Melville’s surviving literary manuscripts, letters, personal papers and journals, and reading library were still, for the most part, in the possession of the family and a few institutional or private collectors. The most substantial collection of Melville materials uncaptured at that point—and the materials that Olson pursued most vigorously—were the “lost five hundred,” the approximate number of books Melville’s widow had sold to a Brooklyn dealer in 1892.

As a young scholar, Olson was indefatigable in his research. When he located a volume from Melville’s library in a grand-daughter’s home, in private collector’s hands, or on a public library’s shelves, Olson carefully transcribed onto 5 x 7-inch note cards complete bibliographic information on the volume, as well as the content and location of Melville’s annotations and reading marks. Charles Olson’s note cards are, in a few important instances, the only account of Melville’s reading marks in books whose location is now unknown. Olson’s notes also provide scholars with Melville’s marginalia in volumes currently in private hands and not readily available to scholars.

In addition to the note cards on books from Melville’s library, there are two other groups of cards in the Literary Archives at the University of Connecticut. On one group of cards Olson captured his notes of interviews and recorded his observations.

Charles Olson’s note cards are, in a few important instances, the only account of Melville’s reading marks in books whose location is now unknown. Olson’s notes also provide scholars with Melville’s marginalia in volumes currently in private hands and not readily available to scholars. Photo: Charles Olson in the 1950s, from the Olson Archive in Special Collections & Archives, University of Connecticut.
Harry Potter Books Most Popular In Leisure Reading Collection

In the first four months of its existence, the Leisure Reading Collection has proved itself a valued new service at the Homer Babbidge Library. Of five hundred and fifty-four books in the collection, three hundred and thirteen have been borrowed over seven hundred times. The champion of all, the hero that seldom spends any time on the shelf, is Harry Potter. J.K. Rowling's young Muggle turned Hogwarts has become a favorite of college students everywhere. Two copies of each of the four titles account for sixty-seven of the total circulations.

What do these Harry Potter stories that resonates with young adults? Perhaps it is the youth/adult relationships developed in the books. Professor Albus Dumbledore, the one hundred and fifty year old headmaster of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, is tall and thin with a long crooked nose and flowing silver hair and beard. Much like Gandalf from Tolkien's Lord of the Rings, Dumbledore is eccentric and wise but also Patient and forgiving and has a wonderful sense of humor. The books are filled with his wisdom. Here are a few examples:

• “It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities.”
• “You fail to recognize that it matters not what we remember. What matters is what we choose to remember.”
• “It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities.”
• “You fail to recognize that it matters not what we remember. What matters is what we choose to remember.”

Dumbledore helps Harry grow in many ways on his adventure through young adulthood. No wonder these books have become so treasured. Undergraduate students were our target audience when the Leisure Reading Collection was established. As you can see from the list below, the collection has proved popular with that audience but is enjoyed by other patron groups as well. In the first four months, circulation by patron group breaks down as follows:

- Undergrads: 48%
- Grad Students: 20%
- Faculty/Staff/Retirees: 22%
- Other:

- Books by John Grisham, Sandra Brown, Nora Roberts, Danielle Steel, and Stephen King have spent lots of time outside the library walls as well. Popular nonfiction has included biographies of sports people, political and news topics, and books on understanding the human condition. Science Fiction/Fantasy and Suspense were also well traveled.

During the spring semester, we'll be gathering opinions from Leisure Collection users by posting monthly questions in the Broughton Reading Room. How do they feel about the two-week loan period limit? What other nonfiction topics would be of interest? Besides the Latin American popular fiction guide already posted, what other cultures are of special interest to our users? This information will help us to evaluate, adjust, and improve the collection and service.

In coming months, the collection will become more current. We began with a leased core collection of about four hundred books published between 1996 and 2000, and we've returned about two hundred titles that did not circulate—mostly older books. Each month, at least twenty new titles arrive, mainly the top five titles from The New York Times best sellers list. It would appear that these are the books readers want most. As we refine the collection, we'll keep Dumbledore's advice in mind: “... it matters not what someone is born, but what they grow to be!”

Kathy Labadorf, Research & Information Services

Mellon Awards $700,000 for ANC Archives Project

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded a follow-up grant of $700,000 to the University of Connecticut, continuing its support for the preservation of and access to the archives of the African National Congress. The new grant comes on the heels of an earlier grant of $655,000 from the foundation, awarded in June 2000.

Initial funding supported a planning meeting for project partners' staff in South Africa in May 2001, hiring of a South African archives coordinator working at ANC headquarters in Johannesburg, initiation of an oral history program to record ANC leaders and party members, and a planning grant for the archival phase of the project.

Funds from the second award will be used to organize the enormous archive created by the ANC in its struggle to overcome apartheid. Project partners — UConn, the ANC, and the University of Fort Hare — will hire additional staff with grant funds. The University of Connecticut will provide technical assistance for the project and manage the grant funds, but most of the money will support work being conducted primarily in South Africa in the next three years. There, up to ten staff will organize, catalog, and preserve materials at the ANC Archives in Johannesburg and at the University of Fort Hare in Alice. Funds also will be used to purchase supplies and equipment needed to ensure the long-term preservation of the archives.

The grant will enable the Dodd Research Center to hire a staff member to seek out ANC-related material in North America for repatriation or copying for the ANC Archives, and to locate anti-apartheid related material for inclusion in the human rights archives being developed at the Dodd Research Center.

“ask Homer Live” Offers Online Reference Help

The University Libraries are experimenting with a new way to improve communications with students, faculty and staff: online reference assistance. Initiated as a pilot project the last spring, “ask Homer Live” offers Internet access to reference librarians Monday through Friday, 1-4 PM.

ask Homer Live is one of the innovative ways library staff are responding to the changing needs of its clientele who need help finding information and using the Libraries’ electronic resources from computers inside or outside the library. With no geographical limitations, the new service utilizes volunteer staff and the LivePerson.com software to quickly communicate and “push” useful web pages and images to library users over the Internet.

Using ask Homer Live is fast, friendly, and easy. From the library’s home page at http://www.lib.uconn.edu, select “ask Homer Online Reference Help” under the Help heading and choose ask Homer Live. It is recommended that patrons use computers on the UConn network or obtain information on a proxy address at http://helpdesk.uconn.edu/proxy/html/proxacer.html so access to the library’s “pushed” database pages is assured.

Library users in need of assistance can continue to visit in person, call on the phone (860-486-2513), or ask questions by email at http://norman.lib.uconn.edu/askHomer/
The crew of New Haven Railroad’s Yankee Clipper help sell bonds during World War II on this cover from the August 1942 Along the Line. In three separate donations, the Railroad Archive in Archives & Special Collections has acquired an almost complete set of the New Haven Railroad employee publication Along the Line. Published from 1924 to 1953, and picking up again in the 1980s, this series featured articles about the history of the railroad, the businesses that the railroad served, and the cities its line passed through. During World War II, Along the Line published updates about railroad employees at the war front, as well as articles detailing the efforts of employees at home to support the war with such causes as buying war bonds and transporting important war supplies.

Archives & Special Collections is grateful to donors Louis T. Doerr, Jr. of Hamden, Connecticut; George Doer of Clinton, Connecticut; Harry Chase of Mansfield, Massachusetts, and Peter Luedee of Meriden, Connecticut, for their generous gifts of the issues of Along the Line to the Railroad Archive. The collection is not yet complete. If you have issues that you would like to donate from your personal collection, please contact curator Laura Katz Smith at 860-486-2516 or laura.katz.smith@uconn.edu to see what gaps need to be filled.

A Teacher’s Legacy

The University Libraries will join with many of his former students to honor Professor of Art Emeritus Roger L. Crossgrove with a special exhibit from March 24- May 25. Since his retirement in 1988, Roger has established a strong bond with the University Libraries through his support for the Northeast Children’s Literature Collection, by his membership on the University Libraries’ Exhibits Committee, and in the planning of the annual Children’s Book Fair. “A Teacher’s Legacy” will acknowledge Roger’s major impact as a teacher and mentor on the careers of a significant number of artists during his fifteen years at the Pratt Institute in New York and at UConn’s School of Fine Arts, where he taught for twenty years.

Work from more than forty of Roger’s former students will be displayed in the four exhibit areas of the Babbidge Library and the Dodd Research Center, and an exhibit of Roger’s own work will be shown concurrently in the William Benton Museum of Art. A reception is planned for Sunday, April 14, from 2-5 PM. Please join us for this very special event.

Along the Line

The final Edwin Way Teale Lecture of the year will be presented on April 17 at 4 PM in the Konover Auditorium at the Dodd Research Center. Gretchan Daily will speak on “Forecasting the Future of Biodiversity in a Human-Dominated World.”

Robert Hurwitt, writing in Mother Jones, describes Daily, at 29, as “a rising star of population biology.” She is Bing Interdisciplinary Scientist, Department of Biological Sciences, and Director of Tropical Research of the Center for Conservation Biology at Stanford University. Dr. Daily is developing a scientific basis, along with political and institutional support, for managing Earth’s life support systems. Honors include the Frances Lou Kallman Award for Excellence in Science and Graduate Study, Pew Fellow in Conservation and the Environment, Fellow of the Aldo Leopold Leadership Program, and 21st Century Scientist. She serves as a Presidential Advisor on Science and Technology and advisory board member of the Millennium Assessment. Dr. Daily has published over 100 scientific articles, and is editor of books such as Nature’s Services: Societal Dependence on Natural Ecosystems, and The Stork and the Plow: The Equity Solution to the Human Dilemma. For more information, see http://www.stanford.edu/group/CCB/staff/gretchan.htm.

The Teale Lecture Series is sponsored by the Offices of the President, the Chancellor, the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Graduate School, and numerous other academic departments.

Extended Loan Policies to Change in April

Nancy Orth, Head, Access Services

T o make circulating books more readily available to the entire university community, especially to undergraduates, the University Libraries will implement a new Extended Loan (EL) policy in April. The new policy applies to faculty, graduate students, staff, and retirees, who will be required to renew or return books every three months. Under the new policy, a book will be due 90 days after it is checked out. Borrowers may renew the book electronically up to three times (providing that no other user has requested it) before it must be brought back to the library for discharge or renewal.

Under current EL policy, borrowers need return or renew books only once a year, by the last day of spring semester final exams. This liberal policy has caused sizable parts of subject collections to be absent from the shelves for long periods of time because borrowers typically do not assess their need for the materials they have checked out until they are due, i.e., once a year.

All university borrowers may request the return of a circulating book via the recall process, but we have learned that most undergraduates don’t use this service. They are not always aware of it, may not understand it, and it usually takes too long to meet their “just in time” needs.

Our goal in changing the EL policy is to ensure that books are on the shelf and available if they are not being used. Our hope is that borrowers will evaluate their need for the books they have checked out frequently and will return them if they are no longer needed. We want to achieve a more equitable way of sharing the collections with the entire community.

To make compliance with the new policy as easy as possible, the Libraries will notify borrowers by e-mail two weeks prior to the due date a book is due to allow time either for electronic renewal or its return. Electronic self-renewal is straightforward. It can be accomplished from anywhere in the world and does not require the borrower to have the book in hand to do it. The library also will promote the recall process aggressively to undergraduates and will strengthen enforcement of the recall process by increasing the recall fine rate from $1 to $5 a day and by raising the maximum recall fine from $15 to $50.

At the same time, the library will eliminate overdue fines and institute a $15 Late Return/Billing Fee if a book becomes long overdue (28 days). Elimination of daily overdue fines in favor of a strong recall policy is a growing trend in university libraries striving to provide maximum availability of circulating materials to their users.

We believe the new policy will not only enhance circulation service for the entire community, but also will bring us into line with our goal of providing maximum access to circulating materials and make our practices more consistent with best practices at peer institutions.

Prior to adopting these policy changes, the Libraries thoroughly reviewed current practice at research libraries across the nation and did an in-depth assessment of optimal service for circulation of library materials. The changes have been discussed fully with the Chancellor’s Library Advisory Committee (CLAC), which endorsed them unanimously. The endorsement was presented to the University Senate last spring as part of CLAC’s annual report. The changes also have been presented to the Student Library Advisory Committee.

Prior to mid-April, the Libraries will mail current EL borrowers their EL inventories along with detailed information on how the change in policy will be implemented. Borrowers will experience very little change in the annual return/renewal process this spring.

The University Libraries continually assess and revise policies to enhance service. Our goals in respect to circulation of materials are to meet the research needs of faculty and graduate students and the learning needs of undergraduate students, while protecting and preserving the collections for current and future users. We believe the new loan policy moves us closer to these goals.

We want to achieve a more equitable way of sharing the collections with the entire community, but also will bring us into line with our goal of providing maximum access to circulating materials and make our practices more consistent with best practices at peer institutions.

Prior to adopting these policy changes, the Libraries thoroughly reviewed current practice at research libraries across the nation and did an in-depth assessment of optimal service for circulation of library materials. The changes have been discussed fully with the Chancellor’s Library Advisory Committee (CLAC), which endorsed them unanimously. The endorsement was presented to the University Senate last spring as part of CLAC’s annual report. The changes also have been presented to the Student Library Advisory Committee.

Prior to mid-April, the Libraries will mail current EL borrowers their EL inventories along with detailed information on how the change in policy will be implemented. Borrowers will experience very little change in the annual return/renewal process this spring.

The University Libraries continually assess and revise policies to enhance service. Our goals in respect to circulation of materials are to meet the research needs of faculty and graduate students and the learning needs of undergraduate students, while protecting and preserving the collections for current and future users. We believe the new loan policy moves us closer to these goals.

Our goals in respect to circulation of materials are to meet the research needs of faculty and graduate students and the learning needs of undergraduate students, while protecting and preserving the collections for current and future users.

Leal's New Haven Railroad in the 1940s.
Herman Melville at UConn
Continued from page 1

astonishingly thorough methods for tracking down relatives of those known or thought to have bought books from Melville’s library. Other note cards were used by Olson to record his reading and critical notes on Melville’s published works. In all, nearly 1100 note cards survive.

Unfortunately, when Olson moved away from Melville scholarship after the publication of Call Me Ishmael (1947), he stored the results of his investigative work in a trunk in a friend’s basement. Countless water leaks over the years damaged the note cards containing the transcriptions and research notes. Some cards were merely soiled; others were fused together in large blocks. After the University of Connecticut purchased the Olson papers in 1973, the note cards were stored separately while awaiting appropriate preservation measures.

With the expectation that researchers would find this material of interest, in 1999 I began to plan for access to these previously unavailable resources. During that same year, Dennis Marnon, a visiting scholar who was tracing Olson’s strategies for locating books from Melville’s library, asked to see the restricted note cards. After examining, under curatorial supervision, a few cards that were not fused together, Marnon was able to determine the substantial research value of the cards and their potential importance for students of both Olson and Melville. Two of the cards in that first batch documented the full annotations in a book from Melville’s library whose location is no longer known.

Consequently, a small pilot project to separate, minimally clean, and scan some of the fused cards was undertaken in Spring 2000. Of the 60 randomly chosen cards, three cards recorded Olson’s notes on three previously unknown books from the Melville family library; others captured Olson’s interview notes with Melville descendants.

In the Fall of 2000 I submitted a grant proposal to the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, seeking support to complete the preservation of the remaining cards and to provide worldwide electronic access to Charles Olson’s pioneering investigative work via the World Wide Web. In December 2001, the Foundation awarded a grant of $40,000 for this purpose to Archives & Special Collections at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center. Debora Mayer, a well-known New England paper conservator with extensive experience working with primary materials, will separate and surface clean the 1100 note cards, which may take almost 400 hours to finish.

The cards will then be scanned at a resolution sufficient to allow presentation of each image at full size (5 x 7 inches) with the capacity for zoom enlargement. The scanned images will be linked to a database of information about each image: title; date; description; content-specific subject headings; actual transcription of each card; digital format, resolution, and file size; and image identification number. The images, transcriptions, and accompanying information will be presented on a database-enabled thematic web site from a server at the University of Connecticut Libraries. Scholars will, of course, also be welcome to use the cards themselves under supervision in the Dodd Research Center’s reading room.

Dennis Marnon, Administrative Officer at the Houghton Library, Harvard University, has agreed to assist with the project by providing the intellectual infrastructure necessary to understand Olson’s work in the context of Melville scholarship. He will also help with the transcription of Olson’s difficult script.

As coordinator of the project, which will be completed in early 2003, I would be pleased to discuss it with interested researchers. I can be reached at rutherford.witthus@uconn.edu or 860-486-4548.

September 11, 2001
Watercolor Paintings by Eda Easton

Most of us initially responded to the terrorist attacks on September 11 with tears, cathartic talking, and compulsive TV watching. But artist Eda Easton also turned to paint and paper to express her feelings. As she listened to news reports, she began drawing what she saw or imagined. In a series of six watercolor paintings on acrylic paper, Easton captures scenes of panic, escape, and the search for survivors.

As she writes in an artist statement: “I imagined the first wave of people trying to escape the doomed buildings and those who succeeded in getting away from the flames and falling debris. The agonizing and fruitless search for survivors during the next few days formed another image in my mind: how small people are in relation to a mountain of smoldering rubble which once represented two symbolically grand and proud buildings. It was amazing to see that New Yorkers, who are known to be narrowly focused and to ignore or even avoid each other, suddenly grouped together and communicated. It seems that a big price had to be paid to make this happen.”

In other images called “The Herd” and “The Crusade,” Easton worries about “the blind following of the people,” and questions the wisdom “to make war against an undefined and elusive enemy.”

Primarily a sculptor, Easton has exhibited widely in this country and abroad, and her work is held in many private and public collections. Her September 11 watercolors feature figures with mythic, sculptural qualities.

Space near the exhibit is provided for viewers’ comments on the September 11 events and their aftermath.

Babbidge Plaza, West Annex
Curators: Michele Palmer and Jane Recchio

World Ex Libris
Contemporary Bookplates

Artists have been creating bookplates since the fifteenth century, but it was not until 1922 that bookplate collectors from around the world founded The American Society of Bookplate Collectors and Designers. The society seeks “to cultivate the spirit of friendship and mutual helpfulness among collectors of bookplates; and to assist in the further development of the bookplate.” As part of its mission, the society brought together bookplates from 357 artists representing 37 countries for a recent annual meeting of the Federation Internationale des Societes d’Amateurs d’Ex Libris. A portion of that extensive exhibition is displayed in this exhibit.

Dodd Research Center, Corridor Gallery
Curator: Rutherford Witthus
Celebrating the Center
Continued from page 1

of programs to enhance the academic life of the campus. The Raymond and Beverly Sackler Distinguished Lecture Series has featured internationally renowned human rights leaders, such as Senator George Mitchell and Father Robert Drinan. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and former Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers have spoken on international commerce issues as Greenwich Capital Markets Economic Seminar lecturers. The Dodd Research Center collaborates with other university partners to sponsor the annual Edwin Way Teale Lecture Series on nature and the environment. The Connecticut Children’s Book Fair, sponsored each year with the UConn Co-op, enables readers to meet and talk with prominent writers and illustrators of children’s books. The Dodd Research Center promotes a number of important projects relating to human rights. In proposing that that center be named for his father, Senator Christopher Dodd intended that it would become a place where scholars would pursue his father’s legacy of support for international justice. Senator Thomas Dodd served as lead prosecutor at the Nuremberg Trials, an experience that affected him throughout his subsequent career. A series of programs focusing on human rights and international justice were presented for an entire year after the Dodd Research Center opened.

The focus on human rights has been extended to include the Dodd Program for the Study of Human Rights and International Justice and the Dodd Prize in Human Rights. Consistent with this theme, the Dodd Research Center is working with South Africa’s African National Congress to create an oral and written archive of that nation’s struggle against apartheid. The center’s director led the university’s Human Rights Semester project in the Fall of 2001, and many of the related programs were held in the center.

Recently, Connecticut History Online, a joint project among the Dodd Research Center, Mystic Seaport, and the Connecticut Historical Society, was launched with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This digital collection offers Internet access to more than 12,000 historic images of Connecticut, along with specially designed modules to support instruction.

In little more than six years, the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center has succeeded in enriching the cultural life and the educational experience of both the academic community and the citizens of Connecticut. It is proof that investments in facilities, ideas, and people can play a vital part in addressing the social and economic issues facing Connecticut, the nation, and the world.

Libraries Score 4.0 With Users
Brinley Franklin, Director, University Library Services

Actually, the Libraries scored 4.04 on a five point scale in overall user satisfaction based on preliminary aggregate results from a web-based user survey conducted last Fall. Nearly 1200 faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students participated in the survey, conducted by the library’s USER Team (Francine DeFranco, Carole Dyal, and Meredith Petersen). According to statistical consultant Susan Gilson, from the Neag School of Education’s Office of Research, Bureau of Educational Services, “more than 92% of the respondents indicated strong overall satisfaction with the library as indicated by a mean score of 4.0.”

The results from this survey represent a significant improvement in user satisfaction with library assistance, services, collections, equipment, and facilities. Undergraduates registered an average satisfaction score of 4.10, followed by faculty (4.00), graduate students (3.98), and doctoral students (3.92). Scores by user category on previous library user surveys were 3.67 (faculty, 1996); 3.47 (stirrers undergraduates, 1997); 3.61 (regional undergraduates, 1998); and 3.70 (graduate students, 1998-1999).

User satisfaction is the principal measure of how well a library is performing. In recent years, library staff have responded to major facilities renovations, rapid changes in information services delivery, budget pressures, student requests for increased hours, and increased demand for non-traditional library services. It is gratifying that library users report a significant increase in overall satisfaction, and it is a tribute to the dedicated efforts of the staff that these improvements have been achieved.

In response to previous user surveys and other user comments, the library has shortened our replacement cycle for photocopies; re-instituted an unbound journals browsing area; greatly expanded our offerings of full-text electronic journals; extended library hours on weekends and during final exams; and increased the number of public computers.

In coming months, the USER Team will perform an in-depth analysis of the user survey results and the library’s Leadership Council will respond with appropriate new programmatic priorities. Thanks to our users for participating in the survey and for your vote of confidence in the Libraries’ services, facilities, and collections.

Yes, I want to be a Friend!
I want to make a tax-deductible contribution to support the University of Connecticut Libraries in the amount of:

- Associate $50-$99
- Fellow $100-$499
- Curator $500-$999
- Patron $1,000-$4,999
- Benefactor $5,000-$9,999
- University Librarian’s Circle $10,000+

Total Amount Enclosed $_______

Name ______________________________
Address ______________________________
City __________________ State _______ Zip __________

Phone __________________________________

Please make checks payable to the UConn Foundation and mail to:

Friends of the UConn Libraries
Thomas J. Dodd Research Center
205 Babbidge Road
University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06269-1205

If you wish to discuss annual giving opportunities, long term commitments, or your interest in a special project or specific area, please contact Linda Perrone at linda.perrone@uconn.edu or (860) 480-0451.
Fritzi Batchelor, Head of the Libraries’ Information Technology Services, has announced her retirement from the University of Connecticut Libraries, effective April 1, 2002. Talented, devoted to her work, searching for excellence, committed to finding innovative ways to serve library users better—all of these characteristics came to mind when looking for words to describe Fritzi and her many contributions to the library and the university.

Fritzi earned her BA in English and Sculpture from Elmira College/Cornell University, then moved to California, where she studied data processing at UC/Santa Barbara and worked toward an MBA at UCLA. She began her library career at USC in 1969, working as a Library Assistant in Interlibrary Loan and Reference. She came to the University of Connecticut in 1975 as Supervisor of the Circulation and Information Desk operations in the Wilbur Cross Library, and was appointed head of the Circulation/Reserve Department in 1979.

As the library began to plan for its first integrated automated management system in 1983, Fritzi led the effort as Project Manager of PALS, (Planning for an Automated Library System). She was appointed Manager of the new Library Integrated Systems Department in 1987, served as Head of a reorganized Library Systems Department from 1991 to 1995, and became Head of the Information Technology Services Area in 1996. Perhaps more than any other single person, Fritzi has led the UConn Libraries as it has moved beyond its traditional role as a strong print-based library to become one of the most advanced digital research libraries in New England. She has been in the forefront of virtually every technological initiative the Libraries have undertaken, working countless hours to make sure all systems were “go.” Whether collaboratively or alone, she has endeavored to improve service, to solve the latest problem, and to keep abreast of any technology that could usefully be applied at the UConn Libraries. Her sense of humor, a valuable asset in the constantly changing world of technology, has gotten us through more than one difficult day.

Fritzi’s will be a hard act to follow. We will miss her and wish her all the best of health and happiness in the coming years.

Stephen Bustamante, a member of the Document Delivery/Interlibrary Loan Team, has been appointed to the position of Digital & Print Reserves Coordinator in Access Services.

Steve Grigoreas, a member of the Research & Information Services Area, has been appointed Stacks Management Team Leader in the Collections Services Area.

Mary Heckman has resigned her position as Assistant in the Collections Services Area after more than 20 years of service in the Babbidge Library. Mary joined the Technical Processing Unit in 1981, where she was trained to catalog both books and audio-visual materials. For some time, she was also responsible for the maintenance of the public card catalog, a task that became a very demanding one as the number of cards decreased and the number of cards to be filed increased. No one was happier to see the introduction of an online catalog than she was!

At mid-point in her career, Mary plans to take stock and decide how she wants to spend the next 20 years of her working life. Libraries will likely be involved as she has already been contacted for a cataloging position beginning as early as February. For now, however, she plans to work only part time so as to catch up with her family genealogy work and perhaps do some writing. Mary recently received her certification in SCUBA diving and is also hoping to travel with her husband Jan, librarian at UConn’s Avery Point Library, to some good diving locales.

It has been a pleasure to work with Mary and we value the many contributions she has made to the Libraries during her tenure. We will miss her and wish her well with whatever the future may bring.

Patrick McGalmery, Head of the Map and Geographic Information Center, is serving as Acting Head of the Information Technology Services Area.

Joanne Palko, after 27 years with the UConn Libraries, has retired from her position in Collections Services to become Head of Cataloging for the Goddard Library at Clark University.

Joanne began her UConn career in the Wilbur Cross Library in 1975 and, over the years, she accomplished many things that have been critical to the success of a variety of library endeavors. Her particular strength has been in library automation. “I learned much more about automation and technology than I ever thought I’d learn,” she says. “I never thought I’d program and run a large CPU but I did—the GEAC 8000.” Joanne also wrote specifications for the OCLC MicroCon project, which converted approximately 188,000 titles in the Dewey collections to the Library of Congress system, ensuring that machine-readable records would be available to load in the online catalog database.

Joanne also wrote specifications for processing the OCLC records that formed the basis of the library’s first online catalog, which debuted in 1992. Once the converted Dewey records were loaded as well, the UConn Libraries were put in
the enviable position of having about 90% of its holdings in the online catalog. Many libraries are still trying to convert records in order to load them into their online catalogs. When the library moved from the NOTIS automated management system to the Endeavor Voyager system in 1999, Joanne once again developed the specifications for migrating the bibliographic database, by then well over one million records, from one system to another.

All of this experience, together with her previous experience as a cataloger at Northern Illinois University from 1967-1975, will stand Joanne in good stead as she assumes her new position at Clark. She notes that she has “had many opportunities” in the Libraries that have helped her to grow and to learn. She now feels it is “time for me to move on and to begin another phase of my career.” We will miss her and wish her the very best at Clark. •

Deborah Sanford is the new Acquisitions Team Leader in Babbidge Library’s Collections Services Area. She comes to UConn from the Clement C. Maxwell Library at Bridgewater State University (MA), where she served as Collection Management Librarian. Deborah brings significant experience in both acquisitions and in serials management. She has worked with both the Voyager and Innovative Interfaces acquisitions/serials modules and has experience with financial records systems. While at Bridgewater State, she also served as liaison to the academic departments of Music, Psychology, and Biology. •

Carolyn J. Stocking, for many years employed as Head of the Government Publications Department of the Homer Babbidge Library, died January 4 in Stafford Springs at the home of her daughter. Carol was born February 8, 1927 in Willimantic, the daughter of Roy and Corinne (Tapley) Jones. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Simmons College in 1949 and her Masters degree in Library Science from Western Reserve University in 1952. After retirement she volunteered as an assistant librarian at the Windham Textile and History Museum and was a member of the Mansfield Committee on Persons with Disabilities. She also volunteered at the Windham Area Interfaith Ministries and the Children’s Law Center in Willimantic. •

Michael Swetzes has joined the staff of the Babbidge Library as a new security guard. •

Recent Promotions: University Librarians
To Associate Librarian:
Carole Dyal
To Librarian III:
Carolyn Mills, Joseph Natale •

Recent Promotions: University Library Assistants
To Mastery Level:
Lee Aslin
David Avery
Kathy Banas-Marti
Lynn Cote
Terri Goldich
Nancy Martin
Merideth Petersons
Jo Ann Reynolds
Fred Rick
Susan Smith
Ann Thomas
To Accomplished Level:
Hilary Druech
Lisa Hendricks
Steve Grigorean
Charles Pei •

Among the mythical figures encountered in fairy tales, the ogre is perhaps the most elusive. He appears to have no well-established characteristics other than his large size, his fierce temper, and his ability to change his shape and size. That lack of distinguishing features allows those who illustrate stories the widest possible latitude in depicting him.

Of all of the stories in which an ogre appears, Perrault’s Puss in Boots is the best known and the one that has appeared in the greatest number of editions. Most previous Puss in Boots exhibits, including one at the Morgan Library in New York in 1992, have concentrated on Puss, the heroic cat, who has a well-defined set of characteristics. This exhibit focuses on the ogre whom Puss defeats by persuading him to demonstrate his shape-shifting abilities and pouncing on him when he changes into a mouse. It demonstrates the wide range of imaginative depictions that artists have created over the years in their representation of this mythical villain.

The exhibit presents illustrations in 75 or more printed editions of Puss in Boots dating from 1829 to the present, complemented by original depictions of the ogre created for this exhibit, or from recent American children’s books, by Leonard Everett Fisher, Dennis Nolan, Tommy Rosa, Art Seiden, Jos. A. Smith, and Paul Zelinsky. A copy of Dore’s famous engraving of the ogre’s castle is included as well. Also incorporated into the exhibit are a series of porcelain figurines representing Puss in Boots and the ogre in some of his shapes created by Richard Palan, along with an assortment of dolls, toys, blocks, stamps, and other items that depict ogres and Puss in Boots.

The Depiction of The Ogre in Puss in Boots

By Dennis Nolan

Dodd Research Center Gallery
Curator: Norman D. Stevens

EXHIBIT THROUGH MARCH 15

Welcome to Circulation Services!
Art as a Family Affair
Four Spencers • Harold + Editha + Eric + Mark

In San Francisco during World War II, a young US Merchant Marine officer who had studied briefly at the Art Students League in New York met a young woman artist, a recent graduate of the University of California and the art editor of a magazine published by the Navy. Apparently the meeting was reasonably harmonious, since Harold Spencer and Editha Hayes Spencer are in their 54th year of a marriage in which a commitment to the visual arts has been a constant factor.

Harold Spencer served for twenty years as a Professor of Art History in the University of Connecticut’s School of Fine Arts and, as a practicing artist, continued to exhibit his work regularly. Since his retirement in 1988, he has continued his research and curatorial activities as an art historian. Editha Spencer is well known in the region for her linoleum block prints of local subjects and for her paintings in oil and watercolor, which have won many awards.

This exhibition is a kind of “hail and farewell” for Harold and Editha, since they will soon move to their new home in California—a return to beginnings. At the same time, they express their deep appreciation for the friendships and experiences that the years in Connecticut have brought them. Theirs is a farewell sure to be followed by many return visits.

This exhibition is also a family affair. They are joined by two of their sons—Eric, a local illustrator and graphic designer, and Mark, a Californian who works in ceramic sculpture and various two-dimensional media.

HAROLD SPENCER, Professor Emeritus of Art History at the University of Connecticut, is the author and editor of several publications on the history of art. He earned BA and MA degrees in art from the University of California at Berkeley and a PhD in art history from Harvard University. The natural world is the primary source for Spencer’s works in oil, encaustic, watercolor, and monotype. Since 1941, he has shown his work regularly in exhibitions throughout the United States. Of the tiered compositions and the signature spectrum of color in his recent paintings, Spencer says, “Life seems to me very like the strata of geologic time, with each present retuning into layers of past experiences. As for the spectrum of color, it is for me a metaphor of light, evoking the sun itself, without whose light there would be no life, only darkness in the midst of indifferent stars. Ultimately, my overriding theme is the eternal cycle of life.”

EDITHA SPENCER Watercolors, oils, and linoleum block prints all express, albeit in different mediums, Editha Spencer’s profound connections to the visual world. In her paintings, both oils and watercolors, the sense of interacting spaces, forms, and colors permeates the image as man-made objects merge with the more fluid natural world. She notes, “My joy is to bring about, on paper or canvas, a place emerging from, and yet different from, the actuality—a work that ‘lives’ on its own.” Her block prints are more realistic in approach, for the most part printed in black and white, and feature many University of Connecticut subjects as well as other local scenes. Editha received her BA in art from the University of California at Berkeley. She has shown her work extensively in juried and invitational exhibitions, and it is included in many private collections. Her block prints and bookplate designs have appeared in several publications.

ERIC SPENCER is an illustrator, graphic designer, art director, and educator. “My personal art work,” he notes, “often reflects my affinity for the western landscape as well as early childhood experiences.” His most recent personal works are created using hand-cut stencils sponged with printers’ ink and acrylic, the final stages employing brush and colored pencil. A graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, Eric has taught illustration at the University of Connecticut and two-dimensional design and art history at Quinebaug Valley Community College. Eric’s client list includes many well-known corporations and institutions. Recently, he and a colleague formed an innovation company that generates new product and marketing concept solutions for major corporations. He lives in Mansfield Center, serves on the board of the Windham Regional Arts Council, and has been a mentor for students in the Mansfield public schools.

MARK SPENCER, a high school teacher in Los Angeles, earned his BA at the University of Connecticut, an MA at Stanford University, and studied ceramics at the University of California Craft Center in Davis. Much of his work focuses on the human figure, especially the manipulation of gesture and facial expression. Although he has worked in other mediums, most of his works are ceramic, mainly raku, and chiefly masks and heads that often combine human and animal features. Of his masks, Mark says, “I begin by working the clay until an expression suggests itself, often in as little as a fold of clay. This may become the mouth or maw of the mask. As I continue, the fold opens and closes, is slit, is sealed, smiles, ceases to smile, sings—until, if I’m lucky, I succeed in capturing a specific ‘moment’—frequently, a distorted expression in which human and animal elements mix.”

Babbidge Library on the Plaza & Stevens Gallery
Curators: Roger Crossgrove & David Kapp

Volume 8, Number 1
February/March 2002

UConn Libraries is published by the University of Connecticut Libraries four times each year to provide current information about collections, services, and activities to faculty, staff, friends, and others who are interested in the welfare of the Libraries.

Editor David Kapp
Contributors Barbara Cervera, Roger Crossgrove, Brinley Franklin, Ann Galonska, David Garnes, Fang Gu, Kathy Labadour, David McChesney, Nancy Orth, Michele Palmer, Alice Permenter, Jane Recchio, Laura Kaiz Smith, Norman Stevens, Janet Swift, Thomas Wilsted, Rutherford Witthour, and Suzanne Zack