



Friends news : University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries. Vol. 5, Issue 4 Fall 2008

Madison, Wisconsin: Friends of the University of
Wisconsin-Madison Libraries, Fall 2008

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The Art of Looking: Visual Finds in the Kohler Art Library

By Lyn Korenic
Director, Kohler Art Library

Tucked beneath the travertine court of the Chazen Museum is one of the largest public university art libraries in the country. The Kohler Art Library shelves contain over 175,000 volumes that abound with images of art and architecture spanning the entire globe and all historical periods. Despite the recent growth of online art databases, browsing the stacks to look for information and images is still an important approach for many users. Exploring the visual finds of the Kohler Art Library is the passion, pastime, and scholarly endeavor of over 60,000 users a year.

The Kohler Art Library opened in 1970 under the direction of William C. Bunce. He built the research collections for nearly thirty years and created an environment where users would be both educated and inspired. The library primarily serves faculty and students in the departments of Art History, Art, and Environmental Textile and Design, as well as staff of the Chazen Museum of Art. Within those academic departments, newly established yet vibrant programs in Visual Culture and Material Culture directly rely on the library's resources. Open to all, the library attracts many users from across campus, throughout the state, and around the world.

The library has collections of strength in the areas of Frank Lloyd Wright, African art, abstract expressionism, decorative arts, the art of papermaking, and contemporary Chinese painting. In addition, the library



Le Corbusier. *Espagne carnets* [Spanish sketchbook]. Schopfheim: Bangert: Fondation L.C., 2001.

boasts a number of heavily-used special collections. The Artists' Book Collection numbers over 800 books handmade by artists and published in limited editions. These books are teaching tools that demonstrate the art of fine craftsmanship, the use of interesting materials (metal, rubber, plastic, wood) and unusual bindings and structures (e.g., concertina, tunnel, and pop-up). To many readers these books are treasured sources of surprise and delight that continually spark the imagination. One scientific user, in search of "tactile information systems," explored the moveable books in the collection. While many visitors use the collection each semester, outreach efforts have begun to bring some of these special materials to groups unable

to travel to campus. A visual finding aid to the collection has been developed to enhance access: <http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/ArtistsBks>.

The collection of illuminated manuscript facsimiles contains a growing number of titles, including the *Vienna Genesis*, the *Rossano Gospels*, the *Gospels of Otto III*, the *Book of Durrow*, the *Rabbula Gospels*, the *Joshua Roll*, and the *Book of Kells*. These facsimiles, some of which are decorated in gold-leaf, are fine reproductions of splendid and important medieval manuscripts. Another special collection contains artists' sketchbook facsimiles. These materials clue the reader to the process of art. Examples of sketchbooks include: Le Corbusier's *Espagne carnets* (Spanish sketchbook), the last

(continued on page three)

Volume 5, Issue 4
Fall 2008

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Friends News is published with private funding provided through the Friends of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries and other gifts.

World Wide Web:
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Bannerhead artwork:
Poehlmann, JoAnna. *The owl-alphabet of art*.
Milwaukee: J. Poehlmann, 1999

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From the president

Friendly Appreciation

In this sixtieth anniversary year we appreciate the generous support of our members for our various activities, just as we hope that our efforts on your behalf are appreciated. In February we sponsored a special member-appreciation event, where former Friends president Art Hove presented an illustrated lecture describing the contributions of our association to the UW-Madison Libraries and the changing shape and mission of libraries in the modern technological world.

In my welcoming remarks for that event I reflected on the several related meanings of the verb "to appreciate" (< Late Lat. *appretiāre*; from *ad* + *preiūm* "worth," "value," "price") and their pertinence to the Friends. The first meaning is "to recognize the quality, significance, or value of people and things," and this is the essence of what we strive to do in recognizing your importance to our mission and the value of your many gifts and contributions to the Libraries and to our organization. A second meaning of appreciate is "to be thankful or show gratitude for," and we are certainly grateful to you for your material and moral support over the years. A third meaning is "to enjoy and understand something critically or emotionally," and this would suggest the shared goal of our various activities, lectures, and programs. Finally, a fourth meaning is "to raise or to go up in value or price," and that is what we hope will happen both tangibly—in terms of our membership and endowment—and intangibly—in terms of the good will that we hope to continue to generate through our activities and contributions to the UW-Madison Libraries and to the community at large.

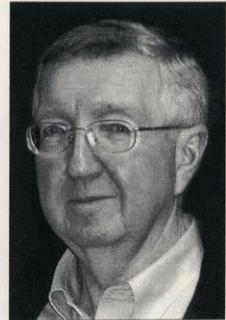
The Libraries and the campus also appreciate the long-term efforts and accom-

plishments of the Friends Volunteer Program. Thousands of hours of community service have been provided by loyal individuals over the years. Volunteers have served patrons at the Memorial Library Information Desk and User Services section; they have helped in Circulation with clerical tasks and data entry. Special Collections volunteers have worked with specialized catalogue tasks, and trained volunteers have served the Preservation Department for decades in book damage assessment and repair.

Another much-appreciated activity of the Friends is the semiannual book sale, which for more than a decade has provided the association with the funds necessary to support our grant programs to campus libraries and to visiting scholars. We very much appreciate the continuing generous gifts of books from faculty and the community. Equally appreciated are the Herculean efforts of all those who have ensured the success of this enterprise, especially the numerous volunteers who have contributed their time and energy to the sales.

As we celebrate our sixtieth anniversary this year, we are mindful and appreciative of our history. We have come far since that first meeting on June 17, 1948, when the Friends had 142 members and a grand total of \$273.43 in the treasury, thanks to dues and donations. Now, because of your generosity and the wonderful bounty of the Schewe bequest, our endowment stands at more than one million dollars, some 4,000 times what it was sixty years ago. Now that's friendly appreciation, indeed!

— Christopher Kleinhenz



Color Enhanced: Use of Color in Scientific Books

By Robin Rider
Curator of Special Collections

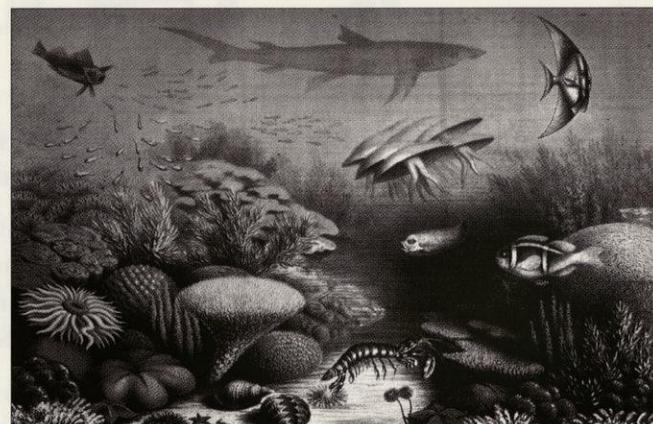
Using inexpensive digital cameras, photo-editing software, and inkjet technology, twenty-first-century consumers can readily experiment with color printing. Authors, illustrators, printers, and publishers of an earlier age did not have it so easy: they incorporated color into illustrations of science and natural history at considerable cost and with mixed success. The exhibit "Color Enhanced: Use of Color in Scientific Books" explores the results from the fifteenth through the twentieth century, drawing on strong holdings of illustrated books of science and natural history in the Department of Special Collections in Memorial Library.

The exhibit looks at the physics of color through works like Newton's *Opticks* (1704), famous for the experiment on the composition of white light. Ironically, diagrams of color phenomena used in the *Opticks*, like most illustrations in early scientific books, were in black and white. Illustrations in color were more likely to

appear in books of natural history, usually the result of hand-coloring applied to engravings or lithographs; both amateurs and specialists seemed willing to pay a premium for illustrations filled "with Nature's lively hues."

The exhibit also explores the use of color to convey abstract concepts from chemistry to geometry, early manuals for hand coloring, and innovations in color printing. Taking advantage of the riches of the Library's holdings, multiple copies of hand-colored illustrations can be compared side by side, showing inconsistencies in the application of color and the effects of time on specific hues.

This exhibit is designed to complement "The Culture of Print in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Medicine," a conference organized by the Center for



Ernst Haeckel. *Arabische Korallen*. Berlin: G. Reimer, 1876.
From Special collections.

the History of Print Culture in Modern America, to be held September 12–13, 2008, in Madison, Wisconsin. The Friends lecture by Anita Guerrini on September 11, 2008, will also speak to the topic of scientific illustration.

For more information, contact Special Collections, at 608/262-3243, askspecial@library.wisc.edu, or see specialcollections.library.wisc.edu/.

Kohler Art Library (continued from page one)

sketchbook of Jackson Pollock, and Paul Cezanne's sketchbook of 1875–1885. In a sketchbook able to slip into a shirt pocket, Picasso drew figures and faces of people in Catalonia. Sketchbooks, daybooks, workbooks, and journals have become important documents of visual culture for art libraries and collectors alike.

A current exhibit celebrates the centennial of art historian James S. Watrous and his artwork related to campus humor, murals, and mosaics. Exhibits are often mounted in conjunction with specific classes and conferences on campus.

Partnering with the UW Digital Collections Center, art reference librari-

ian Linda Duychak developed the widely popular Digital Library for the Decorative Arts and Material Culture (<http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/DLDecArts>). In that database, one discovers primary materials (electronic texts and facsimiles, image databases, and Web resources) related to the decorative arts of Early America. The panoply of images includes botanical art, American ornithology and medicinal plants, eighteenth- and nineteenth-century builders' and cabinetmakers' guides, garden designs, and the history of ornament, among other topics. The Chipstone Foundation generously supports this online project as well as the acquisition of books

on the decorative arts.

The library has been equally fortunate to have Friends of the Library support over the years for the acquisition of artists' books and illuminated manuscript facsimiles as well as for preservation purposes. Donations of funding and gifts-in-kind from individuals and corporations continue to be welcome.

To learn more about book arts and creative writing, or for more information about the library, including ways to support Kohler's collections and services, see <http://art.library.wisc.edu>, or contact the director at 608/263-2256. lkorenic@library.wisc.edu.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Exhibition

“College Humor to Italian Tesserae: Celebrating the Centennial of James S. Watrous”

August 1–September 30, 2008
Kohler Art Library

Marking the centennial of James S. Watrous (1908–99), the exhibit looks at the many contributions of this artist and art historian to the University of Wisconsin–Madison campus. The exhibit was inspired by John Dobbertin, a collector of college humor magazines, and Lynne Watrous Eich, daughter of James Watrous. The exhibit displays photographs, books, and regalia from the University Archives, the Kohler Art Library, and the Watrous family. As a doctoral candidate, Watrous studied with the noted German art historian Oskar Hagen, earning his Ph.D. in 1939, at which time he joined the Department of Art History, where he taught until his retirement in 1976. His interest in art flourished in the 1950s, when he traveled to Italy to study mosaic techniques. Using small tesserae of colored Venetian glass, he created memorable mosaics for buildings on campus (Vilas Hall, Memorial Union, Ingraham Hall, and the Social Sciences building). The exhibit is curated by Lyn Korenic and David Null, and mounted in conjunction with exhibits on college humor magazines at the Memorial Union and the Department of Special Collections during August and September. The official opening of the exhibit will be on Thursday, September 25, when John Dobbertin will introduce the exhibit “The Art of College Humor” in Special Collections.

Lecture

“Animals and Humans in Early Modern Anatomical Illustrations”

Thursday, September 11 • 4:30 p.m.
Seminar Room of Special Collections,
9th Floor Memorial Library

Reception to follow

Anita Guerrini is a professor in the Department of History at Oregon State University and will be speaking on “Animals and Humans in Early Modern Anatomical Illustrations,” a talk that will expand on the current exhibition in the Department of Special Collections, “Color Enhanced: Use of Color in Scientific Books.” Professor Guerrini received her Ph.D. in history and philosophy of science from Indiana University. She will also be a participant in the conference, “The Culture of Print in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Medicine,” scheduled for September 12–13 at the University of Wisconsin–Madison’s Pyle Center; the public is also invited to attend.

FELIX:

A Series of New Writing

Thursday, September 18 • 4:30 p.m.
126 Memorial Library

The Friends host authors

Philip Metres and Mark Nowak

Reception to follow

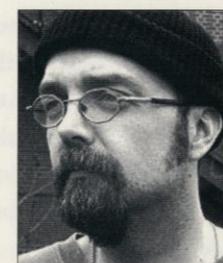
Philip Metres, poet, translator and scholar, is the author of the poetry collection, *To See the Earth* (2008), the chapbooks *Instants* (2006) and *Primer for Non-Native Speakers* (2004), the translations *Catalogue*

of *Comedic Novelties: Selected Poems of Lev Rubinstein* (2004) and *A Kindred Orphanhood: Selected Poems of Sergey Gandlevsky* (2003), as well as the critical study *Behind the Lines: War Resistance Poetry on the American Homefront since 1941* (2007). He teaches American literature and creative writing at John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio.

Mark Nowak is the author of *Revenants, Shut Up Shut Down* (afterword by Amiri Baraka), and *Coal Mountain Elementary* (forthcoming), all from Coffee House Press. His writings on new labor poetics have recently appeared in *The Progressive, Virginia Quarterly Review, American Poets in the 21st Century: The New Poetics* (Wesleyan University Press), and *Goth: Undead Subculture* (Duke University Press). In addition to facilitating “poetry dialogues” between Ford autoworkers at plants in Minnesota and South Africa, Nowak is editing a section on late-apartheid worker poets for an anthology forthcoming from Wesleyan University Press as well as a special double issue of the journal he founded in 1996, *XCP: Cross Cultural Poetics*, on South African literature and social movements.



Philip Metres



Mark Nowak

Exhibition and Lecture

“The Art of College Humor”

Opening

Thursday, September 25 • 4:30 p.m.
Special Collections Seminar Room,
9th Floor Memorial Library

Reception to follow

John Dobbertin, Jr., will speak at the official opening of “The Art of College Humor.” The display of college humor art from the John & Barbara Dobbertin Collection will be in the University of Wisconsin–Madison Memorial Library Special Collections Department beginning September 22 and continuing through November 25. Exhibit cases will be filled with original college humor magazines and related items dating back to 1876, along with artwork currently on exhibit in the Porter Butts Gallery, Memorial Union.

Friends of the UW–Madison Libraries Semiannual Book Sale

Wednesday through Saturday,
October 15–18
116 Memorial Library

Explore the Friends twenty-sixth semiannual book sale, the largest used book sale in Wisconsin. Students, faculty, staff, and Madison residents donate materials ranging from literature and philosophy to science and reference texts. Proceeds help support grants for special needs of campus libraries, the Friends grants-in-aid program for visiting scholars, and other programming. Ten percent of the proceeds are transferred to the Friends’ growing endowment.

To donate books or to volunteer, call 608/265-2505 or e-mail friends@library.wisc.edu.

All sales are open to the public. For

information on book sale hours, visit the Friends book sales page, <http://giving.library.wisc.edu/friends/book-sales.shtml>.

■ Wednesday, October 15

Preview sale (\$5 entry) 5–9 p.m.

■ Thursday and Friday, October 16–17
(No entry fee) 10:30 a.m.–7 p.m.

■ Saturday, October 18

\$3-a-Bag Sale (Bring your own bag, or buy one for \$1)
10:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

Lecture

“Obsession: O. Winston Link’s Documentation of the Steam Railroad and the Good Life in America”

Thursday, November 20 • 4:30 p.m.
126 Memorial Library

Reception to follow

Tom Garver, now administrator for the Friends, has had an almost lifelong involvement with the American photographer, O. Winston Link (1914–2001). Link, a commercial industrial photographer living and working in New York City, loved the American steam railroad and, in 1955, began photographing the last main-line railroad to use steam power exclusively—the Norfolk and Western Railway. For the next five years, Link spent nine months along the railroad’s rights of way in Virginia, West Virginia, and North Carolina, documenting the great steam locomotives and everyday life along the line.

From 1957 to 1958, Garver worked as a part-time assistant to Link, making three trips with him to make railroad photographs and tape recordings. Garver, who served as Link’s business agent for the last seven years of his life, wrote the text of *The Last Steam Railroad in America*, the second book of Link’s N&W photos. Following

Link’s death in 2001, Garver was named organizing curator of the O. Winston Link Museum in Roanoke, Virginia, the only U.S. museum devoted to the work of a single photographer. Garver will illustrate how Link developed a style that is documentary and popular among collectors.

FELIX:

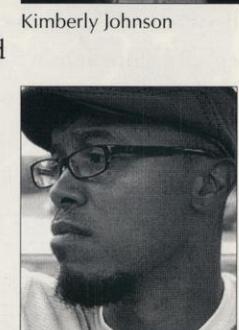
A Series of New Writing

Thursday, December 4 • 4:30 p.m.

126 Memorial Library

The Friends host poets Kimberly Johnson and Amaud Jamaul Johnson
Reception to follow

Kimberly Johnson is the author of two collections of poetry, *Leviathan with a Hook* and *A Metaphorical God*, as well as a translation of Virgil’s *Georgics*. Recipient of awards and fellowships from the Utah Arts Council, Sewanee Writers, and the National Endowment for the Arts, she has published in *Slate, Yale Review*, and *The New Yorker*.



Amaud Jamaul Johnson

Kimberly Johnson is the author of the poetry collection *Red Summer* and winner of the 2004 Dorset Prize from Tupelo Press. A former Wallace E. Stegner Fellow in Poetry at Stanford University, his poems have appeared in *The Cave Canem Anthology, New England Review, Virginia Quarterly Review*, and *Poetry Daily*. He teaches creative writing at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

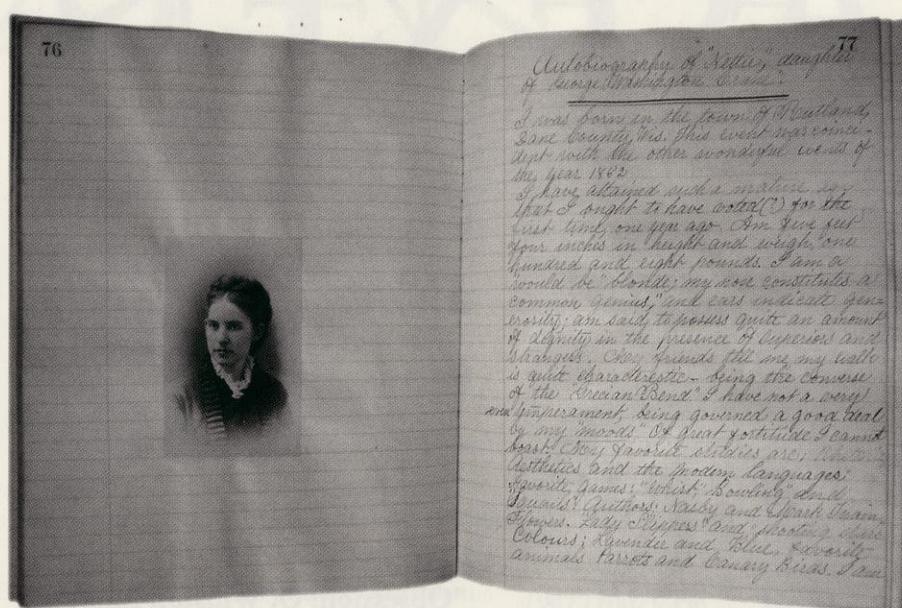
Friends Announce Annual Grants to Campus Libraries

The Friends of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries recently awarded 25 grants to campus libraries and library selectors. Grants given within this program are designed to support the acquisition of new resources or to provide support for the conservation and repair of existing library materials.

This year the Friends awarded grants totaling close to \$24,000, the largest amount ever, for a wide range of items. One notable first-time grantee is Steenbock Library which received a grant for the purchase of books on dog breeds and service animals including rescue dogs and animals trained to offer emotional and psychological support through that special "human-animal connection."

Another first-time grantee is the Max Kade Institute, which conducts research and outreach on German immigrants and their descendants and examines how they have shaped and been shaped by the American experience. The grant provided the Institute with funds for the repair and conservation of a number of early German language books as well as letters, diaries, and other ephemeral material.

University Archives received funding for digitizing a rare collection of hand-written



From Henrietta L. Crane (later Lyman) in the 1874 Class Album.

university class albums dating from 1872 to 1890. These albums contain original photos of students and some faculty along with a number of autobiographical essays. Digitization will preserve them and make their contents available to a wide Internet audience.

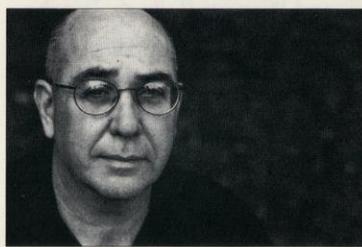
This year, the Friends have added a new larger grant program funded by the Douglas Schewe Endowment, which this year provided two grants. The first was to purchase very high quality facsimile copies

of medieval manuscripts for the Kohler Art Library. The second permitted acquisition of several collections of letters, manuscript diaries, photographs and printed ephemera from German soldiers fighting in World War I. These add to the important collection of materials documenting the lives of soldiers, principally of the Allied armies, during the "Great War." Since 1997 the Friends have awarded more than \$230,000 for 236 proposals.

Friends Sponsor Bibliophile and Author Lewis Buzbee

The Friends of the UW-Madison Libraries are again pleased to support the Wisconsin Book Festival by sponsoring one of the speakers, Lewis Buzbee. The theme of the seventh annual book festival is "Changing Places." The festival takes place October 15-19, 2008 in and around Madison.

Lewis Buzbee, a life-long bibliophile, has worked as a bookseller and publisher's sales representative. As a respected teacher in the Creative Writing program at the University of San Francisco, he is the author of a novel, a collection of short stories, and numer-



ous articles. Buzbee's latest work, *The Yellow-Lighted Bookshop* (2007), is an account of his life in the realm of books, intertwined with a fascinating look at book history including early libraries, printing, and publishing, as well as the current bookselling industry.

A reviewer has described *The Yellow-Lighted Bookshop* as "insightful, amusing, and informative; a riveting blend of memoir and history."

Buzbee is scheduled to speak in the Promenade hall of the Overture Center on Sunday, October 19 at 2:00 p.m. Those who irresistibly prowl bookstores and book lovers who enjoy a good read won't want to miss his presentation.

For more information about the 2008 Wisconsin Book Festival: www.wisconsinbookfestival.org.

The Art of College Humor: Historic College Humor Magazines

By John Dobbertin, Jr.

You never know where a tour with a Friend of the UW-Madison Libraries might lead. Ours is resulting in three exhibits on the UW campus. In May 2006, I mentioned to retired Curator of Special Collections John Tedeschi that we would like to know a lot more about the UW-Madison, since we live a mere two hour's drive away. My wife Barbara and I must confess we graduated from that *other* school in Ann Arbor, but now we live in Wisconsin!

That discussion led John to organize a tour of the Special Collections Department. While on the tour, I mentioned to the Curator, Robin Rider, that we were approaching the 100th anniversary of the University of Michigan's humor magazine, the *Gargoyle*. Robin responded, "Why don't we do a college humor exhibit here?"

The scramble began. I already had an extensive collection of *Gargoyles* going back to my editorship from 1962 to 1964. However, all other issues I came across I had long since donated to the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan to complete their *Gargoyle* collection.

In short order—and to my wife's dismay—I set about the reestablishment and expansion of my humor magazine collection. With calls to friends, Internet searches, and prowls through bookstores the collection grew to an astonishing one thousand copies.

Before donating the issues to Special Collections, I scanned them onto computer discs so that researchers can view the issues on computers and then decide which particular issues to examine.

The collection contains many

treasures of college humor. Included are 200 issues of the *Harvard Lampoon* pre-dating 1900. It was a good start.

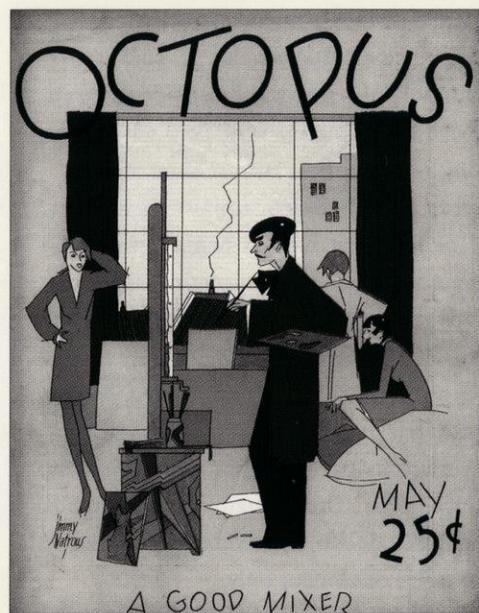
Then it struck me that we should really have an exhibit of the humor magazine covers; the UW Memorial Union Porter Butts Gallery presented a perfect venue. Reproductions of 200 covers—including 65 UW *Octopus* covers—are on exhibit in the Porter Butts Gallery (August 1 through September 15).

At this year's Friends of the Library banquet Lynn Korenic said that the Kohler Art Library would be interested in participating. August 3, 2008, marked the 100th anniversary of James Watrous, who was an artist and beloved UW professor of art. Watrous provided cover illustrations for the *Octopus*. Lynne Watrous Eich, James Watrous's daughter, brought this to the attention of UW Director of Archives David Null. So the Kohler Art Gallery exhibit completely focuses on Watrous and is titled: "College Humor to Italian Tesserae: Celebrating the Centennial of James S. Watrous."

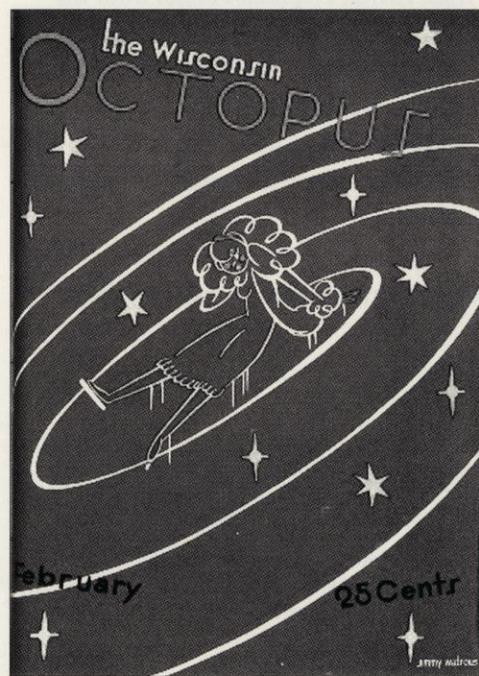
The major exhibit of "The Art of College Humor" will be in the UW Memorial Library Special Collections Department September 22 through November 25, and will include items from the Porter Butts Gallery exhibit.

I look forward to greeting you in the Special Collections exhibit on Thursday, September 25 for the official opening of "The Art of College Humor."

It is amazing where a little humor takes you when you are associated with Friends of the Library!



Octopus, May 1928



Octopus, February 1931

Visiting Scholars Receive Grants-In-Aid

Since 1996 the Friends have awarded grants to visiting scholars in partial support of a month of resident study in Madison using the remarkable wide-ranging riches of the campus libraries. This year, Friends grants support six scholars. The first to arrive was Benjamin Yousey-Hindes, currently completing his doctorate at Stanford University. He has drawn upon a remarkable collection of medieval business documents created by Genoese notaries that were laboriously copied by a University of Wisconsin professor in the late 1920s. They remain the only copies of these documents of daily life preserved outside of Genoa, Italy.

This year, for the first time, the Friends will welcome a visiting scholar from Africa. Nephtali Fofolo, from the University of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, will work on issues of migration of West Africans of Senegalese origin into western Congo during the late nineteenth and late twentieth centuries.

A second visitor from overseas will be Alessandra Tarquini, a research fellow at



Percivall Pott

the University of Florence, Italy. She is researching Giovanni Gentile, a key member of Mussolini's early government and one of the regime's principal philosophers. She will be studying Italian Fascism and its interpretation by American intellectuals and writers of the time.

Grantees also include Lynda Payne, an associate professor in the Department of History at the University of Missouri in Kansas City. She will use resources in Special Collections, the Biology Library, and the Ebling Health Sciences Library

to prepare a book tentatively entitled *The Best Surgeon in England: The Life of Mr. Percivall Pott, 1714–1788*. The book will document the training of surgeons in eighteenth-century England.

Susan Rensing, a historian of American science and gender from the Department of History at Mississippi State University, will be visiting to research sexual eugenics in early twentieth-century America through a study of courtship, marriage, and parenthood of that period. The University of Wisconsin was the academic home to several biologists and social scientists concerned with eugenics.

The last of the grantees will be Derek Seidman, who is now completing his doctorate at Brown University. Mr. Seidman is conducting a study called "The Unquiet Americans: GI Dissent During the Vietnam War." He will visit later in the year to complete his research using materials housed in Special Collections and the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Friends NEWS

University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries

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