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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

The messenger. Number 21 April 1990

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THE MESSENGER

FRIENDS OF THE UW-MADISON LIBRARIES

Number 21, April 1990

PATENT AND COPYRIGHT ANNIVERSARY

In 1990, we will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Patent and Copyright Laws. Today we are aware that these laws are integral to the campus and its libraries, but some of us may not be aware of their early implementation in our government. Charles Pinckney and James Madison showed great insight when they proposed that the new federal constitution should include the exclusive right of authors and inventors to the use of their works. Their efforts resulted in laws enacted in the spring of 1790 that led to the first patent and copyright grants that summer.

Mark Twain, an American who held both patents and copyrights, eloquently expressed his belief in the importance of a patent system in *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, in which his nineteenth-century arms factory foreman, transported to Camelot, establishes a patent office at his first opportunity: "That reminds me to remark, in passing, that the very first official thing I did, in my administration--and it was on the very first day of it, too--was to start a patent office; for I knew that a country without a patent office and good patent laws was just a crab, and couldn't travel any way but sideways or backwards." Twain was an active inventor, and a speculator in many inventions not his own. His love of gadgetry led him to promote over 100 failed inventions, finally achieving a small profit with his own invention of a scrapbook that was manufactured over a twenty year period.

Twain's passion for inventions was matched by a lifelong battle to protect authors' rights. He argued strenuously for extension of the copyright limit to the author's life plus fifty years. Twain's vision for strong copyright protection has been affirmed and current limits are those he fought for a century ago.

As library users and supporters we are aware of the great significance copyright laws have played in protecting the creative work of authors. Equally important but not as familiar to many of us is the impetus that patent protection has given technological growth in the U.S. Its power has been recognized by other nations seeking to emulate the success of the U.S. economy. The Japanese, for example, adopted their own patent system in 1900 after recognizing that its practice in the U.S. was an essential ingredient in the tremendous growth experienced in turn of the century America.

Today the UW-Madison campus houses one of 65 official U.S. patent depository libraries. Located in Kurt F. Wendt Engineering Library, the collection contains patents issued since 1790, either on microfilm or in bound volumes. It is used widely by both the university community and members of the public interested in pursuing patent research before proceeding with ideas for their own inventions. A trained patent librarian conducts patent search classes on a regular basis, assisting patrons to find every development related to the

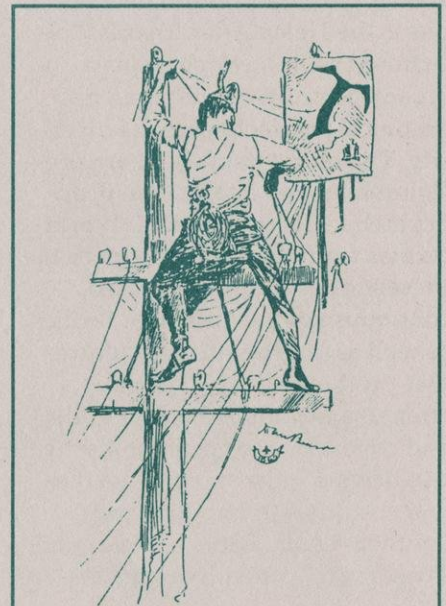


Illustration from 1st edition of *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* (1889) held in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. Along with other 1st editions and items of Twainiana, the holdings there include one of Twain's perforated interleaved scrapbooks designed for holding 3 columns of newspaper clippings, photo-stat copies of 6 pages of Twain's letter to the Commissioner of Patents, Oct. 6, 1871, concerning his newly invented elastic strap, and clippings from the *New York Times* March 11, 1939 concerning the strap.

idea they are pursuing. The wide variety of research conducted is reflected in the diversity of the patents held just within the UW-Madison community. Among the hundreds obtained by UW faculty and staff are Professor Eugene B.

Continued on page 3

SPOTLIGHT ON THE COLLECTIONS

Each issue of the Messenger focuses on a campus library or collection

THE HELEN ALLEN TEXTILE COLLECTION

One of the lesser known special purpose libraries on campus is the Helen Allen Textile Collection (HATC), which spans a broad spectrum of temporal, geographical and technological diversity. The oldest items held are pre-Columbian and late Roman (Coptic) archaeological textiles. World textiles from the 15th century to the present offer an uninterrupted continuum of the history of textiles as well as insight into the cultures that produced them. Special strengths include American quilts and coverlets; European domestic needlework; ethnographic textiles and costumes from South and Southeast Asia, Latin America and Turkey; and contemporary fiber

art. Both handmade and industrially manufactured objects are featured, displaying a wide range of techniques relating to structure and design. HATC's 2,000 volume reference library supports research, interpretation, and documentation of the collection.

The core of the collection that now bears her name was given to the university by Professor Helen Louise Allen as a bequest. Miss Allen, who taught weaving and textile history in the School of Home Economics for 41 years, amassed an outstanding private textile collection as a result of her travels throughout the world. Since her death in 1968, the 4,000 textiles of her original gift have

tripled, ranking HATC among the largest and most comprehensive university textile collections in the United States.

The goal of the collection is to provide educational resources that further the understanding of human beings within their material and social environment through the study of textiles of artistic, cultural, and historic significance. To accomplish this mission, HATC acquires textiles, costumes and related objects through donations and purchase; preserves and cares for them using the highest standards; and supports teaching and research through exhibitions, publications and public programs.

A videodisc of the collection was produced in 1985, consisting of 21,000 images of nearly 12,000 objects and details. It is an invaluable research tool, providing immediate visual access to items and extending the physical parameters of HATC beyond the boundaries of the school. It is used as a screening device to reduce unnecessary handling of the textiles, which are stored in a climate controlled room and protected from light. In conjunction with the computerized database, full cataloging information on each item can be readily obtained.

Construction of an in-house design gallery for the School of Family Resources and Consumer Sciences (FRCS) is currently underway, with completion scheduled for the spring of 1991. An exhibition of highlights from HATC is being planned to inaugurate the much anticipated gallery. At present, small, changing exhibits are on continual display in cases



This silk robe from late 19th- or early 20th-century Afghanistan is one of the finely crafted items in the Helen Allen Textile Collection.

outside the collection and in the multicultural center at Memorial Union, and periodically at Steenbock library, the support library for FRCS. Upcoming displays will feature Guatemalan costumes and domestic textiles at HATC and Navajo Indian weavings at Steenbock, both of which will be on view from early March until the end of May.

The Helen Allen Textile Collection is an accessible resource for scholars, students, and enthusiasts of history, anthropology, art history, applied art, and design. Along with her textiles, Miss Allen's personal philosophy has been inherited: "A collection that counts brings knowledge, a losing of self in the sorting and arranging, a huge enjoyment in showing the collection, and the acquiring of many new friends both in making and showing it."

Dawn von Wiegand
HATC Curator

The Helen Allen Textile Collection is located on the third floor of the School of Family Resources and Consumer Science, located at 1300 Linden Drive. Hours are Monday through Friday from 10:00 -1:00 and 2:00-4:00. The videodisc may be viewed on a walk-in basis, although an appointment is recommended. In order to study actual textiles, a written request describing the nature of the research is required. Contact Dawn von Wiegand, HATC Curator, or Beverly Gordon, Director, at 262-1162 for additional information.

POETRY ON CAMPUS

Poetry collections can be found in a surprisingly large number of places on the UW-Madison campus. Here is a sampling of these put together by Jill Rosenshield, Associate Curator of Rare Books and Special Collections, for an exhibit currently on display in the lobby of Memorial Library.

John M. Gaus Collection of Poetry and Literary Studies, 3rd floor, College Library. About 2,000 titles, continually updated, of British and American Poetry chosen for the pleasure of undergraduates. Comfortable chairs are available, and the books may be borrowed. All titles are in the NLS computer catalog.

Steenbock Undergraduate Collection in the Humanities, 550 Babcock Drive. The titles in P-PZ include comprehensive anthologies of foreign language poetry trans-

lated into English. For English-language poets, most titles are collected works. Consult the card catalogs in Memorial or Steenbock libraries.

Instructional Materials Center, 301 Education Building. This circulating collection includes poetry by many famous "adult" authors, as well as poetry by "children's authors." Consult NLS.

Marvin Sukov Collection of Little Magazines, 443 Memorial Library. Thousands of avant-garde English-language literary titles, including many very early poems by budding poets. These may not be borrowed.

Private Press Collection, 443 Memorial Library. Literary works produced by private and hand presses, including much poetry. Consult the card catalog and NLS. May not be borrowed.

PATENT AND COPYRIGHT ANNIVERSARY (Continued)

Smalley's patents for two strains of elm trees resistant to Dutch Elm disease; the patent held by chemist Farrington Daniels and his colleagues for a gas reaction furnace, and Professor Dale E. Wurster's design for a sophisticated pill coating process.

Both copyrights and patents continue to provide significant encouragement and protection for the growth of new ideas and

developing technologies. We are fortunate to have resources in numerous campus libraries giving current and retrospective information about both.

For more information about copyrights contact the Law Library 262-2843, or the State Historical Society Library 262-2781. For more patent information contact Wendt Engineering Library 262-6845.

Eds.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I believe a volunteer board of directors serving a non-profit organization should feel a similar sense of obligation to its dues-paying members and contributors as that which should be felt by any corporation board to its investors. The respective financial statements may not be similar, but I am talking about the principle involved (the pun naturally follows!). Therefore, this will be a nuts-and-bolts kind of update to let you know what we, the elected and appointed, are doing on behalf of you, the Friends, and those of you who have not YET joined us but may be reading this newsletter.

We sent out membership renewal notices late in 1989. If you have not received a renewal form, or have lost it before taking action, please call me at (608) 846-9067 and I will immediately come to your rescue. We have established a membership committee to focus on recruitment of new members. With regard to membership recruitment, Deb Reilly has offered to share publications she receives from Friends groups of other state universities, and in reading materials from the University of Illinois, I can find little basic difference between what their group offers its members and what we in Wisconsin do. Their members, however, number in the thousands! This is a conundrum which we will at least explore, if not resolve.

The Friends bylaws and constitution are being revised, and we will have a proposed draft for your consideration at the annual meeting in April. In particular we will attempt to more clearly define our Purpose.

New members are being appointed to fill positions on the board. We are looking carefully at demographics so that we have the benefit of thinking which represents the faculty, administration, library staff, alumni, and the community at large.

On December 6 the Friends board met with the Special Advisory Council of the UW-Madison General Library System for the purpose of discussing ways in which we can work more closely together and complement each other's efforts. The mechanism is already in place for closer liaison between the two entities.

In a further attempt to be less insular, we are planning to implement a newsletter exchange with a number of other university Friends groups around the country. As I stated earlier, we already have begun this outreach to a limited degree. Please feel free to contribute to our local outreach by sharing a copy of the newsletter with a friend who might be a potential member.

Monthly book sales continue at Memorial Library under the careful coordination of student assistant Peter Bratsch. This effort brings in hundreds of dollars monthly to help with Friends activities for the benefit of the libraries. We are always interested in receiving donations of books. Recycle to help the Friends, and create open shelf space for new acquisitions!

As always, we are continuing to plan regular lectures on a variety of topics provided by the rich sources of programming

available. I urge you to note the dates of these informal events and join us. Professors Christopher Kleinhenz and Frank Horlbeck graciously agreed to fill the February and March programming slots, respectively.

Preparations are under way for the Friends annual meeting. The date is April 18 (Wednesday) and the place is the traditional setting, the University Club. The speaker is Professor Allen Debus, a historian from the University of Chicago who is a collector of sheet music. Please mark this date on your respective calendars. It should be a delightful evening!

Finally, we look forward to the move into the new addition to Memorial Library and the festive re-dedication of the library this fall. What a noteworthy way to mark the first year of a new decade!

There you have it, a thumbnail report on what we who compose the 1989-1990 Friends board of directors are up to. Let us have your ideas and suggestions. We want to represent you.

In closing may I mention that National Library Week falls in April, and April 24 has been designated National Library Legislative Day. This special day is sponsored by the District of Columbia Library Association, the American Library Association, and the Special Libraries Association. While we may not be able to trek to Washington to participate, we can phone or write our legislators to remind them that libraries are important.

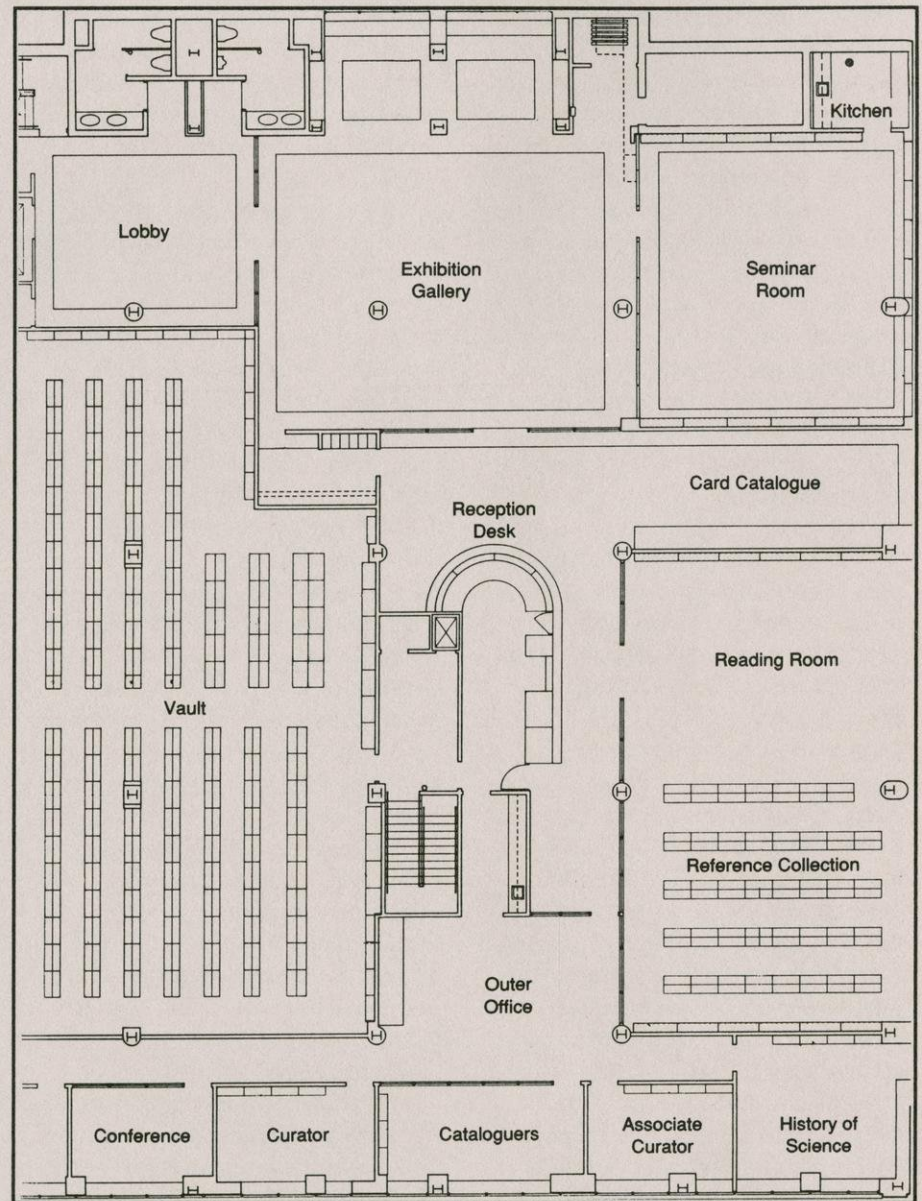
Faith B. Miracle

MEMORIAL LIBRARY REDEDICATION

A gala dinner and a symposium on the book arts are among the events scheduled to celebrate the rededication of Memorial Library this fall. Vartan Gregorian, President of Brown University and past President of the New York Public Library, has accepted the Chancellor's invitation to speak on the future of research libraries in major universities. The talk will be given at a dinner October 3 thanking donors for their gifts to the university and the libraries and thanking state officials for their support.

A national conference celebrating the book arts will follow on October 5. The conference will examine the place of illustration in the history of the book. Speakers will include Frank Horlbeck, Professor of Art History, UW-Madison, who will speak on medieval book illustration; William Ashworth, Professor of History, University of Missouri, Kansas City, who will speak on the Renaissance book; Nancy Ekholm Burkert, author of *Valentine and Orson* and an authority on illustration of children's books; and David Robertson, Emeritus Professor of Art History, Barnard College, who will speak on comic illustration of the Victorian book.

It is anticipated that conference lectures will be held in the new Department of Special Collections, on the top floor of the Memorial Library addition. The department, which houses collections of international importance



Floor plan for the new Department of Special Collections.

dating from the first century to the present, will have moved into its new quarters over the summer.

Deborah Reilly
External Relations Coordinator

AT SEA WITH THE MEDICI

On February 1 Professor Christopher Kleinhenz of the Department of French and Italian, a longtime member of the Friends, presented a program entitled, "At Sea with the Medici: Florentine Galleys in the Levant 1627." The talk was based on a previously unpublished manuscript (held in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections) that was translated and studied by Professor Kleinhenz and Professor Ilona Klein. What follows is taken from their paper, which will appear in the journal *Viator*, published at the University of California.

On 12 April 1627 a fleet of six galleys belonging to the Order of Santo Stefano set sail from Livorno on their expedition "contro il comune nemico" ("against the common enemy")—the Turks. This journey would take them along the western and southern coast of Italy, through the Ionian Sea to the Peloponnese and across the Aegean Sea to the Dardanelles. Along the way the sailors encountered many vessels, both friend and foe. After having engaged in two fierce skirmishes with Turkish vessels, the fleet of the Order returned victorious to Italy, arriving in Taranto on 30 June 1627.

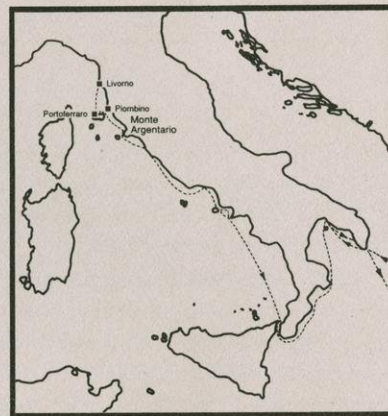
The history of the Order of Santo Stefano and of its various maritime activities in the eastern Mediterranean has been the subject of numerous scholarly investigations. Archival records for these activities abound, and many are available in published sources. However, in all of the published accounts that we have consulted, very little information has come to

light about the voyage undertaken by the six galleys of the Order of Santo Stefano under the command of Admiral Giulio Barbolani de' Conti di Montauto in the period April-June 1627.

The fascinating and virtually complete account of the expedition is contained in a manuscript that came to Memorial Library as a gift of Mrs. Edmund K. Nielsen of Appleton, Wisconsin, in 1984. Her son, Edmund B. Nielsen, an art historian, acquired it from an unknown source in Florence in 1950.

Our text may be the only surviving, extended document of this voyage. The expedition of the Order of Santo Stefano to the Levant was probably well known because of the great booty taken (and subsequently lost). However, up until our recent identification of this manuscript, no reliable firsthand evidence for this voyage has been available. The manuscript offers what appears to be an eyewitness account of several naval battles, as well as secondhand accounts of ship movements in nearby waters and of a miracle wrought by the Virgin Mary in Constantinople.

Throughout his narration the author/scribe of the text, written in Tuscan dialect, remains anonymous. His lively narrative style and the exciting maritime adventures described will make this text appeal not only to Italianists, but also to a broader readership, enriching the growing collection of early travel literature which is currently being rediscovered in European and American archives.



The beginning of the voyage, from the translated manuscript.

A Journey to the Levant of the 6 Galleys of the Most Illustrious and Holy Order of Santo Stefano, Which Belong to the Most Serene Grand Duke of Tuscany, in This Year 1627, under the Command of the Most Illustrious Lord Giulio Barbolani de' Conti di Montauto, Gentleman, etc.

After having been properly payed and prepared for sailing on April 12th in Leghorn, and having been provisioned with everything that was necessary for them to accomplish their mission, the 6 galleys, which were destined to engage in privateering against the common enemy, could not leave until April 19th because of foul weather. This they did, accompanied by the galley of Santa Maria of the Supreme and Sacred Order of Malta and the new galley San Carlo, which had been given to the above-mentioned order by the Most Serene Prince Don Giovanni Carlo Medici, the grand prior of Pisa.

That same night, at 3:00 a.m., the galleys reached Portoferraio, and here the new lord prince of Piombino and the pursers disembarked. However, because of an adverse wind we were not able to leave until 10:00 o'clock on the morning of the 20th, setting sail toward Monte Argentario.

FRIENDS OF THE UW-MADISON LIBRARIES

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Name (please print)

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Return this form and check to:

Friends of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries
728 State Street/ Room 443C
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

FRIENDS NEWS

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

The Friends volunteers work in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections on special projects that help preserve materials from deterioration and create new ways of accessing valuable research data.

Continuing projects include the work of Bill Patch creating the geographical catalog and Rosanna Patch maintaining the chronological catalog of the Department's holdings. Kathleen Keller has completed organizing and listing correspondence with Anais Nin and Henry Miller in the

Felix Pollak Collection, as well as organizing the manuscripts of Laura Riding (Jackson), another 20th-century writer. She is currently working on a similar project with the papers of poet Carl Rakosi. Additional correspondence and papers in the Pollak Collection are being inventoried and described by Pat Duffie. Sigrid Fry continues her work cataloging letters in the Renee Lang Collection of modern European literature.

The Department is pleased to welcome three new volunteers,

Lonnie Hayman, Mary Harshaw and Gail Yu. They have begun wrapping fragile books in preparation for the move to the new department quarters on floors eight and nine of the addition. All of the volunteers will be involved in this effort to prepare materials for the move. Lonnie and Mary are also hard at work on an inventory of the American literary manuscript collection.

Thanks to all of these volunteers for their countless hours of effort which benefit all the library's patrons.

BOOK SALES

On the third Friday and Saturday of each month, the Friends sponsor a book sale held in the southeast basement of Memorial Library. Hours are 3:00-5:15 Friday and 11-1 Saturday. Books offered include hardcover fiction and non-fiction, textbooks, mass-market paperbacks, and recent best-sellers, as well as less common items such as, pamphlets, maps, sheet music, and magazines; the selection varies from sale to sale. Campus libraries supply some books each month, but books donated by Friends and other supporters of the library make the sales most successful. If you would like to donate some books, please contact Peter Bratsch, student assistant to the Friends, at 262-3243. Special thanks go to the many Friends who have given books for previous sales.

SPRING PROGRAM

Professor of art history and Friends boardmember Frank Horlbeck presented to the Friends on March 7 a talk and slide show entitled "Athos, the Ark of Beauty." Having made several trips there, Professor Horlbeck is an expert on Mt. Athos, the only monastic republic remaining in the western world. Located in a remote and beautiful part of northern Greece, Mt. Athos has for a thousand years been dedicated to prayer and contemplation, through

which the men there (no women are allowed) seek their own salvation and that of the world. So conscious are the monks of their great trust and their glorious past that even today they call their communities "the Imperial Monasteries of the Holy Mountain." The Friends appreciated the opportunity to learn about this unusual community while viewing beautiful slides in the company of an expert tour guide.

JOIN US

In order to sustain its activities, the Friends of the UW-Madison Libraries need more, dedicated members. If you are interested in joining the Friends, please use the enclosed form to initiate or renew your membership.

The activities of the Friends are of two kinds: promotional—including annual dinners, lectures, newsletters, and exhibit catalogs—and fundraising to support library projects that would not otherwise be possible.

Membership brings with it circulation privileges in Memorial Library and complimentary copies of all Friends' publications.

ANNUAL DINNER

The Friends' Annual Dinner Meeting, to be held on Wednesday April 18th, will feature Allen Debus, Professor in the History of Science at the University of Chicago. Professor Debus, whose collection of sheet music, recordings and phonographs numbers in the tens of thousands, will present a program entitled "Vaudeville and the Melting Pot: American Popular Entertainment and Ethnic Comedy at the Turn of the Century." The evening will be an audio visual one, featuring the recordings and sheet music of newly arrived immigrants celebrating their ethnicity.

Professor Debus, who studies the part played by chemistry and medicine on the scientific revolution of the 16th and 17th centuries, has been collecting music since he was a teenager. He first became fascinated with American popular music when as a child he listened to recordings on his great aunt's victrola. As a historian he is especially interested in what music tells us about people's lives, their interests and their tastes.

We look forward to a fun and informative evening. Please make plans to join us. Further details will follow.



Sheet music for the Wisconsin march song.

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