



LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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Collections

The art of books, online, features nineteenth-century covers

by Gabriel Miller

Books are traditionally sought for what lies between their covers, but a recent joint project between the UW-Madison Library and the University of Alabama Libraries explores the cultural and historical significance of what lies not between the covers but on the covers of nineteenth-century books.

The project, titled Publishers' Bindings Online, 1815-1930: The Art of Books (PBO), provides an online collection of nineteenth-century decorative book bindings drawn from the collections of UW-Madison and the University of Alabama. Currently, visitors to the site can search or browse a limited collection of images; upon completion the site will hold images and bibliographic information for more than 5,000 decorative books. The articles and technical skills shown by the covers, spines, endpapers, and title pages of decorative books, and the bibliographic documents, provide a reflection of the historical events, art movements, and evolution of commercial binderies between 1815 and 1930.

The Web site also features extensive teaching tools and provides essays and lesson plans designed for a range of students. For more advanced study, the Web site provides research tools, including a forthcoming glossary of binding-related terminology and biographies of binding designers.

The books come from the William B. Cairns Collection of American Women

(continued on page two)



Gold stamping

Black stamping

Green stamping

Printed
paper
cover



Coated
paper
onlay

Detail from poster showcasing material from the Art of Books project in collaboration with the University of Alabama.

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Board of Regents

From the president

Looking ahead: budget and planning

The Friends of the UW-Madison Library have reason to look back over the past year with satisfaction in having increased again the level of support to both of our major programs — the grants-to-libraries and grants to visiting scholars.

The lecture programs have proven to be of high quality and have been well attended. The FELIX program, initiated with our support, has given an outlet to the creators of current small magazines and a venue for the reading of the contemporary poetry being produced within our region. A new program of support that has been a great success allows a junior library staff member or an advanced School of Library and Information Studies student to attend Rare Book School or an equivalent off-campus special educational opportunity. The effectiveness of the program has attracted the attention of other library support groups. Thus, our Friends organization, one of the oldest in the nation, continues to evolve in its service functions.

Accompanying the increased activities and expenditure has been the continuing necessity to improve our income and to work toward the increased security of the



income stream. But I wish to emphasize to the membership that the organization now has benefit of a precise budgetary history of our previous decade of operation and that this codification of our accounting has permitted the presentation of a highly detailed, itemized

budget to the board of directors at the August meeting. That budget is calendarized, such that our activities can be plotted against income and expenditure on a monthly basis, which should lead to more accurate planning of projected program expansion or the institution of any new programs. For most of us, the construction and consideration of a budget are very dreary activities, but their importance in a responsible planning structure is indisputable. We are grateful to Dick Tatman for his near-singlehanded production of our budgetary history and the construction of our first calendarized annual budget. He and the Finance Committee will be keeping a watchful eye upon the income and expenditures through this next year and will be providing quarterly guidance to our activity committees.

William G. Reeder

Art of books *(continued from page one)*

Writers (1650–1920) in UW-Madison's Department of Special Collections, as well as Memorial Library's general collection, the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies, the State Historical Library, and Steenbock Library among others. Alabama will draw materials from the W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, which houses more than 2,700 works from the 1830s to the 1920s. Books used in the online archive were also provided by Friend of the UW-Madison Library Beth Kubly, whose donations were previously featured in a recent exhibit of trade bindings at Memorial Library.

As part of the collaboration, UW-Madison will provide the technology for searching the data, while the University of Alabama will host the Web site. To view the project online, or for more information, visit <http://bindings.lib.ua.edu/>.

The University Library's first reference department

by David Null,
University Archivist

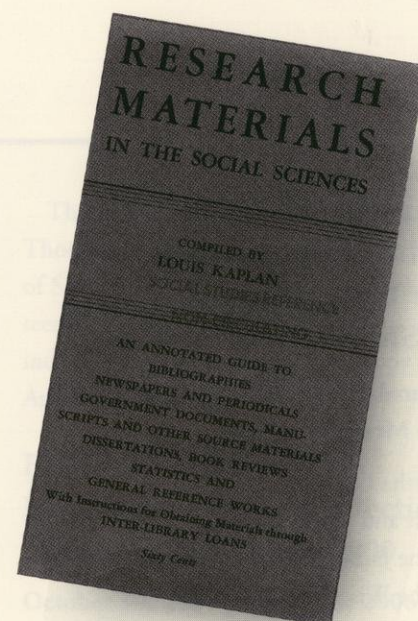
In September 1937, fresh from the library school at the University of Illinois, Louis Kaplan was hired to create a reference department for the University Library. Much change was afoot in the library, Walter Smith, University Librarian since 1890, had retired at the end of 1936, and Gilbert Doane succeeded him in February 1937. Doane brought in Kaplan, who would soon receive a PhD in history from Ohio State University, to create a reference department for the University Library. His starting salary was \$1800 a year — typical for a new librarian at the time (Doane made \$6198 as director in 1937/38). In his first annual report to the president, Doane said “The most important improvement in the service which the library renders the faculty and student body has been brought about through the appointment of an assistant librarian in charge of reference service.”

In 1937 the State Historical Society of Wisconsin Library and the University Library still shared space in the Historical Society building. The new reference

department was housed in the Periodical Room (on the north side of the main Reading Room — a staff area today) and space was an immediate concern. In his first annual report, Kaplan complained that he could only bring 2,000 reference volumes together because of the limited space, and he noted that the current location meant that the Reference Department was hidden from view. Kaplan suggested moving reference to the main Reading Room since “many students, even after four years on the campus, are unaware of the existence of the Periodical Room.” By at least the early 1940s, reference service was being provided at the “long counter” in the Reading Room.

Reference service was not all that different from today, other than the lack of computers. Reference staff helped students, faculty, and community users find resources for term papers and theses, use the card catalog, find recreational reading, and other information services. Kaplan also started a vertical file containing pamphlets, clippings, and the “so-called Gallup polls” on current topics. By 1940 the department was staffed by Kaplan, Waldemar Thurow, who had been transferred from the Physics-Math Library, and a librarian from the Historical Society Library. Kaplan noted that since 90 percent of the reference collection was used by university students, this division of labor between the two libraries seemed fair.

In addition to his regular duties, Kaplan was very active professionally, reviewing reference books for *Library Journal*, becoming an editor of the new journal *College and Research Libraries*, and publishing



a guide to research materials in the social sciences.

On July 1, 1947, Kaplan became the associate librarian (public services), a new position and was in charge of public services and collection development for the University Library. Helen Northup took over as head of the reference department. At this time, the department also included the Periodical Room and interlibrary loan, and in October of 1947 an Information Desk was added near the public catalog. Kaplan would spend much of the next few years planning for the new Memorial Library. In 1957 Kaplan became Director of University Libraries, a position he would hold until 1971 when he became a faculty member in the Library School. He retired in 1977 and died in Madison on July 8, 1994.

Kaplan played a major role in making the university libraries what they are today, and part of his legacy was the creation and fostering of a strong reference tradition.

An excellent summary of Kaplan's life and career is Gretchen Lagana's *Louis Kaplan and the University Library at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1937-1971* (Madison: The Friends of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries, 1992).



Wisconsin Historical Society Library, where the University Library was also housed until 1953. Top right: Research Materials in the Social Sciences, published by Louis Kaplan in 1949, priced at sixty cents.

calendar

Narratives and Visions: Using Treasures from the UW-Madison Library to Shape Starry Transit

Thursday, September 15, 4:30 p.m.
126 Memorial Library

Martha Glowacki,
artist and co-director
of the James Watrous Gallery
of the Wisconsin Academy
of Sciences, Arts and Letters

Martha Glowacki, one of Wisconsin's best known sculptors, and currently a co-director of the James Watrous Gallery of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, delivered a lecture titled "Narratives and Visions: Using Treasures from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Library to Shape the Exhibition Starry Transit." In her talk for the Friends, Glowacki discussed the exhibition she has created and how important sources for it have been drawn from the holdings of Memorial Library's Department of Special Collections, including primary and secondary sources from historic astronomical and ornithological volumes.

FELIX: A Series of New Writing

Thursday, September 22, 4:30 p.m.
126 Memorial Library



Beyond Boundaries:
The Poetry of Linh Dinh
and William D. Waltz

The first FELIX reading of the year featured two poets whose work as writers, translators and editors creatively engages with issues of the local and the transnational. Linh Dinh discussed the state of

writing and publishing in contemporary Vietnam as well his experience of living and writing in Certaldo, Italy, as a guest of the International Parliament of Writers Cities of Asylum Network. Linh Dinh is a highly acclaimed poet, whose work has appeared in publications such as *Best American Poetry*, *American Poetry Review*, and *Sulfur*. He is also the author of two short story collections, *FakeHouse* and, most recently, *Blood and Soap*. William Waltz spoke about his experience as the founder and editor of the Minneapolis-based journal *Conduit*. *ZooMusic*, Waltz's first book, was selected by Dean Young as the winner of the Second Annual Slope Editions Book Prize. Both writers read from their award-winning work.

Named after Felix Pollak (1909–1987), poet and former curator of Special Collections, this developing reading series invites young writers to provide a forum for conversation on the evolution of "little magazines" and their role in today's literary culture.

Friends of the UW-Madison Library Semiannual Book Sale

Wednesday through Saturday,
October 12 – 15
116 Memorial Library

Come and explore the Friends semiannual book sale, the single-largest used book sale in Wisconsin. Students, faculty, staff, and Madison residents donate materials ranging from philosophy and literature to science and reference texts. Proceeds from the fund-raiser help support the Friends Grants-in-Aid program for visiting scholars, a grant program for campus libraries, and other programming. In addition, 10 percent of the proceeds are transferred to

the Friends endowment. To donate books or volunteer for the Friends spring book sale, please call 608-265-2505 or e-mail the Friends at friends@library.wisc.edu.

- Wednesday, Preview sale (\$5 entry)
5 – 9 p.m.
- Thursday – Friday, Regular sale
(No entry fee) 10:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- Saturday, \$2-a-Bag Sale
(Bring your own bag or buy one for \$1)
10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
(2–3 p.m.: remaining books are free)

For more information on the sales, including how to donate books or volunteer at the sales, please go to <http://giving.library.wisc.edu/friends/book-sales.shtml> or contact the Friends at (608) 265-2505 or by e-mail at friends@library.wisc.edu.

FELIX: A Series of New Writing

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



On and Off the Page:
Ugly Duckling Presse
editors Anna Moschovakis
and Matvei Yankelevich

Ugly Duckling Presse seeks to create space for art, both on and off the page, "free of expectation, coercion, and utility." In their books, chapbooks, broadsides, CDs, digital videos, and the journal *6x6*, they create exquisite space for emerging, international, and "forgotten" writers with well-defined formal or conceptual projects that are difficult to place at other presses. Anna Moschovakis and Matvei Yankelevich, in addition to reading their own poetry, will discuss the challenges and rewards of their exceptional project as editors of Ugly Duckling Presse.

Anna Moschovakis has also translated

of events

the work of Henri Michaux, Claude Cahun, Blaise Cendrars, Théophile Gautier, and Elie Faure for numerous publications. Her poetry has appeared in *Art New England*, *BOMB Magazine*, *Iowa Review*, *Can We Have Our Ball Back*, and *The Poker*, among other journals.

Matvei Yankelevich's translations of Daniil Kharmis have appeared in *3rd Bed*, *The Germ*, *New American Writing*, *Open City*, *PAJ*, and *Watchword*. His own writing has recently appeared in *Carve*, *Fell Swoop*, *Fulcrum*, *LIT*, *Moon City Review*, *New York Nights*, *Open City*, *Torch* and *Weigh Station*; and online at *Can We Have Our Ball Back*, *Shampoo*, *3am*, and *Aught*.

Those Old Bones: The Strange Afterlife and Times of Thomas Paine

Thursday, November 17, 4:30 p.m.
126 Memorial Library

Paul Collins,
editor of The Collins Library

Collins is a regular contributor on both science and literary history to the *Village Voice* and *New Scientist* magazine. His new book *The Trouble With Tom: The Strange Afterlife and Times of Thomas Paine* details an eccentric quest for the bones of America's founding father, whose remains were stolen by an admirer in 1819. They've been turning up in some very strange places ever since — hidden under the stool of a London tailor, inside a roadside statue in New York, and stored in a Paris hotel room. And in their strange tale is the story of radical democracy itself ... albeit one that crosses paths with everyone from a suicidal gunman and a pair of berserk monkeys to Mark Twain and a rather tipsy Alfred Lord Tennyson.

In addition to his work as editor

of The Collins Library, an imprint of McSweeney's Books, Collins is also the author of several works of non-fiction, including *Not Even Wrong: Adventures in Autism*, *Banvard's Folly: Thirteen Tales of People Who Didn't Change the World*, and *Sixpence House*.

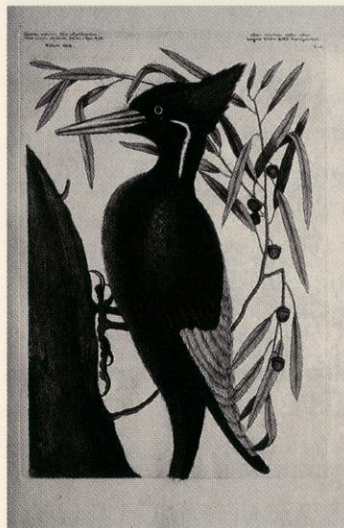


Exhibit: Rare Birds, Rare Books

Through September 2005

Department of Special Collections
976 Memorial Library
Monday–Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

As part of an exhibit titled *Birds in Books*, the beautiful illustrative plate Ivory Billed Woodpecker, in Mark Catesby's *The Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands: Containing the Figures of Birds, Beasts, Fishes, Serpents, Insects, and Plants* (1754), is currently on display in the Department of Special Collections.

The image, made for the purpose by UW–Madison Library's Digital Content Group, was featured in the August 2005 issue of *Birder's World*, in a story related to recent findings that the bird is not extinct.

The books on display, largely from the Thordarson Collection in the Department of Special Collections, date from the sixteenth through the twentieth century and include the library's magnificent copy of Audubon's *Birds of America*.

Exhibit: More from the Fry Collection: Italian History, 1300–1900

October 10, 2005–January 23, 2006

Department of Special Collections
976 Memorial Library
Monday–Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Manuscripts, printed ephemera, and books from the extensive collection assembled by William F. "Jack" Fry, emeritus professor of physics, UW–Madison. "It is the micro history that's interesting," as Fry describes his collecting, "not the big things. The common life captured in letters, small town government, the bread baker and shoe-maker." This exhibit, showcasing aspects of Italian "micro history" before Mussolini's rise to power, complements an earlier exhibit of the Fry Collection entitled *Italian Life Under Fascism* (1998), now available online at <http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/dpf/Fascism/Home.html>.



Tea Dance to benefit the Music Library Collection

Mills Music Library will be hosting a tea dance featuring the music of Skitch Henderson of the Johnny Carson show and the Retro Swing Band from 4–6 p.m. Sunday, October 9, in the Memorial Union. Mills Music Library is home to the Skitch Henderson Collection which includes approximately 1,000 compositions and arrangements. The collection was given to the library by Henderson in 1970.

Word of the collection piqued interest with members of the Retro Swing Band, a Madison-based group of retirees who enjoy playing big band jazz. To generate funds to help process the collection and make it more accessible to the public, the Retro Swing Band has agreed to perform pieces from the collection during a tea dance.



A donation of \$10 is suggested. For more information about the tea dance, the Retro Swing Band or the Skitch Henderson Collection, visit <http://music.library.wisc.edu/Jongleur/spring04/skit102.htm>.

FELIX enters third year of innovative poetry

Since its inception in October 2003, FELIX: A Series of New Writing has always been a unique event in the Friends semiannual program of lectures and events. From the beginning the FELIX series, as conceived by then-graduate students Barry Osborne and David Pavelich, was seen as an opportunity to involve the community with literary history as it was happening. As assistants in the Department of Special Collections, both Osborne and Pavelich deeply valued the libraries' collections; as a fiction writer and poet, respectively, they saw the library as a forum to expose audiences to new writing.

This fall the FELIX series (see calendar on pages 4–5) continues that theme under the new leadership of Laura Sims and Hai Phan, who have changed both the focus and the scope of the series for the 2005–06 FELIX series.

While the programs have traditionally highlighted local literary talent, Sims and

Phan will now pair one local poet with a visiting poet in an effort to highlight the many styles and cultures in literature.

"We believe this blending of local and transnational literary culture, which mirrors the new direction of literary culture in general, is essential in moving FELIX forward," Sims says. "We also believe that the university community and the general public will enjoy this rich pairing of voices and perspectives."

By all measures, FELIX has been a success, both in its ability to expose audiences to new writing and draw students into libraries. Furthermore, since their involvement with the series, seven of the poets have either published their first books or have one forthcoming.

The series is named after Felix Pollak (1909–1987), poet and former curator of Special Collections, whose namesake collection is housed in the Department of Special Collections.

Did you know?

Three Grants-in-Aid scholars brought to campus

This fall the UW–Madison Library hosts three visiting scholars in the humanities as part of the Friends Grant-in-Aid program. The Friends award a small number of grants each year designed to provide access to collections for scholars who live beyond commuting distance. The grants, each one month in duration, foster awareness of the diverse resources of the UW–Madison Library and generate increased scholarly use of specialized research collections. This fall the Friends will host visiting scholars from Italy, Switzerland, and Israel.

- Luca La Rovere, currently a visiting professor at the University of Rome with a specialization in Contemporary History, will investigate the role played by the radical left as a channel of political participation and social integration for Italian Jews.
- Karel Plessini is currently completing his doctoral studies at the University of Bern. He will be researching primary documents from the Mosse Archive in University Archives to be used in an intellectual biography of the late George L. Mosse, the noted historian and former UW–Madison professor.
- Helena Paavilainen, a post-doctoral fellow at the Sidney M. Edelstein Center for the History and Philosophy of Science, Technology, and Medicine in Jerusalem, will undertake research to widen the understanding of the medicinal and pharmacological uses of simple drugs in medieval times, attempting to discover patterns in drug therapy.

Stranger than fiction

Grant-in-Aid recipient studies pseudo-science collection

by Christine Garwood

Lord Byron famously wrote, "Truth is strange, stranger than fiction," and the same could be said of my recent research trip to the University of Wisconsin–Madison, courtesy of the



Grants-in-Aid program of the Friends of the UW–Madison Library. The purpose of my visit was to consult the Robert Schadowald Pseudo-Science Collection

in order to complete the research for my forthcoming book, *Flat Earth*, due to be published by Macmillan in June 2006

This study, aimed at the general reader, will be the first to trace the history and modern public revival of the idea that Earth is flat on both sides of the Atlantic. The topic itself is a colorful one, but as I discovered in Madison, the story does not end there. I arrived expecting to find a rare book collection including some obscure flat-earth literature unavailable elsewhere in the world.

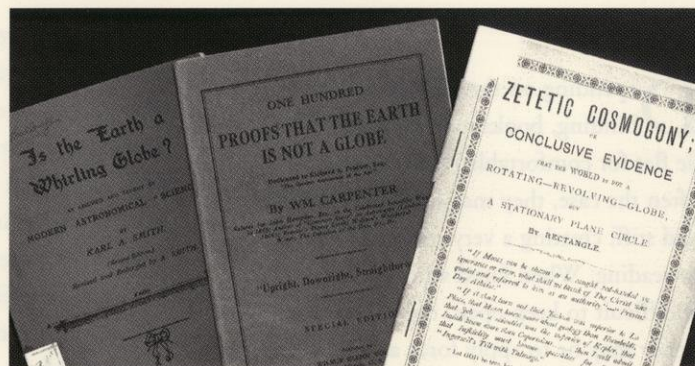
Besides this, I discovered that Special Collections also holds the personal papers of the late writer Robert Schadowald, who, it transpired, had researched the topic of my book for a total of twenty-four years. For a writer this is a once in a lifetime

find; due to the assistance of the Friends of UW Library and Robin Rider, together with the generosity of the Schadowald family, I have a wealth of additional material for my book. Indeed on several occasions I was heard to exclaim that if I had not arrived with an almost complete

manuscript of my own, I would not have known where to start.

Yet besides the information that the 70-carton collection contained, there was a notable personal element too. Just two months from my deadline, I realize that the book will now stand as a testament not only to my own work, but also to the painstaking research of a pioneering writer with whom I would undoubtedly have had much in common.

The history of the flat-earth idea, albeit interesting and important, is so marginal that only we two have ever uncovered the story in full. Thus the research experience turned out to be both intriguing and, quite frequently, touching. While rifling through carton upon carton of research files I not only met with a gold mine of



Pamphlets from the Robert Schadowald Collection on Pseudo-Science arguing that the earth is not a globe. Special Collections, Memorial Library, University of Wisconsin–Madison.

information, but was also treated to a glimpse inside the mind of another researcher in a different place and time.

It did not take long to calculate that Schadowald had begun amassing the material when I was just 4 years old. At points it was almost eerie to see how he had followed the same leads and reached the same conclusions over the years and the miles. Needless to say, my trip proved to have been essential. In fact, as a result of photocopying, on my return journey my suitcase weighed 86 pounds.

Thanks to some swift negotiations with airline staff the papers are back in England, but I have also returned with several debts of gratitude and another story — that of a pioneering researcher to whom *Flat Earth* will be dedicated — the story of the book within the book.

In memoriam

ellsworth snyder

ellsworth snyder, a longtime member of the Friends of the UW–Madison Library board, passed away in August. During his tenure as president, the organization introduced poetry readings and musical performances to the lecture series, initiated grants to campus libraries, and increased the Friends magazine circulation ten-fold. snyder also made local television appearances to promote the Friends. To read a feature profile on ellsworth snyder, see <http://giving.library.wisc.edu/friends/magazine/2001-libraries-magazine.pdf>. Gifts in his memory may be made to the Friends c/o the University of Wisconsin Foundation (please use the attached card).



Preservation

Opening a book for the first time

by Andrea Rolich

Depending on the method used for binding, books may open easily and lie flat for comfortable reading or, as is too often the case, they may be tightly bound and stiff, creating a very real impediment to reading. When faced with a volume that is difficult to keep open, the natural tendency may be to apply force and bend the pages back, sometimes until the binding breaks. However, "cracking open a book" need not be a literal experience.

The steps described below will help to relax tight bindings and lengthen their life considerably. Work with clean, dry hands on a clean, flat, stable surface.

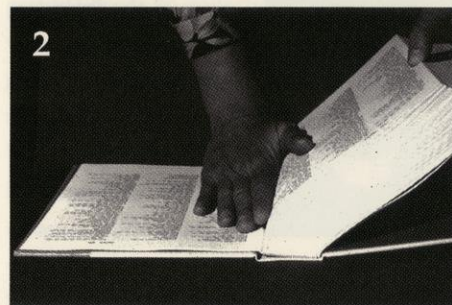
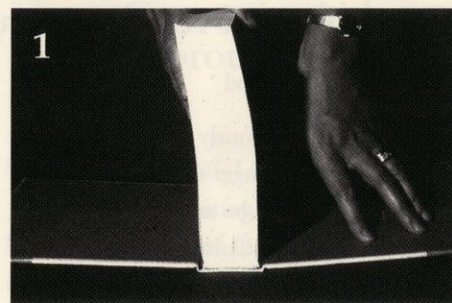
1. Position the book securely on its spine.

While holding the textblock in one hand, lower the covers one at a time and gently run thumb or finger along each of the hinges.

2. Alternating between the front and back of the book, release approximately one-tenth of the pages at a time onto the cover. As each grouping of pages is lowered, apply light pressure with finger or palm along the inner margins (gutter) of the open pages.

3. Continue until the volume has been fully opened to the approximate center of the textblock. If the binding is particularly stiff, repeat the process several times, opening different groupings of pages each time.

This procedure is especially effective when opening a properly sewn book for the first time. The technique may also be used to provide greater flexibility to adhesive-bound books, but it will not prevent poorly made adhesive bindings from shedding pages in much too short a time. Though it may be applied to older books, do not use this method if the volume has weak or fragile paper, hinges, or covers.



Adapted from Preservation of Library Materials (1981), UW-Madison.

Friend news

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University of Wisconsin-Madison Library**

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