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FRIENDS OF  
THE LIBRARY  
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OF WISCONSIN

MESSENGER

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*Published Annually*

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*No. 12, May, 1971*

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LOUIS KAPLAN

Louis Kaplan has requested that he be relieved of his duties as Director of Libraries at the University of Wisconsin and that he be afforded the opportunity of teaching in the Library School. It is inspiring to review what he has done for the University since he came to the Library in 1937 and, more particularly, in the period since 1957 during which he was Director.

It would be easy to detail statistics of growth, such as: 1937 — Total number of volumes 450,000; 1957 — 1,025,000; 1971 — 2,290,000; and also: size of staff; number of chairs; miles of shelves; and acres of floor space. The showing would be impressive and Kaplan had much to do with it, for he was an effective exponent of the needs of the Library. Some growth, however, was inevitable, and he was helped by the fact that for most departments the Library had the second favorite budget. But it is more important to assess the quality of the man and of his leadership than to amass figures — even if, in my opinion, it is difficult for figures to be dry.

A library should be a collection of books made useful.

We must first consider the collection. Even a mismanaged collection has the potential of becoming useful. No management can make a great library from a mediocre collection. When, in 1946, the University bought the Thordarson collection, John D. Jones said at the Regents' meeting (I quote from memory): "I am told that the University of Wisconsin is a great university; and I am told that one cannot have a great university without a great library; and I do not suppose one can have a great library by just having the books every other library has. I think we should buy the collection." Perhaps there is nothing on which Kaplan has put greater emphasis than on the enhancement of the collection. For this the staff must be ade-

quate. A knowledge of what new books are being published and what old books are becoming available is necessary, and this in many specialties. Moreover, buying is not indiscriminate and selection is of the utmost importance. Selections must be made with the varied needs of the university community in mind. There are the needs for the undergraduates—often for multiple copies; there are also the requirements of the research scholar. Kaplan has constantly and successfully sought to develop a staff that will ensure both the quality and the appropriateness of the collections in our libraries. He has kept everlastingly at the task of knowing the University. Of course, many requests to purchase books come from faculty and students. This is a great help, but it is not without problems. How much more should one support a vocal department than one that is less enterprising in regard to the library but otherwise is excellent? When you refuse to purchase a book, you are lucky if you are accused of parsimony rather than of being a foe of academic freedom; and when tempers rise, it is the director—not the subordinate—who must stand the gaff.

Even if books come first, the buildings in which they are housed, made available, and used, are of major importance. When the Memorial Library was in the planning stage, Kaplan more than anyone else analyzed the needs it would serve, explained them to both the building committee and the architect, and was the watchdog during construction. All this was before he became Director. He did not stop building at this point. His was a strong influence in planning the Mathematics-Physics Library, the Steenbock Library of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Middleton Library of the College of Medicine. A new undergraduate library, planned under his direct guidance, will soon open in Helen White Hall; and he has developed the basic concepts of the enlargement of the Memorial Library.

One of Kaplan's greatest qualities is his willingness to really examine needs and to put greater loyalties before the lesser. He has been a force for unselfishness in that splendid interinstitutional enterprise, the Center for Research Libraries, where for him the common interest comes first. He has understood the library needs of the whole University as it merged with the educational institutions in Milwaukee and as it developed other campuses. He has appreciated the values of special libraries in various departments or groups of departments while not only realizing but making clear to others the difficulties involved.

I shall mention a few characteristic accomplishments.

He planned and supervised the move from the State Historical Society building to the Memorial Library. At no time did the library services stop. Books were taken out by readers in one library and returned to the other the same day. Few things have more amazed the library fraternity in which the tradition for such a move was a two- or three-weeks shutdown.

And then there was the thought—the agonizing thought—that went into the change of the cataloguing system to that of the Library of Congress. When Kaplan became Librarian the books were catalogued under an antiquated system which was not being developed and for which there could

be little help from outside. If he had not moved to the Library of Congress system and recatalogued a great portion of the collection, the availability of books would have become less and less until the use of the Library would have bogged down. It took money and courage to make the change. It also took courage and saved money to insist that certain less frequently used books would be kept in compact storage without recataloguing. Success makes decisions obvious which are by no means so at the time they are made.

My first contact with the University Library was in 1919 in the poorly lit, already crowded Mathematics seminar room in the northwest corner of the ground floor of the State Historical Society building. The mathematics collection was in that room but not available when a class was being held. The room was kept locked and had no custodian. By contrast, my most intensive contact with the Library during the last years has been with the Archives, likewise crowded but served by the delightful reading room of the Rare Books Collection and by a cheerful, effective staff. Moreover, the mathematicians along with the physicists have their own branch library in Van Vleck Hall with an appropriate staff. Of course time and growth had much to do with these changes, but the person who epitomizes this development is Kaplan.

I would not dare tell of the following recent episode if I had not already described Kaplan's broad leadership, lest one think of him as a musty, small library booklover. A short while ago I wanted to know the titles of Kaiser William II. I tried the encyclopedia, as well as professors of German, to no avail. Lou overheard me and told me of a book on the titles of European nobility which he believed covered the right period. I do not know if he knew just where in the compact storage it was, but this fascinating and engaging tome had just the information I desired. This perhaps illustrates the generalization that all librarians should be bibliophiles, although certainly not all bibliophiles should be librarians.

One of the opportunities fraught with risk for almost all librarians is the Library Committee. It is often ignored by librarians, at some places they consider it at least an annoyance and often a public enemy. Kaplan has always learned from the Library Committee and has just as constantly educated it. It has backed his decisions and has also explained them to the faculty. To me, serving on that Committee with him, was a particularly happy experience.

I have talked to a number of his colleagues: they like him because he is interesting and congenial; they are grateful to him for he is considerate; and they admire his skill as an administrator.

Every successful librarian is a teacher, but they miss some of the pleasant and some of the unpleasant experiences of teaching. They do not have the stimulus of the classroom but then they do not have bluebooks. Kaplan has chosen to round out his teaching experience. He will enjoy it; and fortunate indeed will be the young aspirants to library careers who become his students. Another facet of his personality will show its lustre.



I think I have done well to wait this long to say "I told you so!" In 1957 I wrote a short note for *College and Research Libraries* on Kaplan's appointment, and said:

"Kaplan is energetic, intelligent, and considerate. The university librarian also needs other qualifications which Kaplan has. He is a scholar. Mutual understanding and respect between the university faculty and the librarian can be based only on the common bond of scholarly competence. Like the president, the librarian needs to know the whole university. Kaplan does. Hence library policies reflect the functions, the specialties, and even the idiosyncrasies of the institution."

I do not recant; and I am happy for the chance to write the present note, for it is done with a deep sense of respect and of friendship. Not every university can boast of a librarian who is a scholar, a gentleman, and an effective administrator. The University of Wisconsin can. It is a great university and Kaplan has been worthy to be its Librarian.

Against all rules, I end on a note of bathos: If it has not already happened, I would like to see Kaplan's face the first time he is asked to show his identification card before being permitted to enter the stacks.

**Mark H. Ingraham**  
**Emeritus Dean,**  
**College of Letters and Science**  
**and Em. Prof. of aMth.**

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### **WILLIAM LILLY, ASTROLOGER (1602-1681)**

The seventeenth century astrologer William Lilly, once a leading figure of his time, is today virtually unknown. This obscurity is particularly unfortunate because Lilly's writings not only yield a wealth of information concerning various social, political, and intellectual aspects of England during the Civil War and Restoration, but they are also invaluable in helping to recreate the background and context against which the major figures of his era should be viewed.

Like many of his contemporaries, Lilly was a prolific writer. His works include numerous prophecies, almanacs, a text-book on astrology, and a short history of James I and Charles I; but this best known and most interesting work is his autobiography, *Mr. William Lilly's History of His Life and Times* (London, 1715). Written with humor and candor, it offers a unique picture of domestic life in seventeenth century England and is especially important for its account of the world of the occult, as well as for its descriptions of both the major and minor figures populating that world.

The most interesting figure to emerge from the book, however, is Lilly himself. He writes that he was born in the small, "rude" village of Diseworth in Leicestershire, May 1602, the son of a hereditary yeoman. He attended grammar school there and planned to continue his education at Cambridge, but his father found himself unable to finance a university edu-

cation for his son, a severe blow to Lilly, who, "could not work, drive the plough or endure any country labour." In 1620 the family lawyer found him a position in London as a domestic servant. Lilly's employer, Gilbert Wright, was "sixty-six or more," and his wife nearly seventy, "yet never was any woman more jealous of a husband than she." In addition to jealousy, she possessed a morbid curiosity as to whether or not she would outlive her husband, and subsequent visits to "cunning or wise men" aroused Lilly's interest. "She frequently visited such persons," he writes, "and this occasion begot in me a little desire to learn something that way, but wanting money to buy books, I laid aside these motions."

Lilly's mistress died in 1625, and Wright married another, much younger woman shortly after. He, in turn, died May 22, 1627, leaving Lilly with a small annuity and a vexing problem—whether or not to court Wright's widow. According to Lilly, "she was of a brown ruddy complexion, corpulent, of but mean stature, plain, no education, yet a very provident person, and of good condition." He also shrewdly noted that having three times married elderly men, she was ready for a change. After a good deal of thought, Lilly finally decided to offer a proposal of marriage:

In my presence saying one day after dinner, she respected not wealth, but desired an honest man, I made answer, I thought I could fit her with such a husband; she asked me, where? I made no more ado, but presently saluted her, and told her myself was the man: she replied, I was too young; I say nay, what I had not in wealth, I would supply in Love; and saluted her frequently, which she accepted lovingly; and next day at dinner made me sit down at dinner with my hat on my head, and said she intended to make me her husband; for which I gave her many salutes, &c.

Lilly spent the next five years enjoying his new life, but his interest in astrology was again aroused in 1632. He writes elsewhere that at this time he was, "strangely affected to Astrology, and desirous to study it . . . there being at that time some Impostors, that set out Bills publicly what they could doe." A friend introduced him to Arise Evans, a fanatic who in 1647 declared himself Christ. "When we came to his house," writes Lilly, "he having been drunk the night before, was upon his bed, if it be lawful to call that a bed whereon he then lay; he roused up himself, and, after some compliments, he was content to instruct me in astrology." Lilly purchased books and pursued his studies with Evans; but after six weeks or so, the two had a falling out, and Lilly decided to continue on alone:

I applied myself to study those books I had obtained, many times twelve, or fifteen, or eighteen hours a day and night; I was curious to discover, whether there was any verity in the art or not. Astrology in this time, viz, 1633, was very rare in London, few professing it that understood any thing there of.

He became so proficient as an astrologer that students began coming to him for instruction; it was for them that Lilly wrote his favorite and most famous astrological work, *Christian Astrology* (London, 1647).

Although originally written as a textbook, it was long considered by followers of astrology as one of the most authoritative works in astrological literature. In addition to the instructions it offered, the book contained a list of over 190 authors in Lilly's private library, noting author, title, place and date of publication. A second edition appeared twelve years later (London, 1659). The work remained forgotten until the nineteenth century, when Richard James Morrison (1795-1874) decided to bring out a new edition. Morrison, who published a number of popular periodicals on astrology under the name "Zadkiel," and who reflected and, in turn, contributed to the nineteenth century's interest in the occult, rewrote the sections of *Christian Astrology* which he claimed modern astronomy and astrology had rendered obsolete. He deleted Lilly's chapters on nativities, and changed the title to *An Introduction to Astrology* (London, 1835).

Sidrophel, the fraudulent astrologer,

That deals in destiny's dark counsels,  
and sage opinions of the Moon sells,  
To whom all people, far and near,  
On deep importances repair.

in Samuel Butler's *Hudibras*, has long been thought to be a satire on Lilly. Whether true or not, the lines above aptly describe an important aspect of Lilly's career: his role as the author of prophecies. He published more than forty of them during his lifetime, but those written during the Civil War (1642-1646) are especially interesting because they illustrate the political and propagandistic uses of astrological literature of the period. His *Prophecy of the White King and Dreadful Dead-Man Explained* (London, 1644) took a definite anti-Royalist position. The title alluded to Charles I, who attended his coronation dressed in white rather than traditional purple, and implied that the king would meet a violent end. The only two English monarchs who had defied tradition and dressed in white for their coronations were Edward II and Henry VI, both of whom died violently. The *Prophecy* was probably Lilly's most popular work among contemporary readers, for, according to him, it sold 1,800 copies in three days. *The Starry Messenger* (London, 1645) served the dual purpose of warning the Stuarts that the king's offensive was doomed to failure and of attacking fellow-astrologist George Wharton, who, Lilly maintained, was purposely attempting to advance the king's declining position through his writings. The work was fortuitously published on the same day that the Battle of Naseby took place, a military engagement which proved to be the decisive defeat of both Charles and his cause.

Lilly also wrote a number of almanacs. His first, *Merlinus Anglicus Junior, the English Merlin Revived* (London, 1644) was so popular it sold out within a week, and was quickly followed by a second edition. He turned out an almanac every year thereafter until his death in 1681. Like his prophecies, a number of the almanacs are of interest for their propagandistic effects, particularly those published during the Civil War and the years immedi-

ately following it. Lilly takes a firm Parliamentary stand in *Anglicus; or an Ephemeris for 1646* (London, 1646). His *Merlini Anglici Ephemeris 1647* (London, 1647) predicted stability and strength for England and its Parliament. In *Merlini Anglici Ephemeris 1651* (London, 1651), Lilly warned against destructive factions in Parliament. Several members of Parliament who suspected him of Presbyterian sympathies had him called before the "committee for plundered ministers" to be examined about his almanac. Forewarned, Lilly had his printer print six new copies of the almanac with the objectional passages removed, so that on examination, he could claim the first edition, "counterfeits, published purposely to ruin me."

*The True History of King James the First and King Charles the First*, published as an appendix to *Monarchy and No Monarchy* (London, 1651), was Lilly's chief non-professional work. If one takes into consideration the date of publication, if he remembers that Lilly at no time during his life made any pretense to being the Clarendon of historical literature, and that for several years he utilized his professional talents in supporting the Parliamentary party, the work, nearly forgotten today, proves a pleasant surprise. It is entertaining, reads well, and contains interesting as well as shrewd insights into Charles' character.

### Bibliographic Note:

- The following editions of Lilly's works are in the Memorial Library: *Christian Astrology Modestly Treated of in Three Books*. London: By Thomas Brudenell for John Partridge and Humfrey Blunden, 1647.
- An Easie and Familiar Method Whereby to Judge the Effects Depending on Eclipses, either of the Sun or Moon*. London: For the Company of Stationers, and H. Blunden, 1652.
- England's Propheticall Merline*. London: By John Raworth, for John Partridge, 1644.
- An Introduction to Astrology*. Ed. Richard James Morrison. London: H. G. Bohn, 1852.
- The Lives of Those Eminent Antiquaries Elias Ashmole, Esquire, and Mr. William Lilly*. Ed. Charles Burman. London: Printed for T. Davies, 1774.
- Mr. William Lilly's History of His Life and Times, from the Year 1602 to 1684*. London: J. Roberts, 1715.
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- . 1658. London: For the Company of Stationers.
- . 1663. —, 1663.
- , 1678. London: By J. Macock, for the Company of Stationers, 1678.
- Monarchy or No Monarchy in England*. London: For Humfrey Blunden, 1651.
- William Lilly's History of His Life and Times from the Year 1602 to 1681*. London: C. Baldwin, 1822.

Gretchen Lagana

Assistant Librarian, Rare Books



## THE KOHLER ART LIBRARY

In 1952, during the presidency of E. B. Fred, the urgent need for an art museum was cited to the Regents of the University. Appropriate planning took place, and in 1962 the Thomas E. Brittingham, Sr., Trusts donated \$1 million to the University to start officially the art center project. To fulfill the commitment for funds needed to construct the building, the University of Wisconsin Foundation conducted a nationwide campaign that successfully reached the goal of \$3.5 million in 1965. The Elvehjem Art Center was to be a cultural facility with a physical environment conducive and suited to the collection, preservation, and exhibition of original works of art and with facilities for the Department of Art History and its courses.

Quite obviously, museum staff, art history faculty, and students would be unable to pursue their curatorial duties, research, and class preparation without a library as the core of the physical and intellectual structure of the Center. With an initial gift of \$300,000. Mr. Herbert V. Kohler, the Kohler Company, and the Kohler Foundation provided the necessary funds.

Beautifully located on the ground floor of the Elvehjem Art Center, with a collection of more than fifty thousand volumes and 180 reader stations in 12,600 square feet of space, the subdued and luxurious Kohler Art Library has completely united, from the general stacks, the Reference and Rare Book Rooms of the Memorial Library, and the Department of Art History's Hagen Library, the University's collection of monographs, periodicals, and exhibition and sales catalogues dealing with architecture, sculpture, graphic arts, painting, engraving, prints, and the decorative and ornamental arts. In support of the instructional and research needs of both the Department of Art History and the Museum staff, the Kohler Art Library is rapidly expanding its holdings. In five years the size of the monograph and periodical collection has nearly tripled. During the fiscal year 1969-70, through state appropriations and gift monies, largely from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, the Kohler Art Library spent nearly \$45,000 for monographs, periodicals, and exhibition catalogues.

While the collection is the main attraction, the attention given to planning and execution of the details of table height, size, and surface; chair support and variation; indirect fluorescent and direct incandescent lighting; and physical arrangement, color, texture and pattern has been repaid by intense student and faculty use and enthusiasm. During November, 14,359 students, faculty, and townspeople used the reading facilities of the library and withdrew 3,789 books for use outside the library. Its four full-time staff members are, in every sense, quite overwhelmed by the university community's response to the newest library on campus.

The library does have problems. It will soon grow beyond its 70,000 volume capacity; the card catalog is incomplete and its subject catalog is not entirely alphabetized; its four-person staff is unable to meet service and technical demands. But the honeymoon has not worn off, and students and faculty do not mind if library operations are rough and inefficient; the

library is there and that is quite enough for them. As one wild-eyed and frizzled undergraduate put it, "When you opened up, you changed the whole university."

**William Bunce**  
**Chief, Kohler Art Library**

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## **VICTORIAN CITIES AND POLLUTION PROBLEMS**

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is the second of a series based on some of the materials acquired by the Social Studies Librarian on an acquisitions trip to Europe in the Fall of 1969.)*

A somewhat eccentric artist, Benjamin Haydon, claimed in his AUTO-BIOGRAPHY (1841) that the pall of smoke which hung over London was not offensive to him, but in fact was in his imagination "the sublime canopy that shrouds the city of the World." From other contemporary accounts we can be certain that Haydon was merely indulging in one of his extravagant flights of fancy, for as the novels of Charles Dickens, reports of Parliamentary commissions, and the social surveys of Charles Booth attest, "a colorful anthology," to quote the eminent scholar Asa Briggs, "of complaints about mid-Victorian London could be collected without difficulty." The Library recently acquired as part of a collection of books and pamphlets on nineteenth-century England a number of items related directly to urban problems and their solutions as perceived a hundred years ago. Although many examine technical questions and submit scientific solutions which are now dated, the problems they discuss — air and water pollution, waste disposal, sanitation — sound distressingly familiar and remind us that the problems the rise of industry bequeathed remain unsolved.

London was not the only city affected by the combination of mushrooming industry, rapidly accelerating rural-urban migration, and the consequences of inadequate planning. In 1842 the Leeds City chemist, William West, when he published AN ACCOUNT OF THE PATENT AND OTHER METHODS OF PREVENTING OR CONSUMING SMOKE, found that a statistically proven rise in respiratory ailments accompanied whatever benefits industrialization had brought. He examined the effects of air pollution — chiefly soot — and found that he could trace the cause of a single blighted field to a specific smoke stack. He reviewed more than forty proposed solutions, primarily those recommending a more complete process of combustion. But perhaps most interesting is his account of a public meeting discussing the problem. After considerable debate no solution was forthcoming and the assembly merely passed a resolution that the smoke *should* be reduced, and established a committee to discuss how this reduction should be brought about. Apparently it accomplished little, for Dickens later described Leeds as "the Beastliest place, one of the nastiest I know." Ten years later, W. M.

Buchanan, an engineer concerned with the pall continuing to enshroud manufacturing cities, suggested some NOTES TOWARDS A SOLUTION OF THE SMOKE NUISANCE QUESTION, but found that "Our factory-town population live, move, and have their being in smoke which lugubriously rolls forth from the hundred grim altars which industry has erected." He also recommended finding means for consuming gases more completely, or a method for utilizing the wasted by-products. Although soft coal and not the internal combustion engine was the chief culprit, and the word "smog" had not yet been coined, these solutions are, in essence, still being proposed today.

Besides the problem of air pollution, Buchanan found that the smoke carried a "nuisance element exactly as does the water of our rivers—the filth we so filthily poured into them." As migration from country to city continued at an ever-accelerating rate, the problem of adequate waste disposal and supply of pure water became constantly more acute. London suffered outbreaks of cholera in 1849, 1851, and 1854. John Snow, Queen Victoria's physician, was able, by placing pins in a map of London for each cholera case reported, to trace cases to a single Broad Street pump. But whatever facilities were adequate for a population of less than a half million in 1854, rapidly became outdated as the city trebled in size by 1891 and quadrupled by 1901. Reports and recommendations on sanitary conditions emanated from Poor Law Commissioners, the Select Committee on the Health of Towns, and especially through the valuable work of Edwin Chadwick, but there remained considerable resistance and disbelief. Traditional historians have perhaps been too kind in calling the second half of the 19th century "The Age of Reform," for despite the landmark Public Health Act of 1848 and the outstanding Public Health Act of 1875, which was an apparent capstone of rising standards of public health, progress may have been illusory. As M. W. Flinn points out in his introduction to the reprint of Alexander P. Stewart's and Edward Jenkins' influential THE MEDICAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF SANITARY REFORM (1867), "in 1875 the death rate stood at almost exactly the same level as it had in 1838 when civil registration began and Chadwick first sent his poor-law medical investigators into the London slums." Infant mortality did not decline substantially until the early twentieth century. Perhaps individuals ignored the question and refused to support effective, if costly, action, since no one cared—or cares—to admit that his drinking water is contaminated with raw sewage, or to pay the cost of cleansing it.

The City of Glasgow had attempted early in the nineteenth-century to provide sound statistical information on urban conditions as a basis for civic action. James Cleland, a talented statistician and former Superintendent of Public Works of London, completed the Glasgow census in 1819, the first municipal census taken in the United Kingdom. The Library has recently added to its holdings of his works a little-known memorandum by Cleland on MAINTENANCE OF THE POOR (1828) and his last work, DESCRIPTION OF THE CITY OF GLASGOW (1840), which was prepared for a

meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in Glasgow. But active civic concern and continued collection of statistical information were inadequate. Glasgow's location on the Clyde (a river with a small tidal flow) made the problem of adequate sewage disposal particularly difficult and the City's General Board of Health held hearings to determine needs and find solutions. Based in part on evidence from these hearings, John Thomson examined THE ADVANTAGES OF TUBULAR DRAINAGE AS COMPARED WITH BRICK SEWERS IN THEIR APPLICATION TO HOUSES AND CITIES, and, after a detailed examination and comparison of various drainage systems, made sensible recommendations concerning the discharge of wastes into rivers. But when Kenneth M. Macleod delivered the REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDING 30th APRIL 1877 to the General Health Committee and the Council of Glasgow, it was evident that the increased growth of the city had rendered inadequate even the best intentions. During the four-year period covered by the REPORT, there had been no noticeable decrease in the number of cases of epidemic diseases (there were 26,000 during the period, of which more than 60% affected children under eight) and sanitary conditions showed little sign of improving. The City Government was making some attempts to enforce corrective measures, yet the River Clyde was becoming polluted and statutory powers had to be delegated to the Health Committee to enforce the prohibition of discharge of wastes into the River.

At the same time that civil engineers, city councils, and Royal Commissions were deeply engaged in gathering statistics and making recommendations, there were individuals making creative proposals. In A LETTER (1858) to John Manners, the Commissioner of Works, John Hitchman deplored the "polluted state of the Thames" and devoted his attention to the use of sewage as fertilizer. His recommendation was that the Government purchase Canals (which were already suffering badly from railroad competition) lay iron pipes in the bottom of the canals, and pump the sewage out into the country for use as fertilizer. He suggested that it would also save in the considerable foreign exchange being expended for the purchase of fertilizer from abroad. Thomas Hoey, in a pamphlet sponsored by the Institution of Engineers in Scotland, proposed a similar program in his ON THE COLLECTION, REMOVAL, AND APPLICATION OF TOWN SEWAGE, AND THE SAVING OF WATER (c. 1870). He tried to show that if a system were made possible for the collection of waste and its use as fertilizer, the country would save the foreign exchange to which Hitchman had alluded, and in addition save the water being expended in water-closets. The British Association for the Advancement of Science had sufficient faith in such schemes in 1874 to constitute at Norwich a Committee on the Treatment and Utilization of Sewage which examined potential applications but failed to reach conclusive results.

But it was the Universal Charcoal and Sewage Company Limited, whose motto "Waste Not, Want Not" was at the head of the title of its 1875



pamphlet, THE PROFITABLE UTILISATION OF TOWNS' REFUSE, that recommended a system for complete re-cycling of waste. The company planned to erect kilns in each town into which street-sweepings would be dumped, instead of being "delivered into the town's yards, or 'tipped' on waste ground to afford foundations for rows of cheap cottages," which was common practice at the time. These kilns would carbonize the sweepings and produce a charcoal having great odor absorbing and sanitizing qualities which could then be re-cycled for use in "dry-closets." The wastes from these could be used as fertilizer.

Lest we be either too amused or too horrified at the prospect of some of the systems proposed, one need only recall that at the time of the great nineteenth-century outbreak of cholera in Leeds, there was a miasmic area from which 75 cartloads of untreated manure were removed every day; or reflect that in New York's sophisticated society today, there is scarcely a sidewalk, as one commentator put it recently, on which even the dogs aren't careful about their footing. Certainly a trash mountain which will be the foundation of an amphitheatre and recreation area, as in one southern American city, or a travelling re-cycling machine which takes in all forms of waste and produces sanitized land fill are reflected in these earlier schemes. The problems of local versus centralized jurisdiction, or of re-cycling or other utilization of wastes, which were posed in these 19th century publications, are not less visible and acute today.

### **Bibliographic Note**

Those interested in further exploration of various aspects of English urban history can find numerous primary sources, for example, in the Library's sets of Parliamentary Papers (use the various indexes available in the Documents Reference Department), in the still virtually untapped resources of the *Reports* of the British Association for the Advancement of Science or the *Transactions* of the National Association for the Advancement of Social Science, or in Charles Booth's multi-volume *Life and Labour of the People of London*. Secondary works are legion, but Asa Briggs' *Victorian Cities* or the proceedings of an international roundtable, *The Study of Urban History*, edited by H. J. Dyos (which has an excellent bibliographic review as its first chapter) are a start. For very current work, there are several relevant newsletters available in the Social Studies Reference Department; most important is the *Urban History Newsletter*, but see also the *Bulletin* of the Society of University Cartographers and the *Local Population History Newsletter*.

**Erwin K. Welsch**  
**Social Studies Librarian**

Yes, we're dependent on machines for the satisfaction of most of our needs, including the acquisition of knowledge. In order to get an education, to learn the facts and figures, arts and skills necessary for a trade or profession, we have to turn on our TV sets or our radios, our record-players and micro-readers, our home movies and linguaphones—all the wonderful audio-visual aids science and technology have provided for us. These devices are ingenious and useful, but they have also some drawbacks. In the case of microfilms and microcards, we are dependent upon the availability and functioning of the reading machines, and thus are chained to their locations; at best we have only a limited choice among the texts "micro-canned" for public consumption. In the case of scheduled programs, we are compelled to be passive during the whole process, we're just receivers; we have to take what is prepared for us whenever it is handed out—or leave it altogether. Individual, unorthodox tastes are extremely hard to satisfy, and it seems there are still some people with unorthodox tastes in evidence, some of them so extreme, in fact, that they refuse even to conform to the standards set up by the cliques of non-conformists. And whatever we receive when we turn on our audio-visual sets, we receive simultaneously with millions of others, just as passive and isolated as we, unable to influence the presentation by questions, comments, requests for repetition, or for pauses allowing contemplation. We don't see our fellow listeners, to be sure, but we know they are there, for everything that is offered us in the way of information or entertainment is geared to the average standard which has been predetermined by means of statistics based on scientific and (almost) fool-proof tests. And all this is assuming that the machines work; for if our receiving apparatus is out of order or the technicians servicing (I had almost said "serving") the machines should go on strike, then the pressing of the magic buttons that make the milk of knowledge flow and stop is of no avail; then we find ourselves sitting before a dead object, a medium of communication that fails to communicate.

This, however, need not always be so. It may be a dream of science fiction today, and the realization of that dream may not come before the middle of the next century, but—mark my words, ladies and gentlemen—a change is bound to come. Somebody someday will invent a way of putting thoughts into a form where they are entirely independent of a machine for their release; it will be possible for the individual person to carry a package of knowledge, wisdom, inspiration, or entertainment around with him wherever he goes; he will be enabled to dip into this private storehouse whenever his fancy strikes him, and he may set his own pace in doing so; he may pause to ponder and wonder, repeat, finish, and start anew; and he may have this experience as often as he wants to, absolutely free of any schedule, any timed broadcast, any prearranged program. And nobody will be able

to determine for him just how deeply he may enter into any given subject, no explicator, interpreter, or commentator will be able to tell him just what to think of the question at hand. He will be left to his own devices, his own insights and errors.

More than that: he, the individual, will be in a position to pursue the most abstruse topics imaginable, to study subjects which only he and maybe three or four other people in the whole world are interested in, or for which but a few have the capacity of understanding. You shake your heads? You think such an invention, such a miracle, will be impossible? But haven't many of our present-day realities looked like utopias in times past?

The consequences of this new invention for the whole human race stagger the imagination. Slavery, bondage of the mind, will be a thing of the past. All attempts at thought control—and no doubt there will be such attempts yet—will be rendered futile in the end, for individuals will always discover a container of free, unorthodox thought, a container of the truth as fearless men saw it, and they will find access to these sources, even in the face of obstacles and perils. It seems I keep using the word “individual”—and there is a reason for that: for this new invention will bring about neither more nor less than the survival of the individual as contrasted to the mass man. It may therefore well be the salvation of culture from mechanized civilization, and thus rank as the most important discovery of all times. You must pardon me if I sound like the advertisement for the latest technicolor movie, but the beauty of my vision carries me away. The beauty—yes. For in addition to all its other qualities, this fabulous new object will be a thing of beauty. It will have a very short and simple name. It will be called: BOOK.

Yes, we will retain our reading machines and microfilms and all the other mechanical means of communication, but we will use them only in lieu of the book, or in addition to the book, but never as a replacement of the book. I know—all this sounds incredible and like the millennium, but it will come to pass, ladies and gentlemen, it will come to pass!

**Felix Pollak**  
**Curator of Rare Books**

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## GIFTS (1970)

From the estate of the late Professor Everett D. Hawkins, the library received a large collection of books, pamphlets, reports and separate issues of periodicals. The collection reflected Professor Hawkins' interest in the history of economic thought and in the economic development of East and Southeast Asia. We are indebted to Mrs. Hawkins for this valuable addition to our collections.

Mrs. Paul Raushenbush (Elizabeth Brandeis) gave us a considerable collection of books and pamphlets dealing with labor and economics.

More than 1,300 volumes on a number of subjects were donated by the Evjue family beneficiaries. This is the second time that the library has been given books from the library of William T. Evjue.

From Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hamady of Mt. Horeb, we received 70 volumes of private press books, a generous gift.

Novels written by Elizabeth Corbett (a graduate of our University) plus correspondence relating to her work were sent to us by Harry H. Warfel of Gainesville, Florida.

Almost 150 books on business, accounting and economics were donated by Mrs. Betty Neville of Madison.

Books of literary interest were presented by Frederick A. Eastman of Footville.

Once again, we are indebted to Lloyd Smith of Racine for the gift of a large number of books on a variety of subjects.

Another donor to whom we are again indebted is James L. Weil of New Rochelle, New York, who sent us a number of issues of "little magazines" and press books.

Alfred R. Meir presented us with two unusual 18th century Bibles, one printed in London and the other in Hirschberg.

Several important art books were given to the Kohler Art Library by Arthur J. Frank of Milwaukee.

Walter Scott of Madison gave us a Danish translation of Walton's *Compleat Angler*.

From the National Cash Register Company of Dayton, we received a handsome check which was deposited in the Friends of the University Library Fund. Still another cash gift going to the same fund was sent by an anonymous donor.

Mrs. Porter Butts of Madison gave us a number of useful volumes.

Several members of our faculty brought in books during 1970. There were Dave Baerreis (Anthropology), Harold Kubly (Business) and Emeritus Professor R. M. S. Heffner (German).

To all these friends (or Friends), many thanks.

**Louis Kaplan**  
**Director of Libraries**



## CONTENTS

LOUIS KAPLAN

Mark H. Ingraham

WILLIAM LILLY,  
ASTROLOGER

(1602-1681)

Gretchen Lagana

THE KOHLER

ART LIBRARY

William Bunce

VICTORIAN CITIES

AND POLLUTION

PROBLEMS

Erwin K. Welsch

UTOPIA

Felix Pollak

GIFTS (1970)

Louis Kaplan

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