



Friends news : University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries. Vol. 5, Issue 3 Winter 2007-08

Madison, Wisconsin: Friends of the University of
Wisconsin-Madison Libraries, Winter 2007-08

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Friends NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON LIBRARIES



Winter 2007-08 | Vol. 5 | Issue 3

Commemorating sixty years of friendship in 2008

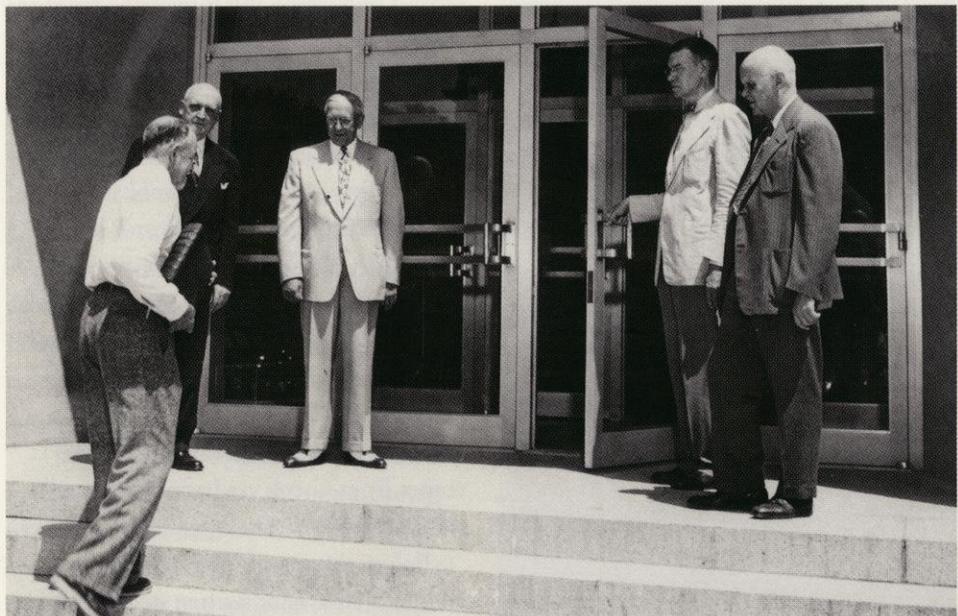
By Christopher Kleinhenz

For most, "friends" groups are nothing new. Indeed, it would be difficult to imagine a time in which they were not present. Here in Madison such groups readily come to mind: radio and television stations, art galleries and museums, and the Madison Public Library and its numerous branches.

Libraries were among the first institutions to develop this concept—the earliest friends group organized in support of a library, the Société des Bibliophiles de Bourgogne, was founded in Dijon, France, in 1905. The most celebrated friends group, the Société des Amis de la Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, dates back to 1913.

In the United States, Harvard established the first library friends organization in 1925, with Yale following closely behind in 1928. By 1938, some fifty library friends groups had sprung up around the country.

On December 13, 1947, the Regents of the University of Wisconsin approved a request that would lead to the founding



In 1953, Memorial Library opened as the main library on campus, five years after the first Friends meeting. Here, Emeritus Professor L.C. Burke carries in the first book, the Coverdale Bible (1535). President E.B. Fred, Regent Oscar Rennebohm, Library Director Gilbert Doane, and Dean of Students Mark Ingraham look on.

of the Friends of the UW-Madison Libraries six months later. The centennial year of the university, as the occasion for the formation of the Friends, held a prominent place in much of the Friends early correspondence and publicity.

(continued on page three)

Sixty Years of Friendship: Great Friends Help Make Great Libraries

Special history presentation by Art Hove, former Friends president, Thursday, February 21, 4:30 p.m., 976 Memorial Library



Research librarian, UW alumna to speak at Friends Annual Lecture in April

Susan M. Allen, associate director and chief librarian of the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles, California, will give the Friends of the UW-Madison Libraries annual lecture on April 16.

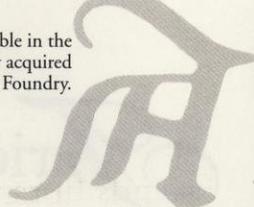
After receiving her bachelor's and master's degrees from UW-Madison, Allen earned a master's from St. John's College in New Mexico and a doctorate in library and information science from UCLA.

In her talk, titled "Staying in the Game: Libraries in a

Digital Age," Allen will speak on the struggle for research libraries to remain competitive in an ever-changing environment.

"Given that the UW-Madison Libraries are a partner in the Google initiative and that they remain committed to maintaining the print collection, we believe the sort of perspectives Allen will bring to bear on these questions are both important and timely," Friends President Chris Kleinhenz says.

See page five for more information.



Volume 5, Issue 3
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Friends News is published with private funding provided through the Friends of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries and other gifts.

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Board of Regents

From the president

Libraries in an historical perspective

In the last newsletter I spoke about what it means to be a "friend" and meditated a bit on the meaning of the word. The second important and interesting word in the name of our association is "library." This term derives from Old French *librairie*, which means the business place of the *libraire* or copyist, the transcriber of manuscripts and maker of books.

The Latin root of these words is, of course, *liber* "book" and its derivatives, such as *librarium* "the place to keep books, a bookcase." Thus, we could say that our "library" is one very large bookcase, a place *par excellence* to "keep books." In Italian the word for library, *biblioteca*, comes from Greek via Latin and literally translates as a "secure repository for books."

Before the age of Johann Gutenberg, all books were handwritten manuscripts, and gatherings of parchment or vellum folios were bound together to form codices. The most precious of these manuscripts were often attached by chains to reading desks to prevent their theft.

Libraries have evolved over time. Indeed, in the modern digital age a great deal of information is readily available in electronic format. As a result, the job and responsibilities of librarians have necessarily changed to meet the opportunities and challenges presented by these new media.

The innovative project announced by Google involving a number of research libraries around the world, including the UW-Madison Libraries and the Wisconsin Historical Society Library and Archives, represents a major change in the way we will approach research, particularly in the humanities, and one that we hope will be beneficial in the long run.

If we look back some 570 years to Gutenberg's invention of printing from

movable type, we can see how he consciously attempted to ease the transition from manuscript to printed book by making his product resemble its predecessors in virtually every way, even incorporating medieval scribal abbreviations in the printed text.

Thanks to this, fifteenth-century readers were able to move effortlessly from manuscript codex to printed book without experiencing what we might call the "shock of the new," for very little had really changed in their reading habits. The basic difference was that, now, books could be produced quickly, in large quantities, and in uniform, standardized editions.

I am accustomed to picking up a book and reading it, and while I admit to great displeasure in looking at page after page of text on the computer screen, I know this is the wave of the future and that it is probably a good thing. The existence of databases in my own area of research, medieval Italian literature, allows scholars to consult literally hundreds of primary and secondary sources without leaving their study, and for these research tools we are most grateful.

These resources will never completely replace the need to consult manuscripts *in situ*, however, for no virtual image can replace the immediate encounter with a medieval cultural artifact and textual witness. And so, unlike our early modern forebears in their first encounter with a printed book, we may be experiencing in our interface with cyberspace what truly is the "shock of the new." O brave new world!

—Christopher Kleinhenz



Friends library grants provide foreign language films to LSS, allow student check-out

By Mary Prochniak

Learning Support Services Librarian

Over the past few years, a series of three grants from the Friends of the UW-Madison Libraries have allowed the L&S Learning Support Services, also known as the "language lab," to create a student check-out collection of world language DVDs.

The LSS is a learning facility that provides multimedia materials (audio, video, digital) in support of classroom instruction, primarily foreign languages.

Due to budgetary constraints and classroom needs, the LSS video collection was limited to 24-hour use for instructional staff only, and students had to view materials



in the lab. Now, with the help of the Friends grants, DVDs can be checked out, providing more convenience to students.

The original grant in 2003 purchased foreign language DVDs to directly support classroom teaching and student assignments for such classes as French Cinema, Italian and Italian/American Culture, and Spanish Literature and Film. In 2005, a second Friends grant allowed LSS to collect foreign language DVDs that were attractive as entertainment and useful in the classroom. This year, a third Friends grant will focus on adding foreign cinema classics such as *La Dolce Vita* and *Carmen*.

Ultimately, the collection became a means to offer students the opportunity to view cinema that would enhance their appreciation for languages and cultures of other countries and provide enrichment beyond the classroom.

Currently there are more than 250

titles in the DVD collection, most of which are recent releases, representing twenty languages from Arabic to Swedish. The collection has been surprisingly popular with both students and instructors. Various foreign film clubs, foreign language instructors, and graduate and undergraduate students have made suggestions for new titles to add. Holdings are listed in MadCat and are available to the entire campus community.



About Library Grants

For eleven years, Friends grants have funded nearly 200 proposals with a total of more than \$200,000 awarded. The grants are primarily intended for acquisition and conservation of library materials. They have funded initiatives ranging from vacuuming books to purchasing Upper Midwest folk music manuscripts.

<http://www.library.wisc.edu/friends/library-grants.html>

Friends sixtieth anniversary (continued from page one)

In the initial call for membership, Gilbert H. Doane, then director of the General Library of the UW, noted that gifts of books from two "Friends of the University," Governor Henry Dodge and H.A. Tenney, helped found the university library a century earlier. "In this, its Centennial year, we are undertaking to organize the Friends of the University of Wisconsin Library both as a memorial to all who have befriended the Library in the past and as an appeal to those who now have its interests at heart," he wrote.

From these very humble beginnings, our university library has grown to the point that it is now ranked eleventh among North America's research libraries. Part of the margin of excellence that makes this a world-class institution may be attributed to the activities of the Friends over the past sixty years.

At the first Friends meeting on June 17, 1948, the organization had 142 members and a grand total of \$273.43 in its coffers thanks to dues and donations. At this meeting, A.W. Schorger of Madison was elected the first Friends president, and John T. Emlen, William L. Sachse, and Gretchen Schoenleber

were also elected to the executive committee. Doane would be ex-officio secretary-treasurer.

At the time, and for several years following, annual "contributions" (dues) were set at "one dollar (or more)," and a few members generously contributed sums of \$10 and \$20, and one even gave \$25. By December 1, 1948, the Friends membership had increased to 188, and total contributions had more than doubled its treasury to \$575.93.

As expressed in the first article of the Friends constitution, the "object of this organization shall be to stimulate interest in the growth and enrichment of the University of Wisconsin Libraries," and the Friends thus pledged themselves "to purchase unusual material for the book collections or some specific item too expensive for the regular budget" and to use "their influence to obtain gifts or bequests of either books or endowment funds."

These original purposes are among those the Friends embrace today. Over the course of this academic year the Friends are compiling a history to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of its founding, which will be published in an appropriate manner.

CALENDAR

Exhibition:

Stormy Weather

Special Collections

976 Memorial

Library

Continues through

February 8

9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday



From Shakespeare's "pelting of this pitiless storm" to Snoopy's "It was a dark and stormy night," storms have driven plots, guided metaphors, afflicted travelers, and attracted scientific popular attention. The exhibit *Stormy Weather* in the Department of Special Collections explores storms and weather, drawing upon a wide range of rare books and manuscripts in literature, humor, history, and science.

Highlights include "Raining Cats, Dogs & Pitchforks" by George Cruikshank, early English almanacs, Ben Franklin's kite experiment, winters in Lapland and Iceland, violent storms at sea, and the tornado in the Wizard of Oz. Guest exhibit curator is Sarah Boxhorn, who is a graduate student in the School of Library and Information Studies.

Exhibition:

John H. Van Vleck, The Middle Years

Physics Library

4220 Chamberlin Hall

Begins January 2008

The second exhibit in a series on John H. Van Vleck focuses on his part in the "quantum revolution" of the 1920s. Van Vleck began his study of quantum mechanics as a doctoral student at

Harvard and later as a faculty member at the University of Minnesota. He continued his investigation after moving to Wisconsin in 1928, publishing a book in 1932, *The Theory of Electric and Magnetic Susceptibilities*, that is widely recognized as a classic. His personal copy is on display in the exhibit.

Van Vleck laid the foundation for understanding the magnetic properties of solids, and there is a direct line between his discoveries and the development of materials used in computer hard drives and magnetic tapes.

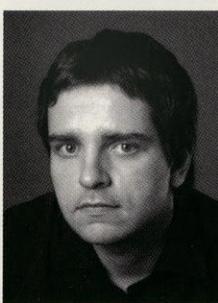
A third exhibit, expected in mid-spring, will continue the Van Vleck story through his many lifetime honors, including receipt of the Nobel Prize.

FELIX: A Series of New Writing

Thursday, February 7 – 4:30 p.m.
126 Memorial Library

The spring semester's first FELIX event features poets Michael Dumanis and Angela Rawlings.

Dumanis is the author of *My Soviet Union* and the winner of the 2006 Juniper Prize for Poetry. His poems have appeared in *American Letters & Commentary*, *Verse*, and *New England Review*. Born in the former Soviet Union, Dumanis won a Fulbright Fellowship and previously served as the poetry editor of *Gulf Coast* and the

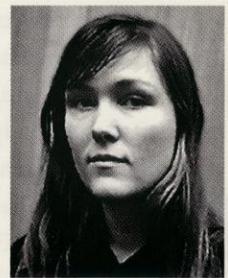


Michael Dumanis

poetry curator at Brazos Bookstore. He is now an assistant professor of English at Nebraska Wesleyan

University.

Rawlings, who goes by a.rawlings, is a poet, editor, and multidisciplinary artist whose first book-length collection of poetry, *Wide slumber for lepidopterists*, was published in 2006. She has presented work across Canada and the United States and, in 2005, hosted the poetry documentary series *Heart of a Poet*. She is also co-editor of *Shift & Switch: New Canadian Poetry*, an anthology featuring more than forty emerging Canadian poets. Rawlings received the bpNichol Award for Distinction in Writing when she graduated from York University in 2001.



Angela Rawlings

'Great Friends Help Make Great Libraries'

Thursday, February 21 – 4:30 p.m.
976 Memorial Library

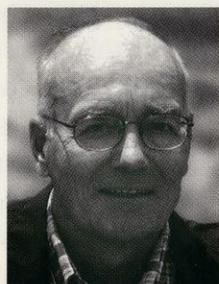
In celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Friends of the UW-Madison Libraries, the Friends welcome Art Hove, one of its former presidents.

Hove's talk will revolve around two major themes: the important contribution the Friends have made to the UW-Madison Libraries over the years, and the dynamic changes that are reshaping the traditional concepts of what makes and defines a library. Specifically, Hove will address the ever-changing role that new forms of information technology bring to libraries.

Hove has a long career at UW-Madison, serving in a number of capacities beginning with his enrollment

OF EVENTS

as an undergraduate in 1952. He served as assistant to the chancellor and director of public information from 1970 to 1989, then as special assistant to the provost until his retirement in 1996. He received a Distinguished Alumnus Award, presented by the Wisconsin Alumni Association in 1992, and is the author of *The University of Wisconsin: A Pictorial History* (1991).



Art Hove

FELIX: A Series of New Writing

**Thursday, March 13 – 4:30 p.m.
126 Memorial Library**

The spring semester's second FELIX event features poets Phan Nhien Hao and Hoa Nguyen.

Phan, a Vietnamese poet and translator who has lived in the United States since 1991, is the author of two collections of poems, *Paradise of Paper Bells* and



Phan Nhien Hao

Manufacturing Poetry 99-04. His poems have been translated into English and published in the journals *The Literary Review*, *Manoa*, and *Filling Station*.

He has a bachelor's degree in American literature and a master's in library science from UCLA.

Nguyen is the author of four books of poetry—*Dark, Parrot Drum, Your Ancient See Through*, and *Red Juice*. She

co-edits *Skanky Possum*, a book imprint and journal, and her poems have been published in various journals including *An Anthology of New (American) Poets*. Nguyen grew up in Washington, D.C., and now lives in Austin, Texas, where she leads the Teachers & Writers Collaborative's Virtual Poetry Workshop.

Friends of the UW–Madison Libraries Semiannual Book Sale

**Wednesday through Saturday,
March 26 – 29
116 Memorial Library**

Come and explore the Friends twenty-fifth semiannual book sale, the largest used book sale in Wisconsin. Students, faculty, staff, and Madison residents donate materials ranging from literature and philosophy to science and reference texts. Proceeds from the fund-raiser help support a grant program for campus libraries, the Friends grants-in-aid program for visiting scholars, and other programming. Ten percent of the proceeds are transferred to the Friends' growing endowment. Last fall's book sale was the second-most successful in the history of the sales, taking in almost \$25,000.

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

- Wednesday, March 26
Preview sale (\$5 entry) 5 – 9 p.m.
- Thursday – Friday, March 27 – 28
(No entry fee)
10:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- Saturday, March 29
\$3-a-Bag Sale (Bring your own bag, or buy one for \$1)

10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

(1:05 p.m. – 2 p.m. : remaining books are free)

All sales are open to the public. For more information on book sale hours, or to find out how to donate materials, visit the Friends book sales page, <http://www.library.wisc.edu/friends/book-sales.html>.

'Staying in the Game: Libraries in a Digital Age'

**Wednesday, April 16 – 5:30 p.m.
Wisconsin Historical
Society Auditorium
816 State Street**

Susan M. Allen, associate director and chief librarian of the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles, California, will give the Friends annual lecture this year. She will address the rapidly changing environment for research libraries as they move into the digital age. With vast collections of rare materials, they are at risk of becoming irrelevant, and even non-rare print collections are fast becoming a thing of the past, she says.

Allen will outline specific steps research libraries can take to remain competitive, including trumpeting their unique qualities not offered on the Web, leveraging intellectual property rights, and practicing marketing techniques.

Allen will also speak about her own research experiences on Joseph Ames and why that work, and the work of many other scholars, depends on having access to original materials and cannot be successfully carried out using digital copies alone.

A banquet at 6:30 p.m. at the Pyle Center will directly follow the lecture.

Three students sent to Rare Book School share their experiences with the Friends

By Tom Garver, Friends Liaison

Since 2004, the Friends of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries have offered support to graduate students in the university's School of Library and Information Studies to attend special short courses at the University of Virginia's Rare Book School.

Working in collaboration with the General Library System, the Friends offered \$1,500 scholarships to three graduate students—Sarah Boxhorn, Anna Cianciara-Labourel, and Todd Michelson-Ambelang. Lasting approximately one week, courses are offered both on the University of Virginia's campus in Charlottesville or at other locations around the country.

Boxhorn, now in her second year at SLIS, attended a course offering an introduction to European handwriting from 1400 to 1800. The library possessed hundreds of documents to study, she said, with "examples from almost all European

countries, from love letters to government documents, from marriage licenses to penmanship practice sheets."

As a student among librarians, Boxhorn was pleased that the program was "an amazing source of personal contacts" she could not get anywhere else. She also greatly enjoyed staying in one of the buildings designed by Thomas Jefferson, which was adjacent to the original library building.

Cianciara-Labourel attended an introduction to descriptive bibliography course intended for rare book librarians, where she observed that what she learned is "essential to understanding and communicating information about the physical properties of books—an invaluable skill for someone interested in the history of books and publishing." She, too, was delighted to be in the company of a fine rare book collection and to find out more about her field of interest by spending time with the more senior

professionals in the course.

Michelson-Ambelang attended a Rare Book School workshop in codicology in Baltimore where he worked in the libraries of Johns Hopkins University and the Walters Art Gallery. Codicology is the study of ancient handwriting and manuscripts. "We examined handwriting examples in various styles of Carolingian, Gothic, and Humanistic scripts, as well as parchment, paper watermarks, sizes of texts and methods of ruling manuscripts in order to determine their content, origin, and age," he says.

According to Michelson-Ambelang, who is pursuing both a master's in library science and a doctorate in Scandinavian philology and is a future scholar of medieval Scandinavian documents, this training will be an invaluable resource.

The Friends and GLS plan to continue this combined program of support that extends the library training beyond the UW-Madison campus.

Fall book sale generates nearly \$25,000 to fund Friends activities on campus



More than 15,000 books for sale and 227 volunteer hours contributed, as well as homemade cookies at the membership table, proved to be the perfect formula for this fall's Friends semiannual used book sale.

Gross revenue for this, the twenty-fourth biannual book sale, was \$24,775.75, the second highest on record. Results of the sale reflect the great generosity of donors and the time and effort of volunteers, according to book sale manager Jim Dast.

David Hayman, William Reeder, and John Toussaint assisted Dast in sorting and preparing the stock for sale, and Beth Kubly recruited and managed the volunteers and provided snacks for the workers.

Proceeds support grants to campus libraries for acquisitions, preservation/conservation, guest lectures, and provide assistance for visiting scholars who come from around the world to pursue research in UW-Madison's unique library collections.

To donate to the spring sale, which will be held March 26–29, donors may leave books and materials in any of the open return book drops located in most campus libraries or at Memorial Library's Lake Street loading dock from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays.

For assistance with packing and transportation of large collections, or for more information, contact the Friends at (608) 265-2505, e-mail friends@library.wisc.edu, or visit <http://www.library.wisc.edu/friends/book-sales.html>.

Chemistry Library marks one hundred years of activity at UW-Madison

By William G. Reeder

The University of Wisconsin-Madison has offered chemistry since the 1850s, growing as a more specialized offering from "natural science" and "natural philosophy." In those years, Stephen Pearl Lathrop, professor of chemistry and natural science, emphasized the importance of applying chemistry to the study of soils and fertilizers in farming, composition of construction materials in engineering, and more accurate understanding of the human body and pharmaceuticals.

Over subsequent decades, the Department of Chemistry provided the primary instruction within the College of Letters and Science for those in other areas of studies such as agricultural chemistry, chemical engineering, biochemistry, medicine, and pharmacy.

A library supporting these studies was active as early as 1907, when it was situated adjacent to the chemistry office and run by the departmental secretaries. Such departmental libraries—supported most often by donations of books, monographs, or serial subscriptions from the professors—were the pattern within most science departments at the time.

In 1947, the departmental collection became part of the University Library, later the General Library System, which put a professionally-trained librarian in charge and applied uniform standards for cataloging and reference. Since then, the Chemistry Library has provided the primary information resource for departmental instruction and research, with complementary, though independent, library collections also being established to support the chemical specialties represented within the engineering, agriculture, and



The Mills Street foyer of the Chemistry Library includes this glass and metal sculpture "Light Spectra" by Beverly Precious. In the past year, more than 100,000 visitors have entered the library.

medical fields. Resources for study of the history of chemistry and other sciences are held primarily in the Memorial Library Department of Special Collections.

Located on the second floor of the Farrington Daniels wing of the Chemistry Building, the library overlooks the Mills Street foyer with the glass and metal sculpture "Light Spectra" by nationally-known artist Beverly Precious. Director Sharon Mulvey and Librarian Emily Wixson serve the needs of faculty, students, and researchers through their work in developing the collection, providing reference services and instruction, and maintaining access to resources. The Chemistry Library holds more than 14,000 books, 24,000 bound journal volumes, about 130 journal subscriptions, and 1,200 online journals provided by more than 1,000 databases. More than 100,000 individual visitors entered the library in the past year.

As with the other library units, budgets are never adequate. Periodical costs, especially in the sciences, have grown far faster than inflation, which means duplicated serials and paper copies of some journals available electronically

have been eliminated. As the trend moves from print to electronic, the Library Express interlibrary loan service has been successful in providing rapid article delivery to students, faculty, and staff.

Modest annual budgetary assistance from the Chemistry Department's John Kierkowski Memorial Trust Fund helps fund the library. Mulvey emphasizes the importance of such support to allow flexibility in purchasing. When asked about major needs, Mulvey said her "foremost desire is to inspire [donation of] funds to support annual subscriptions in the sciences." According to Mulvey, small-group study areas are also needed in the library as professors assign and encourage more collective activities.

Many libraries at UW-Madison have evolved individually as support for departments or programs and are a source of special strength to the research community. This distribution of information resources has been of scholarly benefit to the casual browsing student as well as the researcher for many decades. The Chemistry Library is an example of this resource, well serving the needs of an ever-enlarging student and research community.

Grant-in-aid scholar hopes to advance philosophers' awareness of women in academia

By Kathryn Norlock

I came to the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries to solve a mystery: If the influence of a writer is somewhat lost to history, how did it fade, and was she really all that influential in the first place? My subject was Charlotte Perkins Gilman, once considered the best, even only, theorist of feminism in America.

I knew I wanted to advance philosophers' awareness of women who shaped American intellectual traditions. With the help of the Special Collections staff, I was amazed to learn that Gilman wrote more than one thousand non-fiction works, and a volume of poems that enjoyed multiple reprintings.

By the time she wrote her own magazine, she was recognized by men and women as the leading feminist theorist in America. She was a best-selling author, a popular lecturer, and most importantly for my purposes, considered a radical compared to the suffragists with whom I was familiar. (Women agitating for the vote felt she helped the movement by asking for changes so extreme that the vote would seem a modest demand in comparison!)

The Cairns Collection of American Women Writers has one of the most impressive Gilman collections in the country. To study the proof of Gilman's influence and popularity, I looked at her handwritten correspondence, advertisements of her lectures and publications, and early editions of her books, in addition to all the original issues of her magazine, which she self-published from 1909 to 1916.

College Library further supplied me with secondary literature on early feminist figures. The general collection of Memorial Library proved invaluable to improving my background in American philosophy; the regular stacks included books from 1911 and 1913 that suggested Gilman was influential in popular culture and politics.

An early work by philosopher John Dewey in Memorial Library's collection solved the mystery; World War I, he suggested, shook the faith of Americans in progress toward solving social ills, and the Great Depression completed the turn away from her optimistic arguments for change.

To date only about 20 percent of American philosophers are women, and I am excited to show my colleagues the interrelation of Gilman's work and American traditions.

Kathryn Norlock, an assistant professor of philosophy at St. Mary's College of Maryland, was a Friends Grant-in-Aid recipient who studied here in October 2007.



A poet and preacher of social reform, Charlotte Perkins Gilman was once considered the best feminism theorist in America. (Photographic portrait, Cairns Collection held in the Department of Special Collections, Memorial Library, University of Wisconsin-Madison.)

Friends NEWS

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University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries**
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