



LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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Shown here is an engraving from Pietro Saviola and Benedetto Franco, *Arca del Santo di Padova* (1765).

Collections

Fry Collection exhibit presents Italian ‘micro history’

by Robin Rider
Curator, Special Collections

“It is the micro history that is interesting,” says William F. “Jack” Fry, emeritus professor of physics at UW-Madison, “not the big things. The common life captured in letters, small town government, the bread baker and shoemaker.”

The current exhibit in Special Collections features manuscripts, printed ephemera, and books from the extensive collection assembled by Fry. He has been donating portions of his collection to the department over a number of years.

More from the Fry Collection: Italian

History 1450 – 1900, which continues through January 13, 2006, in 976 Memorial Library, suggests the rich research potential of the collection. Estate ledgers in the exhibit, for example, illuminate economic circumstances over long spans of Italian history; genealogical compilations reveal family histories, both grand and modest; and *manifesti* and *avvisi* announce governmental decrees and policies as they were posted on Italian walls in the nineteenth century.

Most items in the exhibit date from the mid-fifteenth century or later, although one notable manuscript from the late fourteenth century addresses privileges accorded to a family in

Ferrara, and some later volumes are bound in earlier, “recycled” manuscripts on vellum.

Like the Fry Collection itself, the exhibit also offers intriguing views into the Austrian occupation of the Veneto, the rebellion of 1848 and the republican government of Manin, and the rise of nationalist sentiment later in nineteenth-century Italy.

The exhibit, showcasing aspects of Italian “micro history” before Mussolini’s rise to power, complements an earlier exhibit of the Fry Collection, which was titled *Italian Life Under Fascism* (1998), now available online at <http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/dpff/Fascism/Home.html>.

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Board of Regents

From the president

Commitment to campus libraries: building the future

As an old library user, I was particularly spoiled by experiences in the libraries at the universities of Wisconsin and Michigan. Mostly open stacks and numerous branch or member libraries contrasted significantly with the largely closed stacks and centralized library at UCLA, my undergraduate alma mater.

Such important specialized (or wonderfully distracting) discoveries are found in browsing the collections of a fine research library! Equally important, however, is an array of small, specialized libraries, branches of the General Library System on this campus, where faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates can find current information as well as historically important material. These smaller facilities are usually located in a department or college and are often quite close to the offices, laboratories, and instructional spaces.

On the Madison campus, the branch libraries developed early in the university's history, persisted and grew strong in the absence of a major stand-alone all-encompassing library, which was only built and occupied in the early 1950s. To this day, they continue their unique and crucial position within the life of the university.

The librarians in charge of these satellite collections have unusual responsibilities, often unappreciated by the users. They not only must maintain the flow of materials in and out of their care, but evaluate the condition of their books, manuscripts, CDs, and videos, review storage and shelving, and monitor the environmental conditions.

In addition, they have a primary responsibility as selectors and bibliographers to acquire new print and electronic material as well as fill gaps in earlier hold-

ings. This function, while no doubt satisfying, also creates major frustrations in the face of budget constraints. These librarians know of the needs of their users and must do their best to satisfy these requirements.

Here is where the Friends of the Library have been able to provide some assistance. Annually these hard-pressed librarians are asked to apply to the Friends of the Library in the spring for a small grant. These requests are based upon their own priorities to fund the purchase of books or other materials or to provide conservation assistance for older resources.

The Friends Grants to Libraries program has been very successful, not only

“The Friends Grants to Libraries program has been very successful, not only in providing tangibles, but also in affirming [the member libraries’] importance.”

in providing tangibles, but also in affirming that an agency outside of their central administration acknowledges their importance and, to the best of its ability, will provide assistance.

This program has been highlighted from time to time in the *Friends News*. To me,

it is the most crucial of our activities. This realization comes from visits to eight of the member libraries last fall, which I made in the company of Loni Hayman, a longtime board member. The needs expressed in each unit, although often quite different, were argued with equal passion. We were impressed with the obvious dedication and hard work of the librarians, whose requests reflected their intimate professional knowledge of need.

To broaden our first-hand knowledge of library needs, the members of the board will continue to make at least one “official” visit per year to each of the member libraries. This will give us a better understanding of and a heightened sensitivity to the varied challenges facing our libraries as they present future grant requests.

William G. Reeder

History of UW women's athletics now online

by David Null
Director, University Archives

In 1874, the first year women were fully admitted to the University of Wisconsin, they petitioned the faculty to use the men's gymnasium. The two sixty-minute sessions per week they received mark the beginning of the fascinating history of women's athletics at UW-Madison. That history, *Health and Fun Shall Walk Hand in Hand: The First 100 Years of Women's Athletics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison*, is now available online to the campus and the world thanks to an extensive documentation by the University Archives.

The idea to compile the history of women's athletics on campus developed from the Athletic Department's celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of women's varsity sports on campus in January 2005. But while varsity athletics for women only go back thirty years, women have been playing sports of all types for most of the time they have been on campus, and the Archives wanted to tell a more complete story.

The Web site (<http://archives.library.wisc.edu/exhibits/athletics/athletics01intro.html>) documents the history of women's sports and fitness on campus from 1863, the year women first were admitted into the normal department, through the



Swinging a bat in a physical education baseball game, 1916.

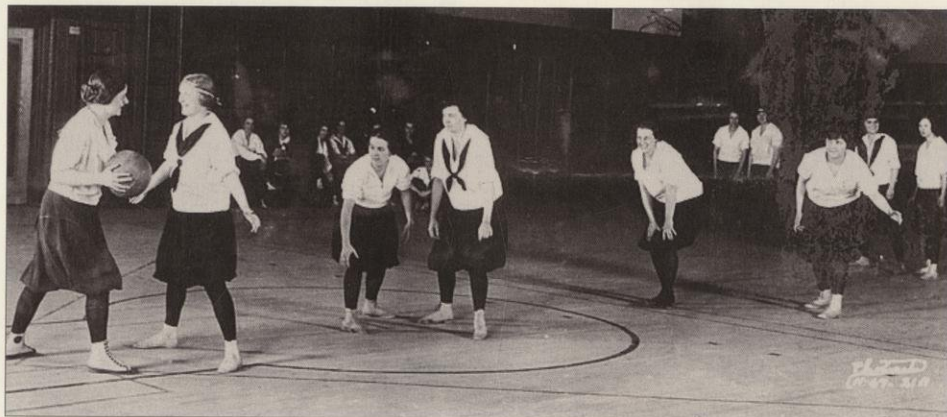
early 1970s. A highlight of the site is the history of the Women's Athletic Association, an umbrella organization that promoted and sponsored women's athletics and physical activity across the board. The WAA was extremely influential in early women's sports. The site also includes information on the Department of Women's Physical Education, the debate over women being involved in competition, and much more.

The site, which was completed in September 2005, contains numerous historical photographs as well as a link at the bottom of each page to the entire University of Wisconsin Collection of women's sports photographs.

UW-Madison hires first Wisconsin Library Associate

"Health and Fun Shall Walk Hand in Hand: The First 100 Years of Women's Athletics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison" was created by Christine Hartman, the first Wisconsin Library Associate.

In 2005 Ken Frazier, director of libraries at UW-Madison, created the position of Wisconsin Library Associate to support a graduate student working on specific projects. One of Hartman's first projects was creating a Web site about Alan Ameche in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of his Heisman Trophy (<http://archives.library.wisc.edu/exhibits/ameche/ameche.html>). Hartman, a student in the School of Library and Information Studies, will continue to work on the University Archives online collection.



Women's basketball game, 1925.

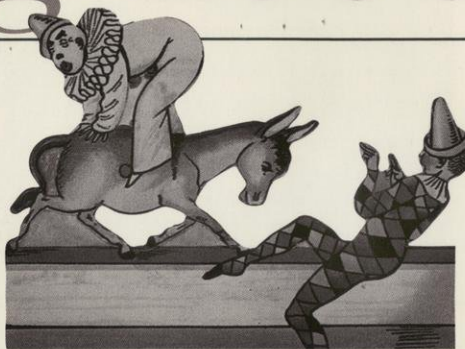
Spring 2006 calendar

Exhibition:

More from the Fry Collection: Italian History 1450 – 1900

Department of Special Collections
976 Memorial Library
Continues through January 13, 2006

The extensive collection from William F. “Jack” Fry, professor emeritus at UW–Madison, will be on display through January 13, 2006 (see page 1). The oddly cut religious devotional cards pictured below were cut by nineteenth-century Italian mothers who left children anonymously with the Catholic Church. The mother would leave the other half of the card, usually cut at multiple angles, in the baby’s blanket on the chance they might one day be reunited and need to confirm the baby’s identity. These shards of micro history, as Fry calls them, are what have made his forty years casting about the shops of Italy all worthwhile.



Exhibition:

Lothar Meggendorfer & Movable Books

Department of Special Collections
976 Memorial Library
January 23 – April 14, 2006
Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

This exhibition highlights color lithographic proof sheets of movable children’s books from the Lothar Meggendorfer Collection in the Department of Special Collections. Meggendorfer (1847 – 1925) created more than one hundred children’s books over the course of his career, many in multiple editions and translations. To set Meggendorfer’s elaborate “paper engineering” in context, the exhibit will also contain books with movable parts from the Renaissance through the twenty-first century, including treatises on cosmography, geometry, landscape design, and the automobile; works by contemporary artists; and books from the Kohler Art Library.

Friends Appreciation Event

Thursday, February 23, 4:30 p.m.
Department of Special Collections
976 Memorial Library

A reception for members of the Friends of the UW–Madison Library will recognize their support of the Library. Senior university and library administration

members will update the Friends on the state of university and library, and examples of recent acquisitions in the Department of Special Collections will be on display. Individuals who are not yet Friends members have the opportunity to join the Friends and participate in this event. Use the form included in this newsletter to become a member.

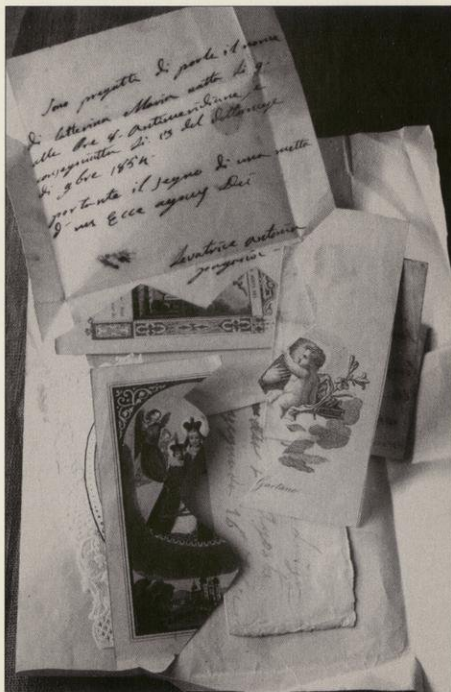
Friends of the UW–Madison Library Semiannual Book Sale

Wednesday through Saturday
March 22 – 25
116 Memorial Library

Come and explore the Friends 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 fundraiser help support a grant program for campus libraries, the Friends grants-in-aid program for visiting scholars, and other programs. Ten percent of the proceeds are transferred to the Friends’ growing endowment.

- 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 – 3 p.m.: remaining books are free)

For more information on the sales, including how to donate books or volunteer for the spring book sale, please call 608-265-2505, e-mail the friends at friends@library.wisc.edu, or visit <http://giving.library.wisc.edu/friends/book-sales.shtml>.



dar of events

FELIX & Friends

Lyric Innovations: Brenda Hillman and Srikanth Reddy
Thursday, March 23, 4:30 p.m.
976 Memorial Library



Brenda Hillman

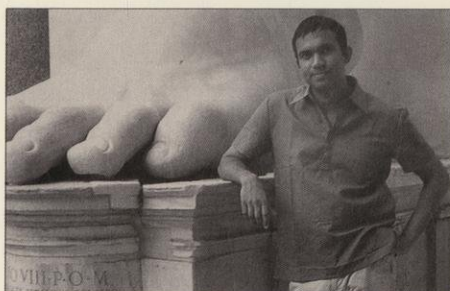
The Friends of the UW–Madison Library and its FELIX program join together to host two poets at the leading edge of their field.

The distinguished Brenda Hillman, author of seven books of poetry, will read from her most recent volume, *Pieces of Air in the Epic*. Hillman holds the Olivia Filippi Chair in Poetry at St. Mary's College of California.

Srikanth Reddy, a poet and professor at the University of Chicago, recently published his first book of poetry, *Facts for Visitors*, with the New California Poetry Series (University of California Press), a series which Hillman co-edits.

Named after Felix Pollak (1909 – 1987), poet and former curator of Special Collections in Memorial Library, FELIX is a reading series that provides a forum to discuss “little magazines” and their role in today's literary society.

After their readings, the poets will take questions from the audience, and a reception will follow.



Srikanth Reddy

Friends Annual Lecture and Dinner

“Choosing Civility: Why Today?”
Pier Massimo Forni, Author and Professor
Wednesday, April 19, 5:30 p.m.
Pyle Center, 702 Langdon Street



Pier Massimo Forni

Johns Hopkins University Professor Pier Massimo Forni will give the Friends annual lecture, which moves to the Pyle Center on campus. He will discuss the connections among civility, ethics, and quality of life.

Forni graduated from the University of Pavia in 1974 and received his Ph.D. in Italian literature at UCLA in 1981. A faculty member at Johns Hopkins since 1985, he received the Johns Hopkins Alumni Association's Excellence in Teaching Award and the Outstanding Faculty Award (for undergraduate teaching).

Forni has written extensively on the works of Giovanni Boccaccio (1313 – 1375). He was the co-founder and co-director of the Johns Hopkins Civility Project and continues to publish on the topic of civility.

In 2002 he wrote *Choosing Civility: The Twenty-Five Rules of Considerate Conduct*.

The Friends annual banquet and business meeting will be held in the Alumni Lounge overlooking Lake Mendota following Forni's presentation.

World's first database for South Asian periodicals created

UW–Madison will have the world's first comprehensive database for South Asian periodicals thanks in part to a \$15,000 grant secured by South Asia Bibliographer Mary Rader.

Rader, who also serves on the advisory board for the Center for South Asia, received the “Innovation and Development Funds” grant from the International Institute, a joint venture between the College of Letters and Science and International Studies that encourages partnerships in research and learning. The Institute oversees the Center for South Asia as well as seven other National Resource Centers at UW–Madison that train students in the history, politics, languages, and culture of a particular region.

Rader said the grant significantly accelerates a project that either could not have been undertaken or would have taken years to complete. The grant has allowed the Center to hire graduate students to survey and list up to nine thousand periodicals from countries such as India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bangladesh into an online database that will be freely searchable for people everywhere.

“This is a first to compile all this information in one place,” Rader said. Other current periodical services do not provide researchers with access to the majority of South Asian titles, particularly those in non-roman scripts.

Geology-Geophysics Library creates new presence

by Michael Worringer
Library Communications

While the forces of nature can sometimes take millennia to carve out a scenic terrain, it took just two years to improve the environment of the C.K. Leith Library of Geology and Geophysics.

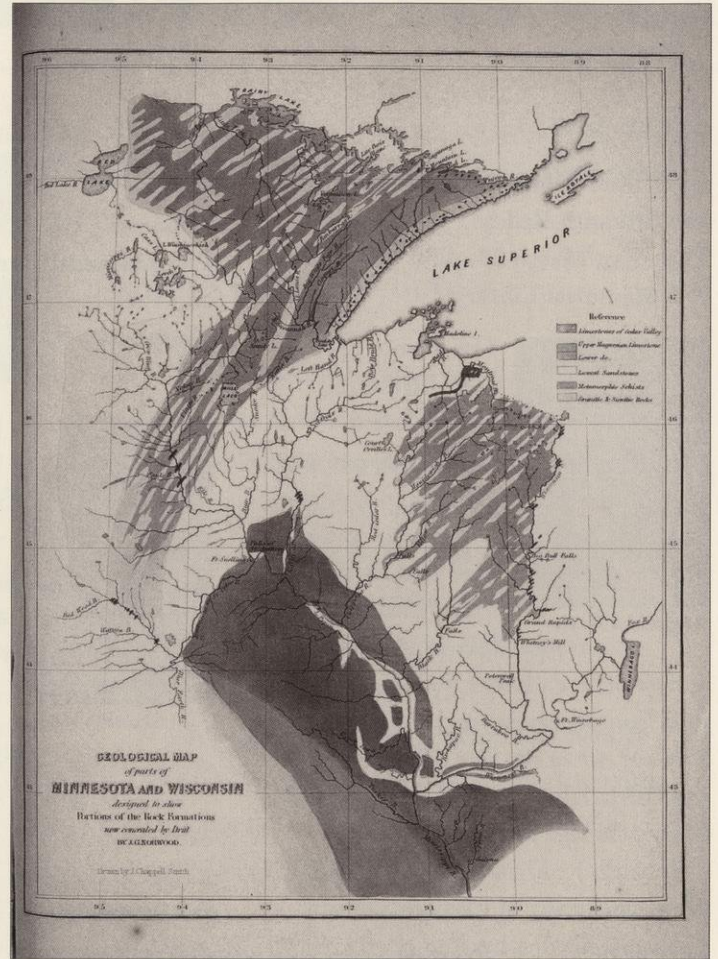
The library underwent a remodeling and 1,500 square-foot expansion in 2003 and 2004 as part of a \$5 million addition to Weeks Hall. The library has resided on the fourth floor of Weeks Hall since it was built in 1974 to house the Department of Geology and Geophysics.

As part of the new construction, compact shelving was installed and the existing library space was refurbished with improvements such as new group study rooms and lights. The General Library System made a substantial contribution by providing a new public services desk, new displays, and new furniture, including large tables for easy studying of maps. This is extremely helpful for those studying the significant collection of U.S. geological maps that now can be stored onsite rather than in the Map Library. All of the amenities contribute to the library's pleasant atmosphere.

"The addition reflects the commitment of both the GLS and the department to our collections and to creating a more welcoming space for students," says Librarian Marie Dvorzak, who adds she is especially pleased with the library's new earth-tone carpeting that replaced an outdated orange color.

Another highlight of the remodeling is the new countertop for the public service desk. Made of 1.6-million-year-old quartzite from nearby Waterloo, Wisconsin, the countertop parallels other efforts to add local geology flavor throughout Weeks Hall.

That local emphasis can also be seen in the library's virtual space, which has grown concurrently with its physical space. The library has worked with the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections to put online thousands of pages of historic nineteenth-century resources on Wisconsin geology.



Geological map of parts of Minnesota and Wisconsin designed to show portions of rock formations, from *Illustrations to the Geological Report of Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota, 1852*.

After the completion of the construction, the library adopted the namesake of notable UW geologist Charles Kenneth Leith, a protégé of former UW–Madison president Charles Van Hise. Leith served as a professor of geology at the university from 1902 – 1945 and also advised the U.S. government on mineral resources from 1917 – 1956, including both world wars.

Geology librarian receives distinguished service award

C.K. Leith Librarian Marie Dvorzak received a special honor this past May when the UW–Madison Department of Geology and Geophysics presented her with a Distinguished Departmental Service award in recognition of her leadership and outstanding service.

In addition to her work at the library, Dvorzak serves on the Geology and Geophysics Department Displays Committee and served on the Weeks3 Building Committee, which planned and oversaw the construction of the Weeks Hall Addition, from April 2000 –

May 2004.

"I was surprised and very pleased," Dvorzak says. "I think it's always special to be recognized by the people you serve and who see you every day."

Dvorzak has worked at the Leith Library since 1986.

Plant Pathology history rooted in founder's collection

Although the vibrant foliage surrounding the shores of nearby Lake Mendota has vanished as autumn fades into winter, there is no dormant season for the Plant Pathology Library.

Tucked into a small room on the fifth floor of Russell Laboratories, the Plant Pathology Library offers a collection of about six thousand titles in the areas of plant disease, diagnosis, and biological control; forest, fruit, and turf pathology; and pest management.

The Plant Pathology Library's origins date to 1910, when Dr. Lewis Ralph Jones founded the Department of Plant Pathology at UW-Madison. Because Jones felt it was essential for his graduate students to have reference materials close at hand, he installed his own personal library as a "seminar room" or "reading room" in Agriculture Hall; university rules at that time prohibited departments from having their own "library."

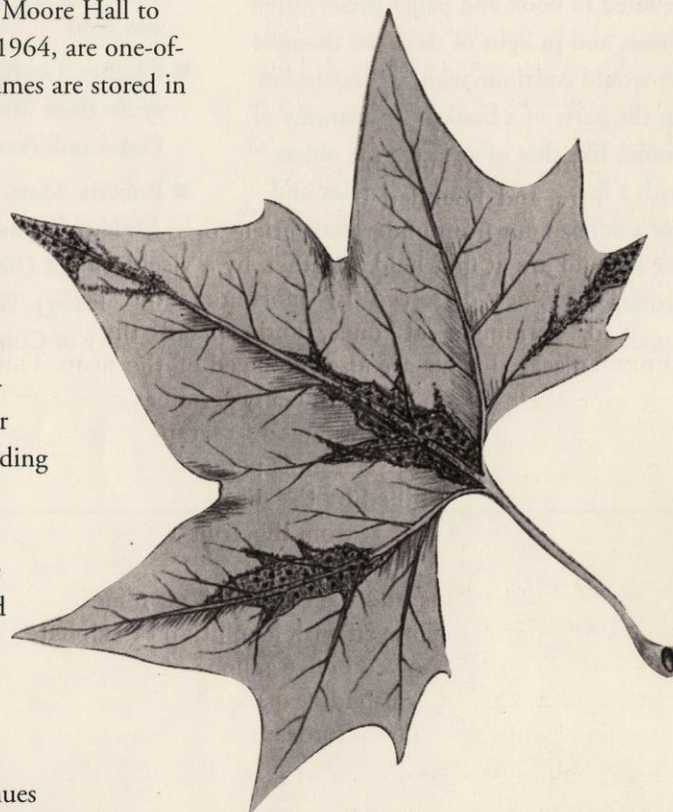
When the department moved to Horticulture building in 1912, where the library would reside for eighteen years, Jones gave personal funds to one of his graduate students, Dr. Dimitri Atanasoff, to seek out valuable additions to the library. Much of Jones's collection and Atanasoff's additions comprise the

rare collection of historical books that date to 1824 and are available today in the library. The collection continues to provide value to researchers and students today, just as it did in Jones's day.

Like any aged library, Plant Pathology has its quirks. The stacks, installed when the library moved from Moore Hall to Russell Laboratories in 1964, are one-of-a-kind on campus. Volumes are stored in wraparound shelving units that one must pull out like drawers. A stately card catalogue stands unused, a relic harkening to the days before modern technology. However, its woodwork is too attractive for it to be discarded, according to Steve Cloyd, who received his master's degree in library science from UW-Madison and has been the Plant Pathology librarian since 2000.

Despite its limited space, the library continues to add new titles to its collection. Last year the library added more

than 200 books, helped in part by a Friends grant. Most of the works are donated by faculty and staff, a fitting continuation of a tradition rooted in Dr. Jones's founding of the library.



Gloeosporium nervisequum, a diseased plane leaf, from *A Text-Book of Plant Diseases*, 1899.

Friends book sale update

The Friends hosted their fall used book sale Oct. 12 – 15 in Memorial Library, raising more than \$21,700 to support a variety of activities, such as grants to campus libraries for acquisitions and preservation. The Friends also distribute several grants for partial support to researchers from around the world who visit UW-Madison to pursue humanities-related research within the libraries.

This fall's sale was the twentieth book sale and featured more than 15,000

donated books, journals, and magazines in the sciences and humanities, along with special collections of literary studies and modern theology. The Friends have built the event into the largest used book sale in Wisconsin, thanks largely to volunteers who have given more than 3,000 hours in the last nine years, independently of other library volunteer work. Nearly 300,000 books have been sold, and more than \$350,000 has been raised in the past nine years.

The Friends are currently accepting

donations for the spring book sale, which will be March 22 – 25. Donations can be placed in the Open Return book drops located in most UW-Madison libraries, or materials can be dropped off at Memorial Library's Lake Street loading dock weekdays, 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. For help with packing and transportation of larger collections or for more information, contact the Friends (608) 265-2505; <http://giving.library.wisc.edu/friends/book-sales.shtml>.

Books and their covers: a brief anatomy

by Andrea Rolich, Preservation
and Tracy Honn, Silver Buckle Press

Though we were told not to judge books by their covers, we all learn much about a book before it is opened. This section of past newsletters has been devoted to book and paper preservation issues, and in light of those we thought we would continue with an illustration on the parts of a book. The anatomy of books, like that of any cultural object with a long evolution, is complex and has a definite taxonomy. For everyday use it is not necessary to know what a “goffered edge” is or how a raised cord functions, but it can be helpful to know

the basics. The terms shown here apply to modern case bound (hard cover) or paperback books. To learn more about the book arts, here are few basic references:

- <http://www.philobiblon.com/>
- <http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/don/don.html>
- Glaister, Geoffrey Ashall. *Encyclopedia of the Book*. 2nd ed. New Castle, Del.: Oak Knoll Press, 1996.
- Roberts, Matt, and Don Etherington. *Bookbinding and the Conservation of Books: A Dictionary of Descriptive Terminology*. Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1982.

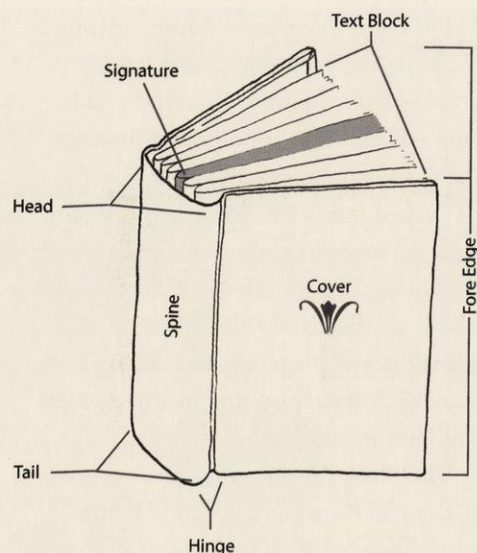


Illustration by Melissa Cooke

Friends news

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