



Friends news : University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries. Vol. 6, Issue 2 Fall 2009

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Browse the Decorative Arts Collection Online

Linda Duychak

Barbara Juhas Walsh

For researchers in the discipline of material culture and others who have a passion for art history, the UW—Madison Libraries’ Digital Library for the Decorative Arts (DLDecArts) brings together the best of two worlds. This library exists completely online, and the technology it employs places it at the leading edge of modern information science as it enables an audience of users worldwide to view its collection of images. Yet the subject matter of this library transports users back to an earlier era when things of beauty were created by hand, individually, and mostly on a small scale. The DLDecArts truly provides a new way to look at old things.

Begun in 2001, the DLDecArts is produced by the UW—Madison Libraries’ Digital Collections Center (UWDCC) with funding assistance from Chipstone, a foundation based near Milwaukee dedicated to supporting decorative arts and material culture scholarship. Since its inception, more than 1.5 million usage sessions have been clocked. The Web site complements the UW—Madison’s Material Culture Program, which is currently celebrating its tenth year. The goal of the DLDec Arts Web site is to provide openly accessible scholarship on the decorative arts to the widest audience.

The DLDecArts is made up of three components. First, a Web portal describes and links to a variety of public



Plate, 1710–30, England; Longridge Ceramics Collection; D136.

and educational Web sites that can assist researchers focusing on topics of Early American visual and material culture. Link targets include museum Web sites, online document collections, journals, and scholarly organizations.

The second component is a searchable image database. Currently the database documents the Chipstone and Longridge collections of ceramics, furniture, and prints. More than 1,000 objects are represented by over 2,000 images and descriptive text. Both domestic and imported objects, dating primarily from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, are included. The database continues to expand, with additional ceramics entries planned for inclusion soon. The hope is to make DLDecArts a scholarly resource

for specialists as well as a visually rewarding and informative treat for an interested general audience.

An online collection of rare illustrated books makes up the third component of the online library. Linda Duychak, reference librarian at the Kohler Art Library, oversees the DLDecArts in liaison with the UWDCC. In consultation with faculty, she selects six to ten books a year to become part of the online collection. “We can’t digitize millions of books, we can’t digitize thousands of books,” she says, “but we choose titles for their significance as historical evidence for the study of American material culture, and to cluster around themes so users can explore a topic in depth in a single online location.”

More than fifty titles are available

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Coffeepot, c. 1755; England; Chipstone Ceramics Collection; 1985.6.

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Fall 2009

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World Wide Web:
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Bannerhead artwork:
Staffordshire Teapot, circa 1760. Chipstone
Collection 1997.19.

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From the president

Gardens and Libraries

As the Friends of the UW-Madison Libraries annual dinner approached last spring, and I was about to begin my term as president, I began searching for a brief quotation that would reflect my pleasure in being associated with the Friends. As it turned out I did not have far to look.

One of my sisters in Ohio has been a community librarian, so over the years I have given her Friends of the Libraries gift memberships so that she could be a part of my civic life here in Madison. And, let me just say: gift memberships are a great way to support the Friends and the UW Libraries, and they provide a great gift for someone who appreciates the printed word. My sister has also known of my past civic involvement with the Olbrich Gardens Botanical Society.

One holiday she sent me a revolving cube for pencils that had four compartments for displaying photos or whatnot. She selected three images and one quotation for the outside of the cube. The images included a photo of a "seed packet for your war garden" from the Wagner Park Nursery of Sidney, Ohio; a newspaper article featuring a photo of the America Blaze Rose that adorned fences in our neighborhood; and a photo of our mother's terraced gardens. The quote she selected was from Marcus Tullius Cicero and it was most apt: "If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need."

I had the quote I was looking for right at hand on my desk, thanks to my sister.

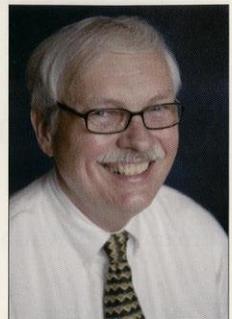
Principles from classical education, once more widely taught, can still serve us well today. The worlds of ideas and beauty are what define the better aspects of our existence and community life.

A lot of my public life has been devoted to furthering things that make our Madison community, including the university, a place we truly appreciate. Service on the Friends Board has been one way to continue this tradition.

Participating in the Friends meetings has also taken me back a bit to the time when I was doing graduate research in both the Historical Society Library and Memorial Library. The richness of the campus collections, evident then, and even more so today, exists thanks to the great work of our professional library staff. When I read the applications to the Friends for grants to libraries on the UW-Madison campus, I am amazed at how the library staff makes do on so little funding. And I am always very glad the Friends can contribute a bit through our grants.

It has been a great honor to work with the Friends and to help the Libraries in a minor way. The support from all of our members is so greatly appreciated and valued as we work to help sustain the Libraries for our common needs. May we all come to appreciate Cicero's words.

—R. Richard Wagner



Decorative Arts Collection Online *(continued from page one)*

now, and the collection continues to grow. The works in the collection, dating mainly from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, include titles on furniture, ceramics, architecture, flower painting, botany, birds, ornament, the influence of China on the decorative arts, and more. Whenever possible, books in the online collection are presented as exact replicas of the printed originals. Even blank pages are scanned, since their existence is data for print historians. Engraved illustrations and text set in movable type must be printed in separate processes on different presses, so blank versos are common when books combine both techniques. The organization and interleaving of text and pictures into a book is a study in itself. Online viewers see only reproductions of the special books, but the DLDecArts tries to retain as many aspects of the physical books as technology allows. Scanning of the books takes place at the UW's Digital Collection Center, which uses state-of-the-art equipment to produce images that meet the highest

standards in the field.

As an example of how the library works to carry out its mission, Duychak outlines the consideration process that went into the selection of a work that will be added to the collection this year: *Les édifices antiques de Rome: dessinés et mesurés (The Antique Buildings of Rome, Drawn and Measured)*, by Antoine Babuty Desgodets (1653–1728). “UW Libraries Special Collections owns two different editions of this title, and both editions will be digitized. The books document architectural monuments of classical antiquity as they were known and experienced in the seventeenth century.”

The 1682 Paris edition has text entirely in French and includes the complete published content. The later (1771–95) edition was issued in two volumes, only one of which is available on campus. “This edition provides the text in both English and French,” Duychak says. “We provide both to enable a comparison of the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century presentations of the

same information. The original edition has advantages of primacy and completeness. The later edition adds the translation for English readers, and is larger in page dimensions.”

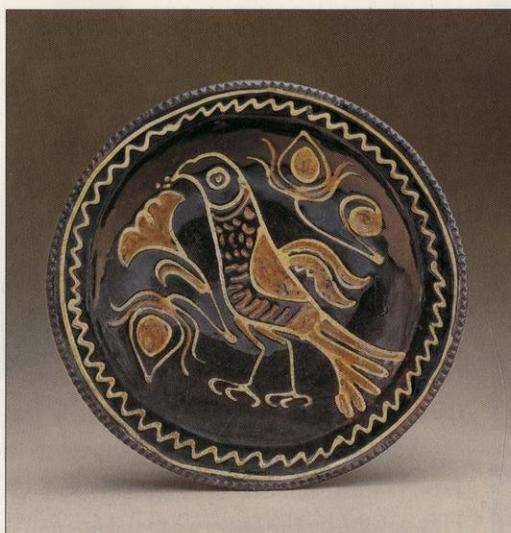
An important aspect of the interface used in these digitized books is that users can easily browse images, as well as search on key words in the text. “This is important,” says Duychak, “because the old books chosen are largely pictures.” Page-by-page online browsing is encouraged. “Early print fonts can be incomprehensible to optical character recognition software, so key word



Platycerus palliceps. Paleheaded parakeet, 19th plate in Edward Lear's *Illustrations of the family of Psittacidae, or parrots...*, 1832.

searching of text can be unreliable,” she adds. To make it easier to view multiple digitized pages at once, the interface allows a gallery view display function for the DLDecArts text collection. Once a page is selected and expanded to full size, the scanning resolution is extremely high quality, so users can do detailed analyses and comparisons, such as examining how the quality of illustration differs between print techniques or between British and American editions.

The library's online collection features many books with illustrations from the natural world, such as flowers and birds, which have inspired decorative artists throughout history. Birds might be embroidered on cushions, painted or carved on furniture, or modeled in clay as a vessel. “Remember, in the 1700s and 1800s, these illustrated books were



Dish, 1765–1790, England; Longridge Ceramics Collection; S29.

(continued on page six)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

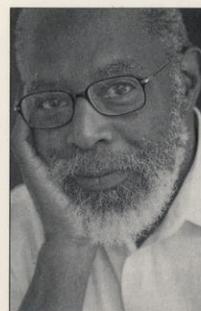
**Dogs in Special Collections:
An Exhibit of Books Containing
Illustrations of Dogs**
May through October 2009
976 Memorial Library

"In shape of dogs and hounds," wrote Shakespeare, and varied indeed are the representations of dogs. Drawing on a wide variety of works—from books of Shakespeare's time to little literary magazines of today—this exhibit showcases images of dogs as found in Special Collections: dogs, singular and plural, in a baroque courtyard or Victorian parlor, Arctic camp or western ranch. Some of these dogs played important roles in the narratives in question; others added local color, danced to the busker's command, served human masters, or stood for Nature's creations, wild or domesticated.



FELIX: A Series of New Writing

Thursday, September 17, 2009 • 4:30 p.m.
Ed Roberson
126 Memorial Library



The Friends host Ed Roberson, described in the *American Book Review* as "one of those deeply skilled poets . . . who have worked far outside that matrix of professional critics and reviewers where literary reputations are determined." In March 2008, Roberson won the prestigious Shelley Memorial Award from the Poetry Society of America. Roberson's sixth volume of poetry, *The New Wing of the Labyrinth*, has just been published by Singing Horse Press.

Friends of the UW-Madison Libraries 28th Semiannual Book Sale

October 7–10, 2009
(Wednesday through Saturday)
116 Memorial Library

The largest used book sale in Wisconsin. Sale items range from literature and history to children's books, science, art, philosophy, reference texts, foreign language books, and more. DVDs, CDs, LPs, cassettes, and 78s are also available. Categories of special interest in this sale are ancient history, American studies, English travel and history, evolution, African poetry and literature, music, and medieval Britain.

All sales are open to the public.
Proceeds help support grants for special

resource needs of campus libraries, the Friends' grants-in-aid programs for visiting scholars, and other programming. University students, faculty, staff, and the regional community donate materials to the sale. The hours are:

- Wednesday, October 7
Preview sale (\$5.00 entry fee)
5–9 p.m.
- Thursday and Friday, October 8–9
Regular sale (no entry fee)
10:30 a.m.–7 p.m.
- Saturday, October 10
\$3-a-bag sale
10:30 a.m.–1 p.m.
Bring your own bag or purchase one for \$1.00.
1:05–2 p.m. remaining books are free
To donate books, or to volunteer to help with the sale, call 608-265-2505 or e-mail friends@library.wisc.edu. For more information about donating books, see page 7. Donations are tax deductible.

Wisconsin Book Festival Event

Saturday, October 10, 2009 • 7:30 p.m.
Jane Hamilton and David Rhodes
Promenade Hall
Overture Center for the Arts

The Friends of the UW-Madison Libraries are sponsoring two nationally acclaimed Wisconsin writers. **David Rhodes**, of Wonewoc, makes his first appearance in Madison since last year's publication of *Driftless* marked the return of this major American writer after more than thirty years.

We also welcome bestselling novelist **Jane Hamilton**, a book festival favorite. Her newest book, *Laura Rider's Masterpiece*, is a provocative, satirical tale, simultaneously funny and dark.

FELIX: A Series of New Writing

Thursday, October 15, 2009 • 4:30 p.m.
K. Silem Mohammad
126 Memorial Library



K. Silem Mohammad is the author of three collections of poetry. His poems have been published in many of today's leading small press literary journals online and in print. He is co-editor with Richard Greene of two essay collections. Mohammad edits the poetry journal *Abraham Lincoln* with Anne Boyer and maintains the poetry and poetics blog "[lime tree]: Practicalities and Possibilities," at lime-tree.blogspot.com.

Friends Appreciation Reception with Chancellor Martin

Thursday, October 29, 2009 • 4:30
Seminar Room, Special Collections
976 Memorial Library



Chancellor Carolyn "Biddy" Martin will meet with current Friends members to acknowledge the important support the Friends have provided the UW-Madison Libraries for the

past sixty years. The reception also serves to mark the publication of *Friends of the UW-Madison Libraries: A Sixty-Year History*, written by current Friends board member and former president Dr. Christopher Kleinhenz.

Special Collections Exhibit

November 23, 2009–March 12, 2010
Science Circa 1859: On the Eve
of Darwin's *The Origin of Species*
976 Memorial Library

The exhibit will showcase holdings of campus libraries and honor the 150th anniversary of the publication of Darwin's pathbreaking book by exploring the state of science in the decade prior to its publication on November 24, 1859. Students enrolled in History of Science 350 will help plan and install the exhibit by selecting, describing, and assessing the importance of scientific research and popularizations of the 1850s. The exhibit itself will be supplemented by an online version.

Annual Schewe Lecture: David Maraniss

Sunday, April 18, 2010 • (TBD)
Pyle Center

Mark your calendar! David Maraniss will give the Schewe Lecture at the Friends annual meeting in April 2010. The event will take place on Sunday afternoon, April 18, 2010, in the Pyle Center. The business meeting is scheduled for the afternoon and will be followed by Maraniss's lecture. An informal buffet reception with a cash bar in the Alumni Lounge will cap off the event.



Friends Support the *Cartonera* Publishing Phenomenon

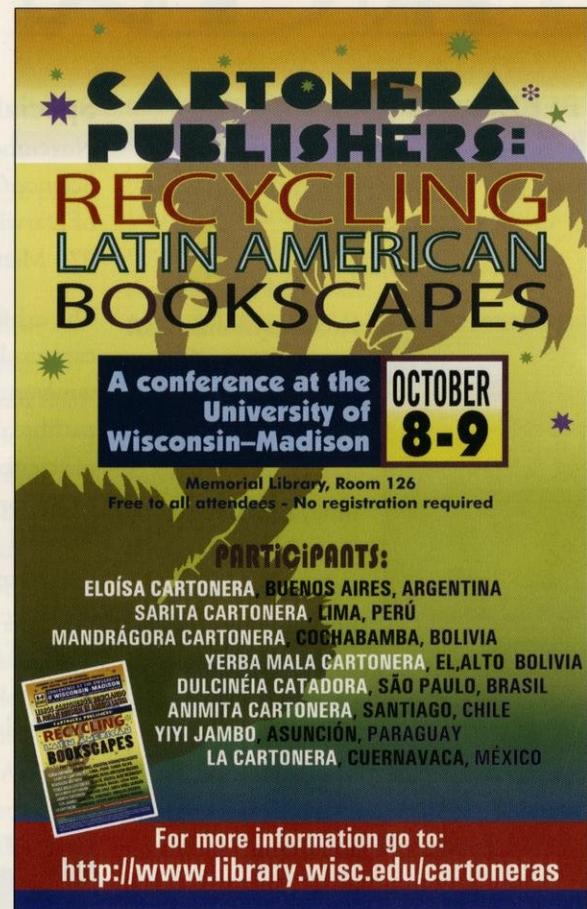
Paloma Celis-Carbajal, Librarian
Ibero-American Studies
Lauren Pagel, Graduate Student
Department of Spanish and Portuguese

The *cartonera* publishing phenomenon originated in Buenos Aires in 2003. *Cartonera* books are hand-made from recycled cardboard collected off the streets by *cartoneros*, or garbage pickers, who then sell the cardboard they collect to the *cartonera* publishers. The cardboard covers are hand-painted in styles that are unique to each of the eight Latin American publishing houses. With more than 250 volumes, the UW-Madison Libraries hold one of the largest and most comprehensive *cartonera* collections in the United States. The *cartonera* project is a work in progress, with new titles and resources continually added.

The involvement and interest in this project, along with the generous support from the Friends of the UW-Madison Libraries, the General Library System, the Anonymous Fund, and other campus entities, has made it possible to organize a conference this fall and to publish a book with the Libraries' Parallel Press. The "Cartonera Publish-

ers: Recycling Latin American Bookscapes" conference will take place October 8-9, 2009 in Room 126, Memorial Library, and elsewhere on campus. The conference will bring together, for the first time, scholars, and editors of the *cartonera* publishing houses. The book *Akademie Cartonera: The Primer of Latin American Cartonera Publishers* is a compilation of manifestos from all eight houses with a supplemental CD containing original academic essays about the *cartonera* phenomenon, as well as a bibliography and information from each publishing house. There will be an exhibit of *cartonera* books in Memorial Library beginning in mid-September.

The conference, exhibit, and book are being organized by Ksenija Bilbija, Professor of Spanish American Literatures and Cultures and Director of the Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies Program; and Paloma Celis Carbajal,



Ibero-American Studies Bibliographer at the UW-Madison Memorial Library. For more information on the conference and *cartoneras* see <http://www.library.wisc.edu/cartoneras/>.

Decorative Arts Collection Online (continued from page three)

primary visual information sources," Duychak explains. "These books were two-dimensional reproductions of the natural world and perfect patterns to copy in paint or thread." Being artistic was a desirable feminine trait; a number of these are instructional books, created to help ladies draw or paint flowers or birds. Professional furniture decorators, such as George Brookshaw, made use of them as well. The fact that the books

could be put to decorative uses does not detract from their value as scientific texts, when ornithological or botanical scholarship was intended. These books could and did serve many purposes. As natural history texts, they document the state of human understanding of the world. As richly illustrated examples of fine book production, they exemplify the state of the art for printing and illustration techniques of their times. As

pattern books, they facilitate creative ornamentation. And as aesthetic objects, they provide visual pleasure to fortunate viewers.

For information on the DLDecArts, contact Linda Duychak at the Kohler Art Library, phone: 263-2258 or email: askart@library.wisc.edu. For information on other UWDCC projects see <http://uwdcc.library.wisc.edu>.

Friends Support Authors at the Wisconsin Book Festival

Photo by Lewis Koch



The Wisconsin Book Festival, October 7–11, 2009, will once again bring together some of America's finest writers. The Friends of the UW–Madison Libraries are sponsoring two nationally acclaimed Wisconsin authors, David Rhodes and Jane Hamilton, who will speak on Saturday, October 10, 2009 at 7:30 p.m., in Promenade Hall, Overture Center for the Arts.

David Rhodes's most recent book, *Driftless*, has been described as "the best work of fiction to come out of the Midwest in many years" (*Chicago Tribune*). In *Driftless*, Rhodes explores the relationships and connections that bind people together in an isolated Wisconsin farming community. The author's own life has been defined by the Midwest countryside he writes about so evocatively; the landscape is what formed him, what almost destroyed him, but ultimately what helped restore him.

Rhodes was raised in rural Iowa, just outside of Des Moines. He began writing as a teenager. In 1969, after finishing college, he was accepted into the Iowa Writers' Workshop, where he began working on his first novel, *The Last Fair Deal Going Down*. Even before he received his MFA he had a publication contract in hand. By 1977 he was living in Wonewoc, Wisconsin, was married with a baby girl, and had published three novels to enthusiastic reviews. John Gardner, in his influential meditation about writing, *On Becoming a Novelist*, said that Rhodes displayed "one of the best eyes in recent fiction."

But a life-changing event sent Rhodes's literary career off its path of bright prom-

ise. In the spring of 1977 Rhodes crashed while driving a motorcycle on a quiet rural road not far from his home. The accident left him paralyzed from the chest down. He spent two years hospitalized in Madison; less than a year after his release, his marriage ended. Rhodes describes the period that followed as difficult and dark. Though he continued writing, he no longer sought to publish his work, and both he and his novels fell into obscurity.

In 2004 an editor at Milkweed Editions came across Rhodes's three published novels, wondered why Rhodes had stopped publishing, and initiated a search that eventually led to Rhodes's home outside Wonewoc, where he currently lives with his second wife. Rhodes sent the editor the book he'd been working on. In 2008 Milkweed published *Driftless*, and the literary world rediscovered David Rhodes.

For more information about the Wisconsin Book Festival, including updated information about venues and the complete schedule of speakers, go to www.wisconsinbookfestival.org.

Joining David

Rhodes is author

Jane Hamilton,

who has been a

Wisconsin Book

Festival favorite

since she sang a

cappella at the

inaugural Fest in 2002. Her newest

book, *Laura Rider's Masterpiece*, is a

provocative, satirical tale, simultaneously funny and dark. Hamilton

is the author of *The Book of Ruth*,

winner of the PEN/Hemingway

Award for first fiction, and *A Map of*

the World, a *New York Times* Notable

Book of the Year. *The Book of Ruth*

and *A Map of the World* have both

been selections of Oprah's Book Club.

Her last novel, *When Madeline Was*

Young, was a *Washington Post* Best

Book of 2006. She lives and writes in

an orchard farmhouse in Wisconsin.



Help the Libraries: Donate Your Books!

To support the Friends semiannual book sales, we need your donations of used books; LP, cassette, or CD recordings; VHS tapes and DVDs; and audio books.

Materials for donation can be left at Memorial Library's Lake Street loading dock Monday–Friday, 7 a.m.–3:30 p.m. If you wish to receive a letter indicating the value of your gift for tax purposes, make sure that your name and address is in each box or bag you drop off.

Donated books are added to campus library collections or sold through the Friends book sale to benefit the UW Libraries. Thousands of titles within the Libraries' collecting scope are added annually through these donations. Proceeds from the sales help the Friends support grants-to-campus libraries for special resource needs, the grants-in-aid program for visiting scholars, and Friends events and lectures.

If you need to arrange for a book pickup, would like more information, or would like to volunteer to help with the sale, please call or e-mail the Friends: 608-265-2505 or friends@library.wisc.edu.

All gifts of materials support the mission of libraries and are greatly appreciated.

Researching Vietnam-Era GI Dissent

Derek Seidman
Brown University
Providence, Rhode Island

Thanks to a Friends of the Libraries grant-in-aid, I was able to conduct research that was absolutely vital to my dissertation, "The Unquiet Americans: GI Dissent," about Vietnam-era troop dissent. For nearly five weeks, I pored through the collections of the UW-Madison Libraries and the Wisconsin Historical Society. I viewed scores of antiwar GI newspapers and hundreds of original letters that soldiers wrote to these papers. These letters revealed a wealth of information that helped me reshape some of the historiography around the Vietnam-era military and 1960s protest politics.

The letters clearly reveal that class conflict and tensions between the lower and higher ranks of the military were contrib-

uting factors to troop demoralization (as opposed to conventional explanations for this that revolve around the "stab in back" theory). The letters also show how deeply the counterculture ran among many GIs, and how these soldiers used the symbols, language, and practices of the counterculture to shape their own identities and to define their conflicts with higher-ups. Furthermore, the letters reveal widespread troop opposition to the war and the extent to which soldiers participated in a diverse array of acts of dissension.

I examined a number of collections closely, including GI underground newspapers such as *The Ally* and *Up Against the Bulkhead*, papers from the GI Civil Liberties Defense Committee and the United States Servicemen's Fund, and more. In addition to shining a light on soldier resistance to the Vietnam War, these collections represent a stunning refuta-



The Ally: A Newspaper for Servicemen. No. 15. Berkeley, CA.

tion of the "antitroop/antiwar movement" myth. The records also show that civilians invested massive efforts in helping soldiers deal with their unpleasant situations. I also reviewed numerous oral history sources. These sources filled in many of the gaps concerning the general themes and topics of my dissertation, allowing me to shape my narrative with more detail, nuance, and sensitivity.

In short, my time in Madison was incredibly worthwhile and productive. Furthermore, I loved the city! All my gratitude goes to the Friends of the UW-Madison Libraries for giving me this opportunity.