



LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

The messenger. Number 25 Spring 1992

Madison, Wisconsin: Friends of the University of
Wisconsin-Madison Libraries, Spring 1992

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THE MESSENGER

FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN—MADISON LIBRARIES

Number 25, Spring 1992

Bassett Foundation Gives Funds to Preserve Mark Twain Materials

The Bassett Foundation has agreed to donate \$13,500 to help catalog and preserve Mark Twain materials held in the Department of Special Collections of Memorial Library.

Norman Bassett, founder of Demco Library Supplies, gave his impressive private collection of Twain volumes to Memorial Library in 1955. He kept adding to the collection until his death.

Bassett's collection, composed primarily of hundreds of rare first editions in fine copies, and the complementary collection of scholar George Brownell together comprise one of the best assemblages of Twain books, articles, correspondence, and memorabilia in the country.

Despite its richness, the Bassett-Brownell materials have not received great attention from scholars. At the time they were received the collections were cataloged according to common practice, and the majority of records consist of only an author, title, place of publication, and date. The donation will permit Special Collections to begin adding full cataloging records to OCLC and NLS.

The Bassett-Brownell materials are on increasingly fragile wood-pulp paper which requires special processing to halt its deterioration. The Bassett Foundation award will also allow the library to provide conservation treatment and boxes for materials particularly at risk.

"Assistance from the Bassett Foundation," notes Acting Director Ken Frazier, "will ensure that both the collections and the generosity of the Bassett family will endure for generations to come."

Deb Reilly

External Relations Coordinator

Kelmscott Scholar Will Speak at Annual Dinner

Marianne Tidcombe, a bookbinder and bibliographer from England, will speak at the Friends' annual dinner Friday evening, April 10, in the Department of Special Collections at Memorial Library.

Tidcombe emigrated to England in 1972 after earning her undergraduate and master's degrees in the United States. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of London in 1984.

She was a bibliographer and book binder at the Hunt Botanical Library and has edited the journals *Designer Bookbinder Review* and the *New Bookbinder*. She has written four books: *The Bookbinding Career of Rachel Hunt* (1984); *The Bookbinding of T.J. Cobden-Sanderson* (1984); *Elizabeth Greenhill Bookbinder* (1986); and the *Doves Bindery* (1991). A book on women bookbinders in Britain is in progress.

Interestingly, Tidcombe is looking for more information on two Cobden-Sanderson bindings that were signed by him in 1907 in Madison. The items are listed as numbers 92 and 110 in her book on his bookbinding. She said she would like to discover the owner and the location of these two volumes.

Those interested in additional information about the annual dinner may contact Peter Bratsch, assistant to the Friends, at 262-3243.

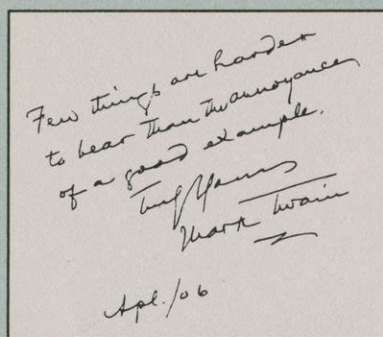
And the Twain Shall Meet...

Norman Bassett's collection of Twain books began when he was a young boy, and his mother took him to visit the great American author. He liked to tell of his encounter, and the following account appeared in the *Capital Times* in 1955:

"My mother and I were seated side-by-side near the bed and because my nose was running fluently I inadvertently wiped it on the most available article at hand, my coat-sleeve.

"Mother reached over, put my arm down on my lap, saying: 'You know Frank would never do a thing like that.'

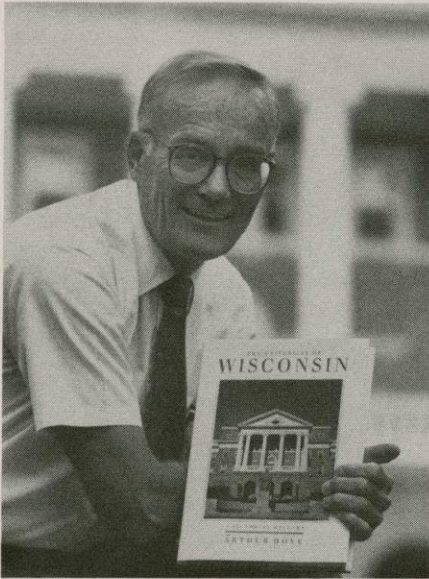
"This produced a hearty chuckle from Samuel Clemens and he asked, 'Who is this Frank?' My answer was, 'Oh sir, he's a sissy mother is always producing as a good example.'



Few things are harder
to bear than the annoyance
of a good example.
Yours truly
Mark Twain
Apl. '06

'Are those two of my books on your lap, Norman, that you want me to sign, and which ones are they?' asked Twain....

"Whereupon Samuel Clemens took the copy of *Tom Sawyer* and, with his usual flourish and quick wit, inscribed on the inside cover: 'Few things are harder to bear than the annoyance of a good example. Yours truly, Mark Twain--Apl. '06.'"



Friends President Art Hove with his new book, *The University of Wisconsin: A Pictorial History*.

President's Message

■ The Aura of Place

All too often we tend to forget that libraries are places, not just storehouses for aggregations of books and related information. Or, to put it in the jargon of the day, access points for data.

Periodically, we are refreshingly reminded of the library's identity as a special place on the campus. As each semester moves towards its completion, students flock to campus libraries to complete that last-minute quest for ammunition for a term paper, or simply to find a quiet niche to study for final exams. At this time, the lounges and study areas of the libraries look like the holding area of a battalion aid station. The casualties from the semester-long grind filter in for whatever intellectual resuscitation is appropriate. It is then that the libraries teem with the anxiety and energy that accompanies the end of each semester.

In between times, of course, there is a steady level of coming and going in libraries across the campus. But during finals period, the activity is most intense. This reminds us that

there is a transformation that takes place whenever one enters a library. Both mind and body react to the distinctive sense of place. In some respects, it is similar to the atmosphere one encounters in a religious sanctuary. The residents here are votaries seeking their particular form of enlightenment or inner peace. While each is on a personal voyage of discovery, there also is a shared experience.

Those who visit and use libraries regularly recognize them as sites of enlightenment, renewal, and exploration. Libraries have a distinctive aura, regardless of the configuration of the building they inhabit. They give off the quiet hum of people performing that most subversive of acts – reading and thinking. It is here, in these places, that civilization looks back at the same time it moves forward. It is here that connections are made between experience and imagination.

Great libraries are not just great collections, they are great places. They are physical representations of the values and aspirations of a society. For that reason, we need to be aware of how well we honor that fact. This past fall, the Friends provided a grant to help refurbish the Greek and Latin Reading Room in Memorial Library. This was done as a recognition that the proper atmosphere is crucial to the act of learning.

Those of use who treasure libraries, recognize them as homes of the intellect, as jumping off places for adventure and growth. As friends, we need to help preserve and enhance the physical aspects of these places whenever the appropriate opportunity presents itself.

Arthur O. Hove
President

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From the Director

The growth rate of UW-Madison library collections is slowing as inflation reduces the buying power of the collection budget. At the same time, the number of items listed in the computerized library catalog is increasing rapidly. How can this be?

The answer is that libraries are adding catalog records for books that are already in the collection, but, until now, have not been entered in the catalog. This is very good news for library users. You can't use information unless you can find it, and most users depend on the computer catalog to find what they need. As more records are added to the catalog, library users are finding information sources that they never knew existed.

For example, the entire Government Printing Office (GPO) database of federal documents has been added to the UW-Madison catalog. This added 236,000 new cataloging records for valuable information that was previously difficult to find.

In addition, almost every library on campus has been busy converting old catalog card records to a computerized "online" format. To make this conversion process more effective, librarians have been concentrating their efforts on the most heavily used portion of their collections. At Memorial Library, a project is underway to create new catalog records for materials which have been stuck in the limbo of the cataloging backlog for years.

And that's not all. The Special Collections Department has received a grant from the Norman Bassett Foundation to improve the cataloging for the Mark Twain materials. Two major grants have been submitted which will provide online catalog

access records for the distinguished Wisconsin collections of Scandinavian and Eastern European materials.

But as W.C. Fields put it, "no good deed goes unpunished." Better access to information means more circulation and more shelving of materials. Public services staff are experiencing more demand for interlibrary loan from other campuses and more reference questions. Automation and technical services staff are struggling to make sure that the flood of new records does not overwhelm the library computer systems.

I asked Mary Marshall, one of the staff members who helped put the government documents online,

■ The Collection and the Catalog

how she felt about the increased pressure of more use of her collection. "Well yes," she said, "it means more work for us. But we are seeing a lot of new faces. People are discovering the treasures that we have here. As far as I'm concerned, a book languishing on the shelf is like gold in the ground. Its real value comes when people can find it." I agree with Mary.

*Ken Frazier
Acting Director*

Friends Name First Fellow

UW-Stevens Point Professor James Stokes has been named the first recipient of the Friends of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries Fellowship.

Stokes, an expert on medieval and Renaissance English theatre, is editing a book on the dramatic records of Lincolnshire, England. The Friends Fellowship will give him the opportunity to examine materials related to Lincolnshire held in the university libraries. When completed, his book will appear as a volume of the Records of Early English Drama (REED) Series published by the University of Toronto Press.

Applications for the second semi-annual Friends Fellowship are being accepted until April 1. A stipend of \$800 is offered for research in any field appropriate to the collections. Applicants must have the Ph.D. or be able to demonstrate a record of solid intellectual accomplishment.

For application forms or further information, please write to Friends of the UW-Madison Libraries Award Committee, 976 Memorial Library, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI 53706, or phone Peter Bratsch at 608/262-3243.



10TH MUSE LATELY UNVEILED

Yvonne Shofer, Memorial Library humanities bibliographer, is shown with the display of Anne Bradstreet's *The 10th Muse Lately Sprung Up in America* (1650). Schofer, along with English Professor Sargent Bush, presented a program to the Friends recently to unveil the acquisition.

Book Sales Offer Bargains

The Friends monthly book sales take place in the southeast basement of Memorial Library and run from 3-5:15 p.m., Friday, and 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Saturday, on the third weekend of every month.

For more information, or if you would like to donate books, please contact Peter Bratsch, assistant to the Friends, at 262-3243.

Friends Donate Funds to Greek And Latin Reading Room

The Friends of the Libraries recently gave \$3,500 toward carpeting the Greek and Latin Reading Room of Memorial Library. The gift lays groundwork in anticipation of a sizable endowment for the collections housed in the room.

The carpeting is part of a general refurbishing of the fourth-floor room, which is used intensively by classicists, ancient and medieval historians, archaeologists, and others whose research depends on materials in early Western civilization.

An additional \$3,500 for upgrading the collections has been awarded in the past few months by the Knapp and Anonymous Funds on campus and by the Classics Department.

The project has provided an opportunity to strengthen faculty and library ties. Faculty, for example, have volunteered to help the staff move books as needed during the refurbishing.

When completed, the room will include areas for seminars, research, collections, and recreational reading. It will also be used by the libraries for lectures and small receptions.

New Powers Added to the NLS Catalog

The latest version of the NLS library catalog at UW-Madison has a major new feature: it displays the current circulation status of library materials. That is in addition to the usual information about location, holdings, and call numbers.

The "brief" and "full" catalog displays now include messages saying whether a copy of a book is checked out and, if so, when it is due back. If several libraries each have copies of the book, the NLS system will tell the status of each copy (assuming each library has been fully automated). That kind of access can save unnecessary trips to the library.

The system also knows quickly that a book has been checked out online. The information usually appears on the NLS catalog within five minutes of being entered.

This new version also provides information on materials not yet on the shelves. It shows, for example, whether an item is on order, received but not yet available for circulation, or temporarily withdrawn to the bindery or to a reserve reading room. Users can also find out the most recent issues of periodicals and journals received by the library.

The catalog also has some new searching features: by name of publisher and by expanded content notes. To expand a search into related materials, NLS can build a list of all entries (such as authors, subjects, and series names) that are connected with a given set of library materials. For example, if the original subject search was for wood products the expanded list of subjects would include forests and forestry, lumber trade, timber grading, and others. The search can use these subjects for an expanded list of materials.

The size of the catalog has also expanded. Some 236,000 records from the Government Printing Office database have been added, increasing its size to nearly 2.2 million items.

from ADP News

Donors Present Gifts to Special Collections

In recent months, the Department of Special Collections has received a number of interesting books and manuscripts.

Herbert Howe, professor emeritus of classics, and his wife, Evelyn, gave an important collection of early editions by Greek and Latin authors, about 100 titles in all. The majority of these are in their original or contemporary bindings.

One of the volumes, a 1580 edition of Augustine's *Confessions* published in Basel, Switzerland, enriched a fall 1991 exhibition to celebrate the 1600th anniversary of the saint's ordination as a priest.

From two families of Wisconsin alumni, Marc and Sherri Solocheck, and Allen and Sara Wilkins of Huntington, W Va., came a copy of the *Figures des Histoires de la Sainte Bible* (Paris, 1663), a large folio volume depicting Biblical scenes. It is one of the most beautiful and richly illustrated books produced in the 17th century.

Marie Seidenadel of Carol Stream, Ill., donated a small, but extremely interesting collection of books on a variety of subjects. The volumes range from a 17th century chemical treatise—a 1678 Frankfurt edition of the *Musaeum Hermeticum*—to two German travel books describing journeys to Constantinople and Jerusalem.

In a visit to Madison last fall William and Nora Cole of Seattle, Wash., gave Carl Wilhelm Scheele's *Chemische Abhandlung von der Luft und dem Feuer* (Uppsala & Leipzig, 1777). The small, rare work announces the discovery of "fire-air," now better known as oxygen. A large part of the renowned Cole collection in the history of 18th century chemistry is already in the department, and

the balance has been generously promised.

The department purchased Claude Saintes' *Responsio* (Paris, 1567) to Theodore Beza, Calvin's successor as chief pastor of Geneva, with a deeply appreciated gift of funds from The University League. This acquisition constitutes an extremely useful addition to an already notable collection of early materials on 16th century French Protestantism and the Wars of Religion.

Other European books and manuscripts came from libraries on campus which transferred items considered out of scope to their own collections. From the State Historical Society came a beautiful manuscript Bible with illuminated initials, perhaps the work of an early 15th century scriptorium. We would be grateful to any scholar who would like to help provide a fuller identification.

From the Helen Allen Textile Collection came several volumes, primarily 18th century books of religious interest—Biblical commentaries, sermons, lectures on individual books of the Bible, and prayer books intended to accompany festivals and fasts of the Church of England. The religious significance of one small volume remains to be fathomed, a *Racing Calendar* containing a schedule of sweepstakes to be run in Ireland for the year 1814.

Donors also made generous gifts to the modern literature collections. Fred Baker of Salisbury Mills, N.Y., a past donor, gave a collection of notable American and English first editions in immaculate condition with original dust jackets and slip cases. Many of them are inscribed and signed by their authors. The

collections include the first printing of Edgar Allan Poe's poetry as well as a volume of the *Encyclopedia Americana* marked with the bookplate from the library of Charles Dickens.

Frederick Olson, a distinguished professor emeritus of history from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and a previous benefactor, located among his own books several Louisa May Alcott editions not already held in the rich and rapidly growing Cairns collection of American women authors. The four books are *Little Women* and *Good Wives* (London, 1937); *Under the Lilacs* (Boston, 1898); *An Old-Fashioned Girl* (New York, 1912) and (Cleveland & N.Y., 1947).

Sara Pollak added to an earlier gift that included a large collection of books and literary papers from her late husband, Felix, a celebrated poet and man of letters. She presented private press volumes, letters of condolence from well-known German writers, a typescript of Pollak's aphorisms, and other items.

The library is happy to extend its grateful thanks to all these generous friends whose deeply appreciated gifts are now finding a home in the Department of Special Collections' new quarters on the ninth floor of Memorial Library.

John Tedeschi, Curator

Friends Exhibits

■ **April 1-June 30.**

An exhibit on aspects of the Cairns Collection of American Women Writers.

■ **July 1-October 1.**

Frank Lloyd Wright and the Book Arts

All exhibits are on the ninth floor of Memorial Library.

Campus Librarians Guide Undergraduates in Library Use

Every August, more than 6000 freshmen and transfer students arrive on the UW-Madison campus. Many of them come from towns whose public library is smaller than most of those they will use while on campus. For some students, using the campus library system, its multiple libraries, and its vast computerized resources may feel overwhelming.

To transform the intimidating into the accessible, even into a little fun, librarians across the UW-Madison campus have become increasingly involved in orientation activities for new users in the last few years.

This past fall campus librarians conducted over 90 tours for more than 1200 students. They not only told students about the resources and services available in each library, but reassured them as well, telling them it is not only acceptable to ask for help, it is essential, especially on a campus with nearly five million volumes housed in more than 40 locations.

Librarians also play an active role each semester in campus Welcome Week activities, the orientation program for freshmen and transfer students. They staff library booths at various resource fairs and receptions such as the Multicultural Student Reception. They make presentations for groups such as graduate and international students, and they arrange open houses for special library facilities such as the microcomputer labs in College, Steenbock Agricultural, and Wendt Engineering libraries.

So far, the efforts have been successful. In a recent telephone survey conducted by the Center for New Student Development, the office responsible for planning campus

orientation activities, over 600 new students were asked: "What things are helping you succeed at UW-Madison?"

"Assistance from the libraries was one of the most frequent responses," says Ann Zanzig, coordinator of the center. "To feel comfortable starting the school year, freshmen, in particular, mentioned the need to have information about the libraries early. We consider library orientation an integral part of our new student program."

Orientation tours and presentations make up only a small part, however, of the library user education program. Of 1236 instructional sessions conducted by campus librarians during the last academic year, the majority were course-related. At the request of individual faculty, librarians teach both undergraduate and graduate students information-seeking skills and strategies related to a particular course or field.

In most course-related sessions librarians take students through the research process, showing them first how to define their information needs and then how to use both electronic and print resources to find, select, and evaluate material that can meet those needs.

Whether students are looking for an experimental model for a psychology class or for a description of the life cycle of a pygmy backswimmer collected on a biology field trip, they are taught to approach information seeking as a systematic process, and not as a serendipitous foray into the library's stacks. Students learn to think about the process as an exercise

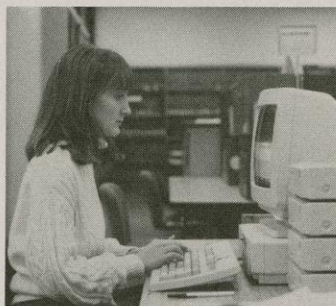
involving problem solving, decision-making, and critical thinking.

Drop-in workshops represent another important part of the library user education program. For a number of years, several campus libraries have offered workshops each semester on the computer catalog (NLS) to teach users basic search skills and strategies through in-class demonstrations. Some libraries, like Memorial and Steenbock, now present both introductory and advanced workshops on NLS, because librarians have found that they cannot cover many of its powerful search features in a single workshop.

In addition to offering NLS workshops, campus librarians also conduct two series of drop-in workshops on using compact disk electronic databases (CD-ROM): a basic workshop series and a set on specific

databases. The basic workshop introduces users to general strategies for searches on any database. In the specific database workshops, students focus on special CD-ROM features for disciplines such as education, psychology, health sciences, engineering, sociology, and agriculture.

During this academic year, six libraries on campus will have offered 19 basic CD-ROM workshops. Librarians also will have taught 23 database-specific workshops covering 13 different databases. And both series continue to grow as new CD-ROM databases become available on campus.



"Students take to electronic database searches like fish to water," says Nancy McClements, a reference librarian at Memorial.

Some librarians worry that electronic data searches and their easy accessibility, however, make patrons too passive and uncritical in seeking information. Students sometimes accept what they find simply because it came from a computer.

"Some will not even look at a printed index even when it may be better suited to the topic," adds McClements.

Don Gerlach, reference coordinator at College Library, always tries to focus students' attention on the quality of the information. "We make sure we teach basic search skills rather than what buttons to push," he says.

User education librarians, for example, demonstrate these strategies in library classrooms using a single computer work station. Growing demand for first-hand instruction currently outstrips the available equipment in library classrooms such as those in Memorial and College. Several work stations in each classroom connected to the growing electronic networks would provide students with important hands-on decision making experience.

Through the user education program, UW-Madison librarians also customize instruction for certain user groups. These include:

- ❖ the Academic Advancement Program for minority undergraduate students,
- ❖ the Athletic Department,
- ❖ the honors programs of several different colleges,
- ❖ the graduate orientation programs of a number of departments,
- ❖ the International Students Orientation Program,
- ❖ community high school classes,
- ❖ the Study Skills Program, and
- ❖ the summer institutes for high school faculty

The education program targets faculty as well. Each fall both Steenbock and Memorial libraries offer a Seminar Series for faculty. The program introduces new faculty to campus library resources, particularly computerized ones. In September, for example, seminars were offered on:

- ❖ Cultural Diversity—New Resources for Finding Information on American Ethnic and Cultural Groups,
- ❖ Computerized Resources for Research in the Social Sciences and Humanities, and
- ❖ New CD-ROM Databases in the Agricultural and Life Sciences.

All of these programs help make library patrons more active information consumers. To succeed in the Information Age, our students must be able to find, harness, and use information independently throughout their productive lives. These library user educators work with others to teach students the skills they need to become and remain sophisticated information consumers and producers.

Abigail Loomis
Coordinator of Library User Education

Unrequired Reading Lists Show Diversity

This spring, campus libraries will attempt to pique the interest of undergraduate students with the diversity of their collections. *Unrequired Reading*, a new series of bibliographies to be available in UW-Madison libraries, will provide one-page annotated lists of readings that students may not normally encounter in classes.

Topics selected so far include Buddhism, science fiction classics, the land ethic, women working in science and technology, horror novels, American film history and production, engineering and ethics, and the world of design.

Volunteers, collaborating with faculty, are compiling the lists based on their personal reading and familiarity with a chosen topic. Copies of these books (and an occasional journal article) are now available or will be purchased by several libraries.

"We hope this will give a student the kind of experience with literature that he or she will remember long after the ink on the diploma is dry," observes Gretchen Farwell of the Steenbock Library. "These are books to recommend to your best friend, books that will take you off the beaten track, books to inspire your reflections."

MESSENGER

Number 25, Spring 1992

The Messenger is published twice annually by Friends of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries for its members.

Editor: Don Johnson
Assistant to the Friends:
Peter Bratsch
Graphic Design: Daniel L. Joe

1991 Honor Roll

We are grateful to the donors and Friends of UW-Madison Libraries. To sustain its activities, the General Library System needs more, dedicated Friends. If you are interested in joining the Friends, please use the enclosed envelope to initiate or renew your membership. Otherwise, you may write to Friends of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries, 728 State Street, Madison, WI 53706.

The Friends engage in two types of activities: educational—including lectures, newsletters, and exhibit cata-

logs—and fundraising to support library projects that would not otherwise be possible.

Membership brings with it circulation privileges in Memorial Library and complimentary copies of all Friend's publications.

The following lists 1991 members of the Friends as well as those who made contributions to the libraries between July 1, 1990 and December 31, 1991.

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UW-Madison Libraries Present a Wish List

One of the goals this year in the General Library System (GLS) has been re-establishing a "sense of place" for libraries as exciting centers of scholarship and learning on the campus. Part of this means paying attention to the equipment and supply needs of patrons and staff. In eras of tight budgets, these items are frequently postponed so that the collections retain first priority.

In this issue we highlight a few of these bread-and-butter needs. Anyone interested in making a tax-deductible gift to the libraries is invited to call Deb Reilly, Coordinator of External Relations, at 262-2566.

❖ **Re-upholstering chairs in the Biology Library:**
\$3,200.

Chairs, both new and re-upholstered continue to be the prime need in libraries. Many chairs date to as far back as the mid-1950s. As these furnishings age, breakage has greatly increased.

❖ **Plexiglass book supports for exhibitions:**
\$600.

Several libraries maintain a regular exhibition schedule for their materials to educate patrons about their strengths. Materials on display are stressed much

more than those on stack shelves. Special supports are needed to safeguard book spines and pages.

❖ **Map storage cabinets in the Geology Library:**
\$2,100.

Maps quickly become damaged when left on open shelves. Map cabinets help ensure their preservation.

❖ **Overhead projector for the Music Library:**
\$400.

Several music classes are taught on a regular basis in the Music Library's seminar room. A projector is needed for teaching.

❖ **Study tables and chairs for Memorial Library:**
\$2,500.

The fourth floor corridor, for those not familiar with it, is a large, cold, empty space. Changes in a similar corridor on the second floor has demonstrated that hall space can become an attractive and intellectually active part of the library by simply adding tables, lamps, and chairs.

This is only a sample of GLS needs that would benefit from the support of friends. The full list of facilities and possible projects runs several pages. Please contact us if you have an alternative concern or a particular library that you would like to assist.

MESSENGER

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