Fall 1996

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Merrill-Cazier Library
Utah State University

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what are friends for?

The library is the heart of a University. It serves as the repository of the learning that is discovered and taught there. A university library provides information needed by students, faculty and the public. As information expands, both in quantity and format, libraries must strive to keep abreast.

Utah State University's Merrill Library has long faced this challenge. The University's new Science and Technology Library meets the immediate space needs for housing and providing access to the collections. However, space is not a library. Collections make up a library. And this is the challenge facing USU: to obtain the latest books, documents and periodicals which report current scholarly research.

"... Space is not a library. Collections make up a library. And this is challenge facing USU."

The Friends share various goals. In addition to seeking to provide for the needs of USU Libraries, Friends inform library users of special holdings, organize the CollegeWise lecture series and host book readings and other events which celebrate USU Libraries. We Friends of USU Libraries urge all who are devoted to Utah State University, and who recognize the importance of its Libraries, to join us in this important cause.

— Professor William F. Lye, President, Friends of USU Libraries

of atoms and bits

There is much debate these days about the future of the printed book. Many, including Nicholas Negroponte, author of Being Digital, foretell an end to the book's five hundred years of service to civilization. For Negroponte, it is a question of physics. Bits, the medium of things digital including the Internet, prove far more versatile in the exchange of information than the atoms which make up books. Thus, according to Negroponte, the information revolution was won before it began: "The change from atoms to bits is irrevocable and unstoppable."

Counter the tide of virtuality, Sven Birkerts, author of The Gutenberg Elegies: The Fate of Reading in the Electronic Age, stands firmly in defense of the book. Beyond arguing for the pleasure of curling up with a hardcover novel, Birkerts laments the loss of "deep time" that accompanies the reading of electronic texts. For Birkert's "language"—what readers encounter on a static, printed page — "and not technology is the true evolutionary miracle."

As Friends of USU Libraries, we have taken neither side in this futurist debate. Rather, we wish to celebrate the access to knowledge, in whatever format it appears, that we all share. Inasmuch as we became readers by reading paper bound between hardcovers, we will exhibit — as the form of this publication suggests — a bias toward the tradition of the book. But, by mission we will seek to illuminate the evolving technologies through which knowledge is conveyed.

We hope you will find in these pages an undying appreciation of Gutenberg's gift to generations of readers as well as unequivocated attention to information technologies.

— John Needham, Editor, Marginalia
“After the Fall Roundup”

Now the Summer work is over and the wagon’s pullin’ in.
And we’ve said good bye to fellers that we mightn’t see again.
Fer a cow boy don’t write letters so we mighty soon lose track
Of the boys that stops and works a while and never does come back

When yore clothes is soter tattered and yore hat brim sags and flops,
And your boots is wore and battered, them that had the fancy tops,
When the owners and the bosses and the hands is most all in.
And the strings of summer hosses is slowed up and lookin’ thin.

When they thin clouds start a trailin through the sofi and pleasant sky,
And you watch old buzzard sailin’ sorten useless way up high,
And it makes the toughest cow boy sorter study after all,
When he’s draggin’ with the wagon to the home ranch in the fall.

Fer he caint help but remember that most cow boys don’t git old
And he’ll get to one November when he caint stand work and cold;
He shore knows that he’ll be sorry when he git's like you and me;
Jest an old man tellin’ stories ‘bout how good he used to be.

— Bruce Kiskaddon

From the shelves of the Fife Folklore Library: Western Poems, Bruce Kiskaddon, Western Livestock Journal (Los Angeles, 1935) 27-28.
(Cowboy Poetry at USU Libraries—see Friends’ Calendar, page 4)
**Just Between Friends**

Rock, writer, and father of two, Bob Parson serves as University Archivist in USU Libraries’ Special Collections and Archives. A Cache Valley native, Bob earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in history at USU, a field in which he has produced diverse works of scholarship. He wrote the recently published monograph, *A History of Rich County*, for the Utah Centennial Series. Bob’s interest in state and local history includes the Bear River Basin, for which he is planning to write yet another history.

As University Archivist, Bob is an authority on the history and operations of Utah State University and is available to assist researchers in Special Collections.

Bob is not only a talented writer and researcher, but also an accomplished musician. He plays lead guitar and, since the age of 12, has fronted several bands. His band, Rollin’ Country, produced an album by the same name. He has toured with the distinguished Pete Karnes Blues Band and recorded in the famed studios of Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

Bob has two sons whose fishing prowess keeps him busy cleaning catfish. When not performing, writing, fishing, Bob and his sons farm twenty acres of land that was once owned and farmed by his great-grandmother.

— John Walters, Head of Government Documents USU Libraries

**A LASTING GIFT**

When a friend or loved one passes away, rather than buy flowers, why not choose a memorial gift that will last for generations? Make a gift of the same amount of money that you would spend on flowers to USU Libraries. The Libraries will purchase a book and include a book plate in it stating that the gift was made in memory of the deceased. The family will receive a letter from the Libraries acknowledging your donation.

To make this lasting gift send your donation along with:
- Your name and address
- The deceased’s name
- The deceased’s family’s name and address
- Indication of a subject that interested the deceased (to assist USU Libraries in making a selection).

Send your check, made payable to USU Libraries, to USU Development, Utah State University, Logan, Utah, 84322-1420

**“Books are the legacies that genius leaves to mankind, to be delivered down from generation to generation as presents to those that are yet unborn.”**

— Joseph Addison

**“It is no accident that books are sacred to civilization. They open the past to us. A book is magical; it transcends time and space.”**

— Daniel J. Boorstin

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**A BOOKISH LEXICON**

- biblioclasm: the destruction of books
- bibliogony: the production of books
- bibliomancy: divination by books
- bibliomania: a rage for collecting books
- bibliopogy: bookbinding as a fine art
- bibliophagist: a devourer of books
- bibliophile: a lover of books
- bibliophobia: a dread of books

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**Trains, Planes & Automobiles**

It is a fact that most of the world’s great libraries began as gifts from book collectors. Gifts are at the core of every fine library collection. Because of many generous donors this is especially true of USU Libraries.

Arthur Frietzche, retired USU professor of English, recently made a gift of extraordinarily diverse subject matter to the Merrill Library. A significant portion of this gift consists of books on railroads and locomotives of interest to historians, miniaturists and hobbyists. The majority of these books have been cataloged in Special Collections and Archives to supplement other books on railroading. Professor Frietzche’s gift also includes books on radio, yachting, guns and shooting, polar explorations, aircraft, warships and naval warfare.

(Continued on back)
What is fat doing in cheese?

In this "cheezy" presentation, Professor Don McMahon will discuss his breakthrough studies of low fat and nonfat cheeses. Dr. McMahon is Director of the Western Center for Dairy Protein Research and Technology and Associate Professor of Nutrition & Food Sciences in USU's College of Agriculture.

"Making Space for the Mormons: Ideas of Sacred Geography in Joseph Smith's America" - Part of the annual Leonard J. Arrington lecture series on aspects of Mormon history, sponsored by USU Special Collections and Archives.

Annual Friends of USU Libraries Membership Meeting. Cowboy poet, Max Godfrey, will read classic style cowboy poetry and present his hand-braided rawhide ranching gear. Max Peterson, Director of USU Libraries, will discuss and present special volumes from the Fife Folklore Archive's cowboy poetry collection.

"U.S. Government Publishing and Printing: The Folly of Congressional Policy Making" - John Walters will discuss the patterns of U.S. Government document publication, focusing on how they exhibit misguided congressional policies. Walters is Regional Depository Librarian at USU's Merrill Library and has written extensively on issues surrounding the publication of U.S. government documents.

"Writing Business History" - Professor Howard Carlisle will discuss the challenges of writing business history. Carlisle is a retired USU Professor of Business Management and the author of Fulfilling a Dream: The Dee Smith Story, a history of Smith's Food and Drug, and Colonist Fathers, Corporate Sons, A Selective History of the Call Family, the story of the family that owns Flying J. Travel Plazas and Maverick Country Stores.
Yes, I Would Like To Help The Utah State University Libraries!

Two Ways To Help:

1) Join Friends of Utah State University Libraries

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2) Make a Special Gift toward the 1996-97 Matching Fund Campaign

These funds will help to reduce the budget shortfall caused by inadequate state funding. A budget shortfall means cutbacks in library services (dropping journal subscriptions, fewer book acquisitions, shorter library hours, etc.). Your donation will be matched dollar for dollar.

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☐ Yes, I (or my spouse) work for a matching-gift company. If yes, please enclose matching-gift form.

Alternate Payment Method: Payroll Deduction for USU employees:

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Special Donation: Amt. per month $___________ ☐ Perpetual or ☐ Expiration Date ____________, 19

TOTAL PAYROLL DEDUCTION $______________

Date ________________________________ Signature ________________________________

Thank you for supporting USU Libraries!