Fall 1996

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Merrill-Cazier Library
Utah State University

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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 ..."

Due to limited state resources, USU Libraries have had to depend upon the ingenuity of its supporters in addressing this never-ending problem. Students do their part by assessing themselves a library fee every quarter. Many faculty members and individuals regularly contribute books, journals, documents and funds toward the development of library collections. Although these efforts are appreciated, the need continues unabated.

Friends of USU Libraries is an organization dedicated to mobilizing those who share concern for USU Libraries. Its members are convinced that, by uniting, they can assist USU Libraries in meeting its challenge.

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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 E. Lye, President, Friends of USU Libraries

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

Of the recently-published, New York Public Library's Books of the Century, Paul Boyer writes, "A provocative overview of titles that have influenced and defined our age. Books of the Century provides a useful introduction to each...and suggests the reason for its impact. The work invites browsing and reflection, and underscores the importance of 'the book.' " Aside from noting significant works of literature and history, Books of the Century features such everyday books as Emily Post's Book of Etiquette and Irma S. Rombauer's Joy of Cooking. Attention is also given works of children's literature including The Cat in the Hat and Where the Wild Things Are. Readers wishing to explore or reacquaint themselves with these books will find virtually all of them in the stacks of USU Libraries.
“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 sorter tattered and yore hat brim says 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 horses is slowed up and lookin’ thin.

When them thin clouds start a trailin through the soft and pleasant sky, And you watch old buzzard sailin’ sorter 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 cain’t 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 gits like you and me; Jest an old man tellin’ stories ’bout how good he used to be.

— Bruce Kiskadden

From the shelves of the Fife Folklore Library, Western Poems, Bruce Kiskadden, Western Livestock Journal (Los Angeles, 1935) 27-28.

(Cowboy Poetry at USU Libraries—see Friends’ Calendar, page 4)


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.

“A bookish lexicon

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

CollegeWise:
A lecture series highlighting Utah State University Colleges,
hosted by Friends of USU Libraries.

“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

(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. Dr. 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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<th>Category</th>
<th>Yearly Dues</th>
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<td>Student Member</td>
<td>included in student fees (upon application)</td>
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<td>Associate Member</td>
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(Check one category)

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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Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
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Cash Donation:

Friends Membership $ __________
Special Gift $ __________
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Make check payable and send to:
USU Libraries
UMC 3065, Logan, UT 84322-3065

☐ 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!