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Merrill-Cazier Library
Utah State University

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A cold Friday in November 2001 witnessed a rich gathering at the Merrill Library. The public, invited to see Treasures of the Utah State University Libraries, were enticed by the warm building and invited to warm themselves at an aromatic buffet before discovering what treasures lay just beyond the Reference desk. Sponsored by the Staff and Friends of USU Libraries, interactive exhibits allowed the public to enjoy some of our Libraries' most valuable possessions.

Accompanied by the gentle strains of Willow Valley String Quartet, guests soon headed to a variety of displays. Perhaps they paused to view treasures from Special Collections, or listened to folk songs from the Folklore Collection in the Tamor Room. Some donned a pair of cotton gloves and gently picked up and scrutinized tintypes from the Pratt Family collection. Others examined manuscripts from a varied display representing Cache Valley History.

Curiosity piqued, visitors were drawn to the sights and sounds offered at The Beat Collection. Here viewers saw unique books and pamphlets, while listeners enjoyed a sampling of readings by the Beat generation displayed via CD-ROM. This exhibit provided just one example of how the Libraries use modern technology to preserve, protect, or present our collections.

Though libraries still hold volumes of books and shelves of journals, many resources are now conveniently available to patrons through databases. Electronic treasures? Of course! Inquisitive guests looked up current articles on a variety of subjects in both the humanities and sciences on terminals located in the reference area.

Another point of interest, entitled Sticker Shock, let the public know just how pricey some of our journal subscriptions are at USU. "For the price of a year's subscription to Nuclear Physics, you could be driving home a new GLX Volkswagen Beetle!" Shocking. Simply shocking.

A bright and imaginative sampling of children's books from the Moore Library called to both the young and young at heart amongst us. Are you surprised to discover we have children's books at USU? The Moore Library is located in

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Food for Thought

Food in the Library? Well, there has always been food in the library: in books about food. "Foodways" are of great interest to library patrons worldwide. In the Fife Folklore Archives we have an extensive book collection devoted to foods. The Jay Anderson Foodways and Historical Cookbooks Collection is based on book contributions by USU folklorist Jay Anderson and Jan Anderson, USU Campus Services Librarian. The Anderson Collection, Folk Collection 17, includes historic cookbooks and regional cookbooks, as well as books on domesticity and texts devoted to the cultural uses and nuances of foods.

In the 1840 volume Mackenzie's Five Thousand Receipts in all the Useful and Domestic Arts, you will find recipes for making beef steak pudding, giblet pie, London ale, along with instructions on how to clean and starch pork face, extract grease spots from silks and coloured muslin, and prevent the ravages of the gooseberry caterpillar. There are also directions for making a portable ice-house and instructions in the art of carving. In 1840 this book must have been a housekeeper's bible.

For those interested in the culinary arts, let me whet your appetite with a few intriguing titles from the Anderson Collection:

- The Spirit of Cookery: A popular Treatise on the History, Science, Practice, and Ethical and Medical Importance of Culinary Art by J. L. W. Thudichum, M.D., 1895, covers 100 chapters, such topics as "The Philosophy of Sauces," "Jellies, Savoury, Sweet, and Compound," and "Notes on the Cookery and Meals of Former Generations;"

- Finger Lickin' Rib Stickin' Great Tastin' Hot and Spicy Barbecue, by Jane Butel, 1982 (the title says it all!);

- Parmigiano!: 50 New and Classic Recipes with Parmigiano-Reggiano Cheese, by Pamela Sheldon Johns, 1997, covers the origin, production and uses of Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese with great photographs;

- A favorite for many, M.F.K. Fisher's The Art of Eating, 1954, includes "How to Distribute your Virtue," [on economy] and "Love and Death among the Molluscs;"

- An Egg at Easter: A Folklore Study, by Venetia Newall, "gives a comparative understanding of the egg myth in the many different forms in which it is represented, from the earliest recorded references until contemporary usage;"

- And, from 1762, The London Cook, or The Whole Art of Cookery made easy and familiar, by William Gellroy (late cook to her Grace the Duchess of Argyll). And now to the Right Hon. Sir Samuel Fielden Bart. Lord Mayor of the City of London.

Hon. Sir Samuel Fielden Bart. Lord Mayor of the City of London, which has a nice section on tarts and custards and includes a frontispiece "representing their Majesties Table, as it was serv'd at Guild Hall on November 9th.1761. The Day that Sir Samuel Fielden Bart. was sworn in Lord Mayor of the City of London. A fabulous little book.

Yes, food in written form has long been in the library. Visit the Fife Folklore Archives and read more about the foodways from around the world.

Randy Williams, Curator
Fife Folklore Archives
Special Collections and Archives
The University Libraries preservation unit is committed to the care and conservation of the research collections. The goal of the preservation unit is to maintain an ongoing program to conserve and restore valuable materials in order to ensure their continued use by researchers. The unit, operated within the Special Collections department, performs a variety of accepted preservation treatments for book and paper materials. Conservation treatments are employed to stabilize or provide cosmetic repair to deteriorating items. The program also seeks to promote and educate staff and patrons in the proper handling of library materials.

Book repair utilizes specific materials and techniques. Using inappropriate adhesives, such as transparent tape, packing tape, white glue, and rubber cement, can irreparably damage books and paper items. If you encounter a damaged book, please bring it to the attention of library staff. The preservation unit can perform structural as well as cosmetic treatment. Treatments often include: rebacking, strip binding, case binding, resewing, paper mending and repair, deacidification of paper, surface cleaning, encapsulating documents, and constructing boxes or enclosures.

Books in need of repair are routed to preservation by circulation and other library personnel. In such cases, a book repair slip notes damage and requests treatment. Depending on the nature of the problem and the type of binding, damaged books can be sent to the bindery or to the preservation staff for repairs. Proper handling and storage of library materials, along with conservation measures and repairs, ensures the collection will serve library users well into the future.

Librarians and preservation personnel appreciate the opportunity to educate users and library staff in preservation issues and in the proper care and handling of library materials. Preservation is an important aspect of university library programs. Using wise judgement when treating books and library materials will have positive, long-lasting effects in preserving our University's resources.

For more information on the handling of library materials, try the preservation tutorial at: http://library.usu.edu/Specol/Handle/index.htm; or call: (435) 797-0892.

Noel A. Carmack
Preservation Librarian
University Libraries

Book-keeping etiquette

The longevity of books, media, maps, and other items is affected by a variety of elements, including improper care and handling. Many common practices actually are detrimental to books and other library materials...

- Improper routine handling of books & media
- Improper removal and shelving methods
- Inappropriate handling of maps & charts
- Food and drink in non-designated areas
- Incorrect repairs
- Highlighting or writing in margins
- Mutilation
- Post-it notes
- Clips and bands
- Forcing books into book drops
- Mishandling books on photocopy machines

Environmental conditions also affect the longevity of library materials. Adverse environmental conditions are natural enemies to books. These include:

- Heat and fire
- Moisture or humidity
- Mold and mildew
- Light
- Dust and airborne pollutants
- Paper acidity, and embrittlement
- Vermin

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Anne McQuarrie and L. Boyd Hatch made their first gift to the library of Utah Agricultural College (UAC) in 1941. During the years that followed, their philanthropy was expressed through donations of many rare and unique research materials, the crowning jewels of which were rare books, antiques, artworks and decorative art objects for the Hatch Memorial Library Room.

Similarly, materials selected by L. Boyd Hatch for the UAC Library included historical items such as the Constitution of the State of Deseret, a first edition Book of Mormon, the DeViller’s Book of Hours and examples of fine printing, book illustration and binding. The library materials donated by L. Boyd and Anne McQuarrie Hatch provided a foundation upon which the rare book, manuscript and local history collections of the Merrill Library would later be built.

L. Boyd and Anne McQuarrie Hatch were Utahns with roots in Logan, St. George and Salt Lake City, respectively. They met in Salt Lake City in 1917 and were married in Logan the following year. Mr. Hatch’s success in business took the couple to New York City in 1924 where he was employed with the investment firm United States Company. Although the distance from Utah was considerable, they frequently returned to visit family and friends in Logan. In 1937, the Hatch’s purchased Edgewood Hall, a large real estate parcel located in the town of Providence, near Logan. They acquired the property with the intention of constructing a Tudor style manor house with gardens, a groundskeeper’s cottage and other outdoor structures on the estate. Plans for interior decoration of the manor included antique English and European furnishings which they acquired primarily from the collections of William Randolph Hearst, Sir Charles of London, Count Magnelli of Arcevia, and Davansati Palace. Designs for their Edgewood Hall estate were drawn up in 1939, but Second World War changed their plans and they decided not to proceed with construction.

In 1952, L Boyd and Anne McQuarrie Hatch proposed a special gift they wished to extend to Utah Agricultural College. Presented to the Board of Trustees by UAC President Louis L. Madsen, their idea was to create a reading room for the Ella Gardener McQuarrie Hatch book collection and other rare materials. The Hatch’s would donate a portion of their Edgewood Hall collection for the proposed room including 15th century English oak linen-fold paneling, a faldstoirum, refectory table, Ming Dynasty vase and decorative arts. In turn, the College would provide funding to assemble these materials in an appropriately sized and renovated space within the library. During their regular meetings of 13-14 March 1953, the Board of Trustees appropriated funds to construct the reading room as envisioned by L Boyd and Anne McQuarrie Hatch. On October 30, 1953, the Hatch Memorial Library was officially opened with a public reception. UAC President, Henry Aldous Dixon, described the significance of the collection in the dedicatory brochure as follows:

“All that is good and beautiful in our background is brought together in delicate aptness. This room will serve two purposes: (1) here will be preserved many of the best expressions of our cultural heritage, (2) here the student of today may come to work in the intimacy of artistic beauty. He may use books six hundred years old, as well as great books of our own era. He may study first hand the oil painting of an old Master. He may sit and dream at a table at which King Henry the VIII himself may well have sat. It will be a spiritual and cultural haven in our busy world.”
They’re popular in bookstores. They’re popular along tree-lined avenues and plazas. And, they’re among the hottest commodities in libraries. What, besides J.K. Rowling’s latest effort, could be so popular? Cafes. That’s right, those intimate little spaces to grab a quick sandwich or sit for a minute enjoying a warm or cool drink. And as school starts at Utah State University, students, faculty and visitors will have just that opportunity when they visit the Merrill Library. This fall, University Libraries at Utah State will unveil the Quadside Café, a new venture just off the entrance to the Merrill Library. “We want to anticipate and accommodate the needs of those who use the library,” said Betty Rozum, associate director for technical services for University Libraries. “The Quadside Café is in response to many requests, and we’ve been carefully planning this project for quite some time. We’re not adding this area to jump on the popular bandwagon, we’re thinking of our patrons — students spend a lot of time in the library.” According to John Elsweiler, associate director for public services for University Libraries, upwards of 500,000 visitors pass through the doors of Merrill Library during the year. Of that number, many are certain to be hungry or thirsty, or perhaps just in need of a break. The solution is the Quadside Café, a cooperative venture between University Libraries and Housing and Food Services. A variety of items will be featured, including Straw Ibis coffee, Italian sodas, bottled drinks, pre-made sandwiches and a selection of pastries. In addition to the café’s fall opening, the food policy at the library is being revisited. A number of “food friendly” areas will be allowed. Again, this is in response to students’ needs, Rozum said. As plans for a new library on campus progress, the operation of the café will be reviewed. Since cafes and beverage areas are in demand in new facilities, Utah State will have the opportunity to review operations and work out any possible glitches before a new library is built. Revenue from the Quadside Café will support library programs, Elsweiler said. “We will reallocate income to library services.”

The physical environment of the café is comfortable. Glass walls separate the space from the foyer of the Merrill Library. Plans also call for outdoor seating during warm months on the plaza in front of the library. The café will offer internet connections, including a wireless hub. A counter for internet terminals is planned. The café’s hours coincide with regular library hours. Design coordinator for the project is Jordy Guth, architect and project coordinator for Facilities Design and Construction on campus. A grand opening for the Quadside Café will be held this fall. “We hope that everyone who uses the library will find the Quadside Café a convenient and comfortable addition,” Rozum said. “We’re excited to add this new service.”
the Edith Bowen School on the USU campus.

Just as colorful and creative were items found in the Printing Arts and Arts of the Book display in the Hatch Room. Here visitors were invited to gaze at an illuminated manuscript older than the fireplace and table in the Hatch Room, built in England in the seventeenth century.

Curious and nostalgic Aggie visitors delighted in perusing the University Archives, a collection of manuscripts and photographs documenting life at Utah State University. Perhaps a few who paused recognized old friends, former professors, or recalled a time when Old Main's tower housed a real bell?

As the evening drew to a close, visitors once again braced to greet the cold valley air outside, but left knowing that just beyond the threshold of USU Libraries lie many treasures to be visited and enjoyed again and again.

Many of USU Libraries' treasures are donated or acquired by the Friends of USU Libraries who invite you to become a member. As one of the treasure seekers and treasure finders, you can help make our Libraries' collections even richer in scope and value, and public evening's such as this possible.

In the larger view, these treasures belong to all. Simply visiting the Libraries allows anyone with a piqued curiosity to return at their leisure, and rekindle their interest in any of the treasures, to view and interact with treasures ranging from medieval to modern.

Cynthia Lleyson
Library Assistant
Reference Department

-above: a string quartet added elegance to the evening.
-below: the reference desk serves up a buffet.
-and right: abraham lincoln in the holiday spirit ...
-all photographs courtesy bill lowry
Phyllis Hall grew up in Akron, Ohio, and graduated from the University of Akron with a bachelor's degree in Education. She earned a Master of Library Science degree from George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, Tennessee. Phyllis has taught various grades in elementary schools in six states and has worked as a children’s librarian for the Detroit Public Library and a school media specialist in Ohio and North Carolina. Phyllis is a member of Phi Delta Kappa, an international association for professional educators, the American Library Association, and the Utah and Cache Valley Storytelling Guilds. Since moving to Logan, Phyllis has joined several community boards and become a volunteer in elementary schools and senior centers.

Phyllis and her husband, Kermit (President of Utah State University), share a love of the outdoors and have a fondness for bird watching. They enjoy music, reading, and traveling.

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upcoming events

25 October 2002 7:00 p.m.

22 November 2002 7:00 p.m.
Gina Wickwar shares her prizewinning book, “The Hidden Prince of Oz.” Have your copy signed by the author. Catered by John Harder. This will be a wonderful Holiday treat!

17 January 2003 7:00 p.m.
Michael Spooner, Director of the Utah State University Press and Scholarly Publications, will share his book “Daniel’s Walk.” As described by Booklist, “the adventure, set around 1844, has everything: danger, Native American myth, a gritty survival struggle, a little romance, comedy, and wonderful characters, all rolled into a quick-reading, high-interest, satisfying historical novel.” Come meet the author.

21 February 2003 7:00 p.m.

21 March 2003 7:00 p.m.
USU’s First Lady, Phyllis Hall, shares her book, “Wives of the Residents: Agricultural College of Utah to Utah State University.” Exciting surprises and special guests are planned.

18 April 2003 7:00 p.m.
Stephen Sturgeon, Manuscript Curator in Special Collections and Archives at Utah State University, will discuss his book, “The Politics of Western Water.” Sturgeon provides a detailed account of the political machinations and personal foibles that shaped efforts to implement water reclamation legislation, along the way shedding new light on familiar water controversies.