Marginalia no. 29

Merrill-Cazier Library
Utah State University

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But this is one we very much want to talk about. The USU Library is one of a select number of research libraries, 52 in fact, now part of the HathiTrust. That brings us back to elephants, because, as those of you who know ancient Sanskrit can tell us, hathi is the Indian word for elephant. While the HathiTrust has the attributes of an elephant in its strong memory, wisdom, and strength, it is in fact a groundbreaking collaborative effort to create a universal digital library.

HathiTrust is a partnership of major research institutions and libraries working to ensure that the cultural record is preserved and accessible long into the future. It was founded by the University of Michigan, the other Big 10 schools, and the University of California system about three years ago to answer the question of how we preserve all the digital books Google has been creating. Thus it is a trust to preserve what may someday encompass the entire digital corpus of written and printed works. It is rather like the capability of the computer on Star Trek to access almost anything from anytime and anyplace. And that brings us to the other part of the HathiTrust, access.

As Google (and some other projects) have been busy digitizing millions of books in large academic libraries across the nation, those libraries have been depositing the newly digitized eBooks in HathiTrust. Right now there are more than 8 million volumes in the HathiTrust, comprising nearly 3 billion pages and originally weighing 6,678 tons and occupying over 97 miles of shelving. This is a big project. It is in fact our national digital library coming into existence right before our eyes. It continues to grow at a rate of about 300,000 volumes a month. Projections suggest that at this rate we will have digitized every book in the world by 2020, and Utah State University students and faculty will have full access to them. This is not just access to each eBook by title, author or subject, HathiTrust access is down to the level of every single word in every single book and the ability to search across all of them at the same time. This is a level of access undreamed of except in such futuristic worlds such as Star Trek.

Clearly, it is an exciting time for libraries and researchers alike. USU has a seat at the table and we are helping to shape the future transformation of the research library in the digital world. Some may worry that the future of the academic library looks bleak as we move to a universal digital library. If we can simply query the Star Trek computer and get a succinct answer back, who needs a library or a librarian? But as all of us who use the current search engines know, getting a succinct answer to anything more than a simple question is not an easy thing. The world of digital information is getting more and more complex, and though the research library will certainly change as a result, librarians will be even more essential in navigating and evaluating the deep seas of digital information. We may soon have the ability to access the entire world of digital information, but making sense of it still requires the expert involvement of a librarian.

Richard W. Clement
Dean of Libraries
Travis Mossotti of St. Louis, Mo. is the winner of the 15th annual May Swenson Poetry Award presented by Utah State University Press and the Literary Estate of May Swenson. Mossotti will receive a cash award of $1,000, and his winning collection of poems, “About the Dead” will be published by USU Press in summer 2011.

Judge for the 2011 award was Garrison Keillor, writer, humorist and host of American Public Media’s “A Writer’s Almanac” and “A Prairie Home Companion.” Keillor selected Mossotti’s work from among 25 finalists chosen by a panel of professional poets and university teachers of poetry from the 700 entries submitted from across the United States and several countries abroad.

Mossotti, “still recovering from the shock,” said he felt honored — to be awarded the prize and to be selected by Keillor, a personality he greatly admires. “Even for a poet, it’s difficult to articulate the personal elation of being awarded such a prize,” he said. “All I can say is that it’s an honor — an honor that doesn’t seem to diminish.”

Mossotti holds a master’s of fine art in poetry from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale and a bachelor’s in English and French from Webster University in St. Louis. Recently a faculty lecturer at the University of California—Santa Cruz, his poetry appears widely in literary journals, including “American Literary Review,” “Another Chicago Magazine,” “Cream City Review,” “New York Quarterly,” “Passages North,” “RHINO,” “Southern Humanities Review” and many others.

The May Swenson Poetry Award, an annual competition named for May Swenson, honors her as one of America’s most provocative and vital writers. During her long career, Swenson was loved and praised by writers from virtually every school of American poetry. She left a legacy of 50 years of writing when she died in 1989. She is buried in Logan, Utah, her hometown.

Utah State University Press, a division of the Utah State University Libraries, is an award-winning scholarly publisher in several academic fields. USU Press proudly sponsors the annual May Swenson Poetry Award.
publications:

presentations:

Clement, S., Duncan, J., Rozum, B. (November 6, 2010). Collaborative copyright – or copyright is not just a library issue. 30th Annual Charleston Conference, Charleston, S.C.


reviews:


Three students took top honors at the 2010 Leonard J. Arrington Writing Awards competition at Utah State University. The awards are offered in conjunction with the annual Arrington Mormon History Lecture. The competition is open to university students studying at any of the region’s universities. The top three winners all attend USU.

Sara Jordan, a graduate student studying in USU’s Folklore Program, took the top prize with a first place award of $1,000. The $500 second place prize went to Genevieve Draper, a USU sophomore studying history. The third place award of $250 went to John Brumbaugh, a graduate student in the History department. The three winners were recognized Feb. 17 on the USU campus during the Friends of Merrill-Cazier Library spring lecture. The awards are provided by the Leonard J. Arrington Lecture and Archives Foundation.

The students’ winning essays were submitted to the competition following the fall Arrington lecture that featured two of Arrington’s children, Carl Arrington and Susan Arrington Madsen. The lecture, “A Paper Mountain: The Extraordinary Diary of Leonard James Arrington,” provided a personal snapshot of the lecture series namesake and acknowledged the opening of Arrington’s diary at Special Collections and Archives at USU.

“This year the Arrington Lecture provided insights to the lecture’s namesake and his extensive collection of writings and materials held at Utah State University,” said Brad Cole, of the Library’s Special Collections and Archives and ex-officio member of the Leonard J. Arrington Foundation board. “We are pleased the interest in the writing competition continues to grow, and we congratulate this year’s winners.”

This year’s top essay was submitted by Jordan and is titled Ordinary Words: Towards a New Understanding of the 19th Century Mormon Male Diary. In the essay, Jordan looked at a 19th century Mormon male diary as both a source of information about a man and his era and as a text which can reveal a specific kind of literary writing.

At USU, Jordan began her studies in folklore after working in public health for several years. She said she left the United States in 2002 to “travel around the world, following a dream to learn from and listen to women and men about their histories, realities and hopes.” She said hearing their stories revived a deep interest in her heritage which led to a study of narrative, among other things, at USU. In addition to her own studies, she teaches the English 1010 course, and “loves exploring writing as a key to unlocking inner and outer worlds with USU’s curious and engaged students.”

Draper’s second place essay is titled Knowing the Man in History.” She said Arrington’s diaries provide an understanding of the past. “In researching and recording history, [Leonard] Arrington contributed to our honest understanding of the past,” Draper wrote in her essay. “In keeping his own diary, Arrington contributed to the understanding of what is now history to us.”

Draper majors in history with a minor in Latin and is a staff writer for USU’s student newspaper, “The Utah Statesman.” She participates in USU’s Honors Program as well. The 19-year-old hails from Delta, Utah, and is the youngest of six children.

Saying she never takes herself too seriously, her professional ambition includes earning a doctorate and teaching history.

Brumbaugh, the third place winner, grew up in Montana where he said he spent more time fly fishing than studying. The title of his winning effort is Innovation and Entrepreneurial Spirit: Leonard J. Arrington and the Impact of New Mormon History. “At the center of the conflict within the Mormon historiography stands a farm boy from Idaho, Leonard J. Arrington,” Brumbaugh wrote in his essay. “This man carried the study of Mormonism into new areas of scholarly acceptance. His entrepreneurial spirit led to innovation within the field and anti-modern backlash from outside the profession.”

As a graduate student in history, Brumbaugh’s research interests include Utah social and cultural issues. His projects have appeared in the “Journal of the West,” “Utah Historical Quarterly” and the “Journal of Mormon History.” Brumbaugh said he has great respect for Idaho’s most famous historian Leonard Arrington, and for the driving force Arrington was in transforming Western and Mormon historiography.

The Arrington Mormon History Lecture is hosted by Special Collections and Archives in USU’s Merrill-Cazier Library.
At the Friends annual spring lecture, William Logan Hebner and Michael L. Plyler presented their book *Southern Paiute: A Portrait*. Over the last decade, they interviewed and photographed Southern Paiutes across the large expanse of their homelands. Though today dispersed in widely separated communities in Utah, Arizona, Nevada, and California, the Southern Paiute historically held a broad swath of the desert Southwest including most of the land bordering the Colorado River on the north and west. Small communities of Paiutes still reside throughout that region, some, not all, on federal reservations. Despite their native territory, the Southern Paiute are underrepresented in historical texts and little known or understood by the general public.

The Paiute, who had mastered America’s most arid landscapes, endured a history that included kidnapping of their children for an Indian slave trade along the Spanish Trail, dispossession of their territory and resources by settlements often built at the Paiute’s scattered desert water sources, confinement on reservation lands that were later partly taken away or lost, unjustified blame for the Mountain Meadows Massacre, submergence of individual Southern Paiute into other tribes, termination of federal Indian services for the Utah Paiute, and marginalization of Paiute communities on tiny holdings within or near modern towns and cities. *Southern Paiute: A Portrait* is the first project of its kind to portray such a wide representation of the Southern Paiute and provide them with a forum in which to tell stories of their lives and traditions—their culture.

William Logan Hebner has, among other things, been the owner of an award-winning southern Utah restaurant-tavern, a river guide, the assistant to the mayor of Alta, and one of the organizers of a 1987 peace walk from Leningrad to Moscow. With his wife, Angie, whom he met on that walk, he founded International Legislative Exchange, working with new parliaments in ex-Soviet republics. He is a musician, a kayaker who is the go-to guy for river rescues in Zion Canyon, and an author who has published in *High Country News, Northern Lights*, and *Best of Writers at Work*.

Michael Plyler has exhibited his photographs nationally and internationally. They are held in collections as diverse as the Heard Museum in Phoenix, the Museum of the American Indian, Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, and the San Diego Museum of Man. He has held a Visual Arts Fellowship from the Utah Arts Council and was photographer for the books *Pioneer Voices of Zion Canyon* and *Zion Canyon: A Storied Land*. He is also the director of the Zion Canyon Field Institute.
William F. Lye passed away on December 14, 2010. The University lost an excellent teacher and scholar. While he was noted as the pioneer at USU in African studies, his reputation as a skilled teacher saw him win “Teacher of the Year” on three different occasions. Dr. Lye was also an accomplished university administrator having served as Head of the History Department, Dean of the College of Humanities Arts and Social Science and as Vice President for University Relations. He was a loyal dedicated member of the University community who served, when invited, in positions that he did not seek.

On December 14th the Library lost a devoted friend. Perhaps our closest friend over the last decade. Although Bill had a career of working friendships with librarians and most directly with Richard Schockmel, our Collection Development Librarian, Bill was much more than a library supporter.

Dr. Lye had built a darn good African collection by working with Richard year after year for thirty years. After his retirement from the history department he donated his considerable personal collection to add to what had become a pretty good base collection. The material came with only one stipulation; “the material becomes part of the general collection so that all students could have ready access to the information.” There was no demand for special treatment or special location. Bill said he wanted a good collection waiting for future scholars in African studies and saw no advantage in having material confined unless it somehow fit the Libraries’ criteria as special.

Bill became a closer friend following his retirement when he accepted an invitation to help us make strong our struggling Friends of the Libraries program. Like in every task that he accepted he put 110% effort into making the Friends a going concern. He became Head, President and Chair and went to work.

During his period directing the Friends there was an expansion of programs that promoted the Library, its collections, and its services. We expanded our membership by including the Phonathon subscribers as friends. We included student representatives. We reached out to the community for board members. We added a member from University Information Services in order to have a direct route for public information. One of the most successful events and one where I recognized Bill’s love for the students was our “Students Buy” night at Needham’s Book Store. The plan was that each college at the University be represented by their Senator or a chosen representative and that we gather after Needham’s had closed. Each college had an equal amount to spend. As I recall it was $500.00.

As the students selected titles, rather than a competitive event as we had anticipated, it became a cooperative one with students from Agriculture helping make selections in literature with the help of the representative from the College of Business acting on the advice of the representative from Humanities. As the students gathered to have their selections tallied the conversation was a chatter of joy. Standing nearby, dressed in his Sunday best, as usual, while all others were casual, Bill watched with tears in his eyes. The night was a success and truly an experience among Friends of the Library. There were many others. Bill was always willing to try something new or something that he felt should be done.

In later years, my wife and I were invited by William to help with Cache Valley’s Habitat for Humanity. Finding ways for good people who had hit hard times became Bill’s passion in his later years. Because of health issues Bill could no longer drive and I like many others took a turn as his chauffeur. We had many discussions on how we could help and how we could select from many who needed help without hurting those who didn’t get the call. On these occasions I learned again of his deep love for people; most directly for people trying to better themselves. Without any pretention or claim for attention, William Lye directed that program for a decade. A number of houses were built during that period and more importantly a strong base for today’s program was established.

During those later years he also accepted several positions from his church that required his skill and passion for helping those with special needs; e.g., Branch President for the Hospital, working with the Deaf, and with the older single adults.
Perhaps the measure of this man has not yet been fully appreciated. He left this life with little fanfare. Likely that is how he would want it and most likely what he expected. In my view the librarians of his era as well as those in place today, join me in paying the highest tribute to our friend, William F. Lye. Ours is a mixed feeling of respect, gratitude and admiration. As I have thought about it, perhaps our remembrance of this friend is not one of good times, but one based on general affectionate high regard.

Max Peterson
Director of University Libraries
1991 - 2000

"Bill became a closer friend following his retirement when he accepted an invitation to help us make strong our struggling Friends of the Libraries program. As in every task that he accepted he put 110% effort into making the Friends a going concern. He became Head, President and Chair and went to work."

At Right: Dr. Lye, President of the newly organized Friends, appeared on the cover of the first issue of Marginalia in 1996...

He said: "The Library is the heart of a University."

Yes! I would like to join Friends of Utah State Merrill-Cazier Library

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____ Yes, I (or my spouse) work for a matching-gift company.
If yes, please enclose matching-gift form.
(Or inquire about alternate USU employee payment plan)

Thank you for your support!

Friends of USU Merrill-Cazier Library
3000 Old Main Hill
Logan UT 84322-3000
usu exhibit highlights ‘Design Workshop’ Collection

Special Collections and Archives at Utah State University’s Merrill-Cazier Library joins the Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning to present a unique exhibit based on a collection now held at the library — the Design Workshop Landscape Architecture Archive and Digital Collection. A gallery talk featuring Michael Timmons from LAEP and Brad Cole from Special Collections and Archives along with members of the exhibition team, will be held at 2:30 p.m. April 21st in the library atrium. The exhibition featuring legacy designs by Design Workshop, Inc. can be seen in the Merrill-Cazier Library atrium through June 18.

The exhibition presents the first showing of the collection’s designs since its acquisition. Opening Friday, March 25, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Utah Chapter of the State Association of Utah Architects, the exhibit featured a panel discussion with a number of key Design Workshop associates including founders and USU graduates Joe Porter and Don Ensign along with current shareholder and Chairman of the Board Kurt Culbertson. Porter, Ensign and Culbertson offered an overview of the firm’s beginnings and the collaborative archiving project between the design firm, USU’s Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning Department and Merrill-Cazier Library.

Sean Michael, head of USU’s LAEP department stated “Design Workshop’s portfolio of landscape architecture projects in North America, especially in the American West, is unsurpassed anywhere in the world, and with the archive’s creation, students, scholars and designers at any location on the planet will have the opportunity to learn from that rich legacy of work.”

Save the Date! Gallery talk and reception: April 21st at 2:30 p.m. in the library atrium.