

LIBRARY NOTES

L U N I V E R S I T Y O F O R E G O N

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Special Collections: Fifty Years of Preserving Oregon's Heritage

"The words, the pictures, the memories of Oregon's past are here," says curator Bernard McTigue.

Special Collections is the repository for the memory of the state. Letters written from the Oregon Trail, photographs of the woods and the rivers, novels and stories inspired by life on the edge of the continent are all available to the public in the Knight Library.

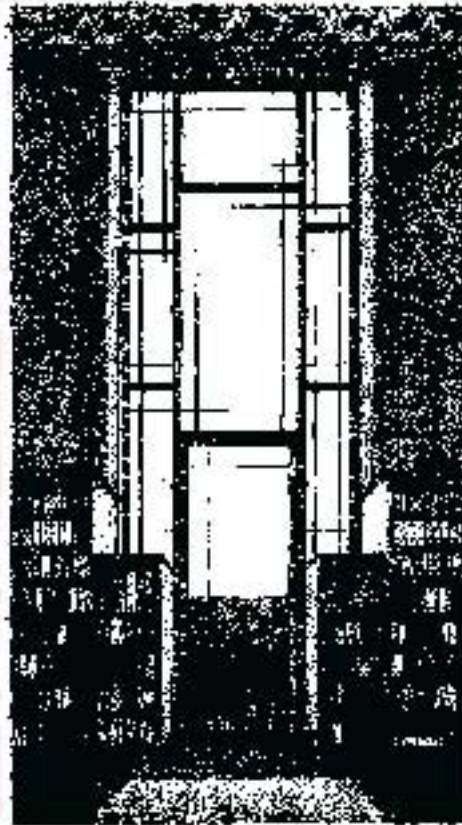
This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of Special Collections, which includes fine press materials, medieval manuscripts, distinguished women's papers, children's literature, and conservative and libertarian archives as well as the prized Oregon Collection.

"Last year I did a documentary on Abigail Scott Duniway and the women's suffrage movement in Oregon. My documentary wouldn't have been possible without the collection devoted to her in Special Collections," says Melissa Johnson, a graduating senior.

Ironically, it was attention from the outside world that provided the impetus to create the Oregon Collection. In 1915 the library loaned a core collection of fifty-two books on the state's history and literature to the Panama Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco, including works by Thomas Condon, Ella Higginson, Abigail Scott Duniway, and C. E. S. Wood. It was an idea whose time had come: the exhibition inaugurated the Oregon Collection.

Since then, the Oregon Collection has grown to 30,000 volumes. Several hundred titles are added each year through direct purchase and private gifts.

Support for building the collection has come from alumni and friends of Oregon, according to McTigue. "Over the



"Detail, Main Reading Room" by Gordon Gilkey

years generous donors have provided gifts and endowments to ensure that we are able to buy, preserve, and maintain the things that best represent the state."

The library is especially interested in identifying support for processing and preserving the special collections. "This material must be preserved at all costs," notes University Librarian George Shipman, "but preservation is a costly process. I can't think of a better way to leave behind a personal legacy than to help ensure the safety and integrity of Oregon's heritage."

Thanks to a thorough renovation completed in 1994, Special Collections now boasts a beautifully restored reading room and sophisticated security and environmental systems. "This is the state's most up-to-date and secure storage facility for rare and irreplaceable items. Our scholars and donors know that materials housed here are treated according to the very highest standards of preservation," says McTigue.

In fact, this concern for preservation led the curators to limit use of the collection to the Special Collections Reading Room. "We want our patrons to know that a book or a drawing or a photograph will be available when they wish to use it, and not missing or damaged," explains John Hawk. "We want to make sure these materials are available for future generations."

"The Special Collections are available to the general public. We encourage anyone who has a research interest to contact us to find out what we have to offer," adds McTigue. For more information, contact Bernard McTigue, curator, Special Collections, (541) 346-1904.

Gifts to Special Collections may support new purchases, preservation, or other activities of the department. For more information call Mimi Grober, director of development for the University Library System, (541) 346-3056.

From the President's Desk

This year begins a new era for the university library's donors, constituents, and well-wishers. For the first time, we welcome all donors to the University of Oregon Library System into the fold of the Friends—a growing group, some 1,500-strong.

Here are some interesting facts about the library:

- ▣ Each year students and faculty members tap into resources on Janus, the library's on-line catalog, more than *one million times*.
- ▣ Each year *nearly one-third* of the student body comes to the library's advanced electronic classrooms to learn research skills.
- ▣ Each school day, 7,000 students, faculty members, and community patrons visit the Knight Library and its branches—that's more than *one million visitors* a year.

By donating to the university library and becoming a Friend, you join a group that believes the University of Oregon libraries are central to the university's intellectual life. We believe the university libraries manifest the UO's commitment to preserve knowledge, share it with the general community, and pass it on to succeeding generations.

Together the library and its Friends sponsor activities of general interest. A few are listed below. I encourage you to join us!

Sincerely,



Dwight Collins '78
President, Friends of the University Libraries

Lopez and lone goose press Unveil Fine Press Edition

On November 7, 150 guests of Knight Library listened to noted author Barry Lopez read *Looking in a Deeper Lair: A Tribute to Wallace Stegner*, his meditation on the meaning of Stegner's career as one of the West's most eloquent voices.

Lopez calls Stegner "our great citizen-writer, [who] saw the . . . American West . . . as a troubled place, laid siege to not by greed alone but by venal imaginations and an insidious tendency to commodify its elements—its trees, its soil, its water."

The event celebrated the limited-edition publication of *Looking in a Deeper Lair*, which was designed, printed, and assembled by Sandy Tilcock of lone goose press, and illustrated by Suellen Larkin. Tilcock's work is held by museums, libraries, and private collections in the U.S., including Knight Library's Special Collections.

"We are thrilled to host Sandy Tilcock and the writers and artists who collaborate with her to create fine press editions. All those who love literature and books will want to know that practitioners such as Tilcock are keeping alive the tradition of beautifully crafted books," notes Bernard McTigue, curator of Special Collections.

For more information about the Knight Library's collection of fine press books, please call Bernard McTigue, Special Collections, (541) 346-1904. *Background engraving by Susan Lowdermilk from The Sagebrush Ocean: A Natural History of the Great Basin by lone goose press.*

Upcoming Knight Library Events

Giving Voice

Readings by Oregon authors

JOANNA ROSE
Wednesday, April 16, 7:30 P.M.

BILL SULLIVAN
Tuesday, April 22, 7:30 P.M.

JESSICA MAXWELL
Wednesday, May 7, 7:30 P.M.

An Evening of Baroque Music

*sponsored by Friends of the
University Libraries and the
UO School of Music*
Friday, April 25, 6:30 P.M.

The Oregon Campaign for the University Libraries

“Everyone remembers coming to the library excited about a paper topic, looking for that one perfect book . . . only to discover that the library didn’t have it,” says George Shipman, University Librarian. “I take this problem very seriously, and I am committed to making sure that our collection grows as our programs grow.”

Three years into the Oregon Campaign, the library is halfway toward its goal of raising \$8 million to endow library collections and teaching programs.

According to Shipman, Knight Library hopes to be ready with books and journals as the university’s schools, colleges, and programs evolve. “When the Lundquist College of Business focuses its curriculum on entrepreneurship, the library should have the resources to support its students and faculty.”

“I can’t think of a more lasting heritage to leave behind—a heritage attesting to a life well lived—than a named endowment to purchase books and materials in support of learning and teaching,” notes President Dave Frohnmayer. “Today’s students find a world of information in the library. They learn to learn as they read and conduct research. They lay down the foundation for a lifetime of learning.”



The Library Would Like to Thank:

- Sharon and Steven Ungerleider, for their gift supporting Library Links, the library’s outreach program to community members in business and civic affairs.
- Michael Johnson, for his gift to the Oregon Campaign in honor of Campaign Chairman David M. Petrone.
- Mr. and Mrs. Jon Stine, for their gift to the Oregon Campaign in support of the library’s operating fund.
- An anonymous donor for a major gift in the form of an income trust.
- The Tarbell Family Foundation for a gift in support of the Instructional Technology Center in the Architecture and Allied Arts Library.
- Mr. and Mrs. Paul McCracken for their gift in support of the Instructional Technology Center in the Architecture and Allied Arts Library.
- Mrs. Iris Jacobson for her gift to the library’s unrestricted endowment.
- Mr. and Mrs. John Bentley, for a gift to the library’s unrestricted endowment.
- An anonymous donor for gifts toward furnishings in the Music Department of Knight Library.
- An anonymous donor for a gift to create an electronic seminar room in Knight Library.

These gifts range from \$5,000 to \$900,000 and total \$2.3 million.

For information on ways to contribute to the Oregon Campaign, including gifts through your estate plan or an income trust, please call the Office of the Librarian, (541) 346-3056.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON



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What Your Gift Can Buy the Library

Future musicians, music teachers, and composers will appreciate Chopin's Harmony on CD-ROM (\$100).

UO marketing students will use the *Marketing Fact Book* (\$500), which tracks grocery store purchases by 35,000 households nationwide, to study consumer trends and to evaluate marketing strategies.

Students and faculty members in oceanography, sedimentology, and geology have asked us for *Atlas of Deep Water Environments* (\$750), a comprehensive international atlas replete with detailed images, field data, and outstanding illustrations.

Researchers studying the land policy, railroad building, and Indian relations in our state will appreciate the *History of the Pacific Northwest and Canadian Northwest* (\$2,709), a collection of out-of-print and rare documents, including reports from expeditions, political pamphlets and firsthand narratives of events that helped shape these regions.

Give a working student a break: endow a student position in the library (minimum \$50,000). Student workers help support themselves and earn valuable work experience in a serious environment. (Did you know that the library employs 350 UO students each year? They check out materials, shelve books, mentor other students, and help keep the library running efficiently!)

