A Special Gift from a Library Friend: The Roger C. Clark Railroad Collection

by Tom Kilton, Emeritus Faculty

Few today realize the extent of the University Library’s collections on American railroads. Over many decades our History, Engineering, and Commerce libraries built up very substantial railroad collections encompassing everything from original timetables from the 1880s onward to technical journals, works on railroad economics, annual reports of the various companies, such as the Illinois Central, and lavishly illustrated books on the “glory” days of passenger streamliners throughout the 1930s, 40s, and 50s. The Library also contains the George Russell Carr railroad history collection numbering several thousand items.

In fall of 2014, Library Friend Roger Clark, a graduate of the University and collector, donated a unique collection of mint-condition railroad passenger memorabilia to our Library. This collection, which resides in the Library’s Illinois History and Lincoln Collections, includes brochures on many of the “name” trains like the Pennsylvania Railroad’s Broadway Limited and the Santa Fe Railway’s Super Chief, guide booklets published by the railroads for their passengers on cities and scenic areas traversed along the routes, handsomely illustrated maps, dining car menus featuring enticing entrees as well as cocktails, and miscellaneous memorabilia, such as cocktail napkins and match booklets, all advertising the named trains for which they were intended. Most of the railroad lines featured are ones that crossed Illinois, which amounts to a large number, Chicago being the most significant railroad city in America. Famous liners coming in from both coasts are well represented, e.g., the Baltimore and Ohio’s Capitol Limited, the New York Central’s Twentieth Century Limited, the Union Pacific’s City of Los Angeles, etc. Also featured continued on page 8
**Friendscript** is a publication of the Office of Library Advancement, 1408 West Gregory Drive, Room 227, Urbana, IL 61801. Ideas and suggestions are always welcome and should be submitted to Heather Murphy at hmurphy@illinois.edu or (217) 333-3758.

The Office of Library Advancement garners interest and secures external funds from Illinois alumni and friends, provides visibility for the Library through its programs and events, and promotes the Library within the Illinois campus and the community-at-large.

**PRESIDENT’S COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT**

Library Friends David and Mary Ann Winter from Scottsdale, Arizona, have supported the Library for more than 16 years. Their interest in research and the appreciation of libraries as an integral resource drew them to the Library. Both have toured the many facilities of the Library and have supported specific projects. As a result of the education received by the Winter family from the University of Illinois and the success resulting from that education, Dave and Mary Ann made a legacy gift in 2012 establishing the David J. Winter and Mary Ann Winter Library Endowment Fund, a permanent endowment in support of the Library.

“The Winter family has had a long, enduring relationship with the U of I. When we think of our experiences, we all think of the Library and how much time we spent there. Truly, the library is part of our family story,” said David. “With this in mind, we support the Library and the digital challenges facing all libraries. Our wish is that at Illinois, the Library remains one of the best in the world.”

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Ralph Talcott Fisher, Jr.**

The world of Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies lost a tremendous figure last month. On April 4, 2015—just three hours shy of his 95th birthday—Ralph Talcott Fisher, Jr. passed away.

Ralph became a professor at the University of Illinois in the History Department in 1957. Collaborating with librarians Larry Miller, Marianna Tax Choldin, and others, Ralph led the effort to build an outstanding research library in the Russian and East European field, which continues to attract scholars from all over the world. His decision to focus significant funds on the Library also drew eminent professors to join the University of Illinois faculty. His contributions to the Slavic and East European field are enormous. Ralph officially retired from Illinois in May 1988, though he continued his involvement in university and community activities.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center. Please send donations for the Ralph and Ruth Fisher Endowment Fund #773497 to the University of Illinois Foundation (P.O. Box 3429, Champaign, IL 61821-3429).

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The Juanita J. and Robert E. Simpson Dean of Libraries and University Librarian

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Donated Dance Cards Chronicle
1930s Love Story

The Student Life and Culture Archives received 35 dance cards belonging to Virginia I. Miller and W. Homer Switzer, two students who attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the mid to late 1930s. Kathrine Switzer, their daughter, recently donated the small booklets which provide an intimate view of their love story at Illinois.

Back then, dance cards allowed women to record their dance partners over the course of an evening; now they provide an even greater purpose—giving a new generation a glimpse into the past. Archivist for Student Life and Culture Ellen Swain wants people to see how important their materials are to the Archives. “These connections are by far, my favorite part of the job,” she emphasizes.

“Romance and Dance: The Dance Cards of Virginia I. Miller and W. Homer Switzer” details the acquisition of the dance cards and the Miller-Switzer romance. Read more on the Student Life and Culture Archives blog at archives.library.illinois.edu/slc/romance-and-dance.

“I’ll look back in years to come on this dance tonight and we will share our memories together. I live for you each hour and love you devotedly—as I will always and always.” —Virginia Miller

Honoring Professor Fisher

by Joseph Lenkart, Assistant Professor, Central Asian Studies

At the memorial ceremony for Ralph Fisher, Winton Solberg (Professor Emeritus, Department of History, University of Illinois) noted that Ralph’s monuments are all around us. These enduring words from Professor Solberg on Ralph's legacy are a perfect reflection of his contributions to the University of Illinois and the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies community. As the Manager of the Slavic Reference Service, I see two of Ralph’s brightest monuments and their impact on a daily basis: the Russian, East European, and Eurasian collections at Illinois and the annual Summer Research Laboratory, which has been in existence for well over 40 years.

Generations of scholars have used the Summer Research Laboratory to complete their research projects and collaborate with others in the field. The collections which he built through passionate advocacy and support are now used by independent scholars, faculty, students, government employees, and librarians from around the world. Ralph’s selflessness and generosity has also led to the establishment of the Fisher Forum, a thematic workshop which brings scholars to Illinois during the annual Summer Research Laboratory. In my view, these monuments are enduring because they survive a greater purpose and promote understanding and scholarship. We will care for these precious monuments and continue Ralph’s work at Illinois.
Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe, coordinator for information literacy services and instruction at Illinois, has won the 2015 Miriam Dudley Instruction Librarian Award from the Instruction Section (IS) of the ACRL. The award honors Miriam Dudley, whose efforts in the field of information literacy led to the formation of IS. The honor recognizes a librarian who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of instruction in a college or research library environment.

“The Miriam Dudley Instruction Librarian Award was created to honor librarians who have made especially significant contributions to the advancement of instruction in a college or research library environment, and no one is more deserving of this recognition than Lisa Hinchliffe,” said Award Chair Christy Stevens. “Indeed, the breadth and depth of Lisa’s contributions to instruction librarianship cannot be overstated. Lisa is a prolific contributor to library instruction and information literacy scholarship, having authored or co-authored more than 44 journal articles and 10 book chapters.”

More information about Lisa and the ACRL award is located at go.library.illinois.edu/MDILaward.

Library Instruction and Student Success

The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) recently released “Academic Library Contributions to Student Success: Documented Practices from the Field” a report which synthesizes results from assessment projects completed by more than 70 higher education institutions in North America. From the report: “By demonstrating the variety of ways that libraries contribute to student learning and success, academic librarians are establishing connections between different aspects of the library (e.g., instruction, reference, space and facilities, and collections) and numerous academic success factors (e.g., student retention, persistence, GPA, engagement, graduation, and career preparedness).

The University Library supports learning and intellectual exploration by students. Last year, nearly 27,000 people attended librarian-led classes, workshops, and tours. This year, the Library’s instructional librarians continued their collaboration with instructors of high-enrollment, first-year courses to introduce students to the vast resources of campus libraries. Both the Scholarly Commons and the Library’s subject experts provide a wide range of instruction for undergraduates and graduates. The Library’s teaching mission focuses on fundamental concepts of information literacy that help Illinois students succeed academically and in their future careers.

There is certainly a strong connection between the Library and student learning and success.

Upcoming Event

Poplin and Paper: Four Centuries of Fashion in Print

This exhibition explores the interdependence between fashion and print to communicate ideas not only about what people wore, but also about those who produced and experienced these images.

- May 18–September 9
- The Rare Book and Manuscript Library
- Call (217) 333-3777 or visit www.library.illinois.edu/rbx

The Library is Even More Social

For the latest Library news and events, please visit the Main Library’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/universitylibrary.

View photos from in and around the libraries at Illinois on Instagram at www.instagram.com/uillinoislibrary.
$250 for the International and Area Studies Library to purchase *Kazikumukh i ego tukhumy*. The region of Dagestan in extreme southern Russia is known as the “Mountain of Tongues” due to its extraordinary linguistic, ethnic, and cultural diversity. For hundreds of years, political entities centered on the city of Kumukh supported the interests of Dagestan’s Lak and other peoples, in which the institution of the tukhum (a clan-based form of social organization) played an important part. The Library will be the first in the United States to own this large-format, two-volume exploration of the present, past, and future of the Lak tukhums, which will complement its existing ethnographic and anthropological collections on the non-Slavic peoples of Russia.

$260 for the International and Area Studies Library to purchase *Represavanyia literatary, navukoutsy, rabotniki asvety, hramadskiia i kul’turniia dzeiachy Belarusi, 1794-1991: entsyklapedychny davednik u trokh tamakh*. Compiled by a leading scholar of Soviet-era repressions in Belarus, this major reference source contains biographical information on over 20,000 Belarusian writers, academics, educators, artists, and other public figures who were exiled or executed by the secret police between 1794 and the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991. This multi-volume encyclopedia will enhance the Library’s extensive holdings on the victims of repression under the Tsarist and Soviet regimes.

$280 for the International and Area Studies Library to purchase *Pravova doktryna Ukrainy*. Published just prior to the recent unrest in Ukraine, this multi-volume set containing contributions from 18 of Ukraine’s leading jurists will be a welcome addition to the Library’s excellent holdings on Eastern European law. Each of the five volumes deals with a different aspect of legal doctrine, including historical jurisprudence and public, private, and criminal law. In the United States, only the Harvard Law Library owns this important publication on Ukrainian legal theory from the Khar’kiv-based National Academy of the Legal Sciences.

$305 for the International and Area Studies Library to purchase *Kokandskaia istoriografiia: issledovanie po istochnikovedeniu Srednei Azii XVIII-XIX vekov*. The Khanate of Kokand ruled significant portions of what are now Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan between 1709 and 1876. For the first time, this massive volume provides scholarly analysis and extensive annotations for 40 of the most important Persian and Turkic manuscript sources relating to the history of the Khanate, illuminating its socioeconomic, political, ethnic, ideological, religious, and cultural role in the region. A glossary and numerous indexes are included. The Library will become the third library in the United States to own this major source for Central Asian history and historiography.

$750 for the Ricker Library of Architecture and Art to purchase *Man Ray: Models*. This numbered and limited edition exhibition catalog includes a beautifully crafted facsimile of an original photo album of models produced by Man Ray between 1921 and 1940. Accompanying the album is a text volume written by Man Ray’s friend Janus, who thoughtfully interprets the images and offers new insight on Man Ray’s life and artistic practice. The lush and intimate nature of this catalog provides a deeply personal reading of the artist’s work and would be an excellent complement to the Library’s rich collection of scholarly texts on the subject.

$1,000 for the International and Area Studies Library to purchase the Brazil 2014 World Cup Press & Ephemera Collection. This is a special collection of ephemera materials from the World Cup 2014, held in Brazil, including newspapers, clippings, propaganda, magazine issues devoted to the subject, sports supplements, and others, all gathered from Brazilian media and stadiums.

$1,500 for the Rare Book & Manuscript Library to produce fashionable labels and a poster to give a new exhibit just the right accessories. *Poplin and Paper: Five Centuries of Fashion in Print* (see page 4) will feature only the most fashion-forward rare books, but needs help getting ready for the runway. Support this fun summer exhibition in the Rare Book & Manuscript Library. Clothes make the man—and woman!

$3,920 for the International and Area Studies Library to purchase access rights to Brill’s...
The online Encyclopedia of Jews in the Islamic World (EJIW). This is the first cohesive reference work which covers the Jews of Muslim lands especially in the late medieval, early modern, and modern periods. The online copy, started in 2010, is updated twice annually with new articles, illustrations, multimedia, and primary source material. The EJIW has been awarded the 2011 Judaica Reference Award by the Association of Jewish Libraries. The online copy includes an analytical index, survey of Jewish journals in the Islamic world, and maps.

The following donors have adopted items previously listed in Friendscript:

Scott Fisher for his gift to purchase a 2.0x objective lens for use with a Leica microscope (Conservation Lab)


Frances E. Scheidel for Krasnaia gazeta and Krym (International and Area Studies Library)

$4,500 for the Undergraduate Library to purchase and install materials to create a Student Exhibit / Display Area. The Undergraduate Library is working with students and faculty from the School of Art & Design to plan efforts to enclose three of its recessed alcoves with locking glass cases, and install wire systems and lighting in order to showcase student photography, paintings, drawing, and designs. Each alcove costs $4,500; smaller donations are welcome!

$5,000 for the Rare Book & Manuscript Library to acquire a rare first edition of an interactive 18th-century solar eclipse ‘kit’ conceived by the astronomer Georg Moriz Lowitz (1722–74) to prepare amateur astronomers for the appearance of the coming eclipse over Europe on July 25, 1748. The maps, which Lowitz based on the calculations of the Swiss mathematician-physicist Leonard Euler (1707–83), are accompanied by a ‘user’s manual’ and a ‘printed instrument’ by means of which readers could make observations referencing the maps even while the celestial event was in progress overhead. Also included in the work is an engraving that contains two colored disks intended to be cut out and used with the maps to measure the extent of occultation at local points chosen by the reader, and a ‘ruler’ of the timeline of the eclipse to be used for the same purpose. Lowitz instructs observers all over Europe to collect data of the true path of the eclipse which he will then use to issue maps showing how closely his predictions corresponded to reality. The copy the Library wishes to acquire once formed part of the library of the Hungarian astronomer Baron Franz Xavier von Zach (1754–1832), who in 1800 organized the “Celestial Police” (Himmelspolizei) to search for the missing planet predicted by the Titius-Bode Law to orbit between Mars and Jupiter (they found the Asteroid Belt). There are only two other copies of this 1748 imprint in the United States.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Edible Book Festival at Illinois celebrated its 10th year on April 1. The Festival, sponsored by the University Library and hosted at the University YMCA, created a special category in honor of the anniversary: Best Entry Shaped like a Book, Scroll, eReader, or Other Reading Format (the award went to Vasundhara Vigh for her entry “Bride & Prejudice”).

For more information about the Festival and to view a gallery of all of the edible entries, visit www.library.illinois.edu/ediblebooks.

Erin Lippitz’s “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” won the Best Depiction of a Classic Award.
The Hidden Talents of our Staff

Rory Grennan has been an academic hourly employee in the University Archives for four years. He has many responsibilities within the Archives and the Sousa Archives and Center for American Music. Rory provides assistance to archival researchers, processes incoming archival material, leads tours and instruction sessions, provides digital duplication services to users, curates exhibits, and manages the Urbana-Champaign Local Music Preservation Initiative for the Sousa Archives (archives.library.illinois.edu/sousa/collections/local-music). When he’s not at the Library, chances are Rory’s listening to, writing, or playing music (he plays the electric keyboard; the harmonica; and electric, acoustic, and bass guitars).

Rory bought his first guitar at 19 and eventually found a group of friends in the Champaign-Urbana area that wanted to start a band with a singer, three guitarists, and a drummer. Rory recalls, “We figured that a rock band has to have a bass player, so we borrowed a bass guitar from someone, and the guitarists would share it, trading off who played it from song to song. It quickly became evident that our favorite lineup was while I was on bass. I’ll never know if that meant I was the best bassist in the group, or worst guitarist.” Bass guitar has been his primary instrument ever since.

Rory has played with a number of rock bands over the past decades. In Los Angeles, this included the rock group, Champaign Runaway (Gene Simmons of KISS told him it was an awful name because hardly anyone could spell “Champaign”) and Band of Bigfoot (he and his bandmates performed in full sasquatch costumes).

When asked about his favorite genre, Rory said, “I would say I am most at home in a rock band, but I am a fan of a wide variety of music, and I would go a bit crazy without opportunities to diversify my playing a bit. I sometimes pick up jazz, blues, and theater gigs. One time I got to lay down some disco bass for a film soundtrack.”

Rory is currently playing with the Parkland College Small Jazz Combo.
A Special Gift, continued from page 1

are notable electric interurbans, such as the Illinois Terminal’s Ill-Mo Limited and the Chicago, North Shore, and Milwaukee’s Electroliners.

A final category of great value is that of timetables. The reader can ascertain quickly how frequently, say, in 1948, the traveler could have gone from Urbana’s station (currently the “Station Theater”) to Indianapolis and thence on to midtown Manhattan’s Grand Central Station on the Twentieth Century Limited.

The Roger Clark Collection, which anyone is welcome to examine at any time in the Illinois History and Lincoln Collections (www.library.illinois.edu/ihx), is neatly arranged and accessible in Hollinger boxes and file folders. What distinguishes it from many other collections of railroadiana is the excellent, mint condition of most of the materials. Items are accessible via a detailed inventory and a subject index which were provided by Clark as part of his gift. Items may also be located by the name of a particular railroad company and date of publication.

This collection has found a perfect home for many reasons, not the least of which is the College of Engineering’s prominent Illinois Rail Transportation and Engineering Center, “Railtec,” whose academic programs can be viewed at railtec.illinois.edu.

Roger Clark graduated from Illinois in 1979 with an Agricultural Economics degree, wound up in banking and has been there ever since. “Through various doors,” he said, he found his way back to the University, supporting the University Library and the College of ACES, and serving on the 4H Foundation board. A longtime Library Friend, Roger served on the former Library Friends board, and endowed the Lambda Literature Library Endowment Fund. An avid reader and collector, Roger lives and works in Chicago.