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NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN LIBRARY

Friendscript

At the Library, 'Uniqueness Is Common'

Dean Stewart wraps up first year, looks ahead to 2025

When Claire Stewart is asked to reflect on her inaugural year at the University of Illinois, her reply is quick, open, and frank—much the same style that has marked her first year as the Juanita J. and Robert E. Simpson Dean of Libraries and University Librarian.

"I'm happier to be here than I even was when I started," she says with a smile. "And I was pretty happy when I started."

Stewart's inaugural year has seen some milestone moments—notably, the acquisition of the Library's 15 millionth volume and a rare printing of Plato's works—as well as a few roadblocks (mostly concerning construction). But all in all, Stewart said, "This is a special place, and I'm very, very lucky to be in this job."

Having arrived just last May as former dean of libraries at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Stewart advised that she's still acclimating to the various aspects of her new role and how an institution as venerable as the world-renowned Library best works. "We have

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Dean Claire Stewart (center) with Library colleagues following her Investiture on April 12, 2024
From left to right: **Thomas Teper, William Schlaack, Shelby Strommer, Sara Holder, Sam Lechowicz, and Jessica Ballard-Lawrence**

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INSIDE

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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.

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Claire Stewart

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

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Library Acquires First Edition of Plato's Works

Volume marks a milestone in spread of classical studies

A rare first edition of the works of Plato printed in Greek has found a home at the University of Illinois.

While approximately 200 copies of the "editio princeps" were produced in 1513 by the well-known printer Aldus Manutius, just 40 are believed extant today.

"We are pretty lucky," said Elias Petrou, head of the Classics Library Collection at Illinois.

The purchase was made possible last December by the combined efforts of Petrou's unit (part of the Literature and Languages Library), the U of I Rare Rare Book & Manuscript Library, and donors George '96 LAS and Jamie Reveliotis of Chicago. According to Petrou, not a week goes by that students have not asked permission to peruse the precious volume.

From left to right: **Cait Coker (RBML curator), Lynne M. Thomas (Head of RBML), and Elias Petrou**

The book, whose more than 400 pages are in excellent condition, stands not only as a rare opportunity to view Plato's work but as an igniter of the classical studies movement in the West. As the Ottoman Empire pushed westward, fleeing Greeks brought their knowledge and culture to Italy. Classical studies further flourished under the impetus of Pope Leo X, to whom the book was dedicated, with Rome becoming a center of Greek language and culture.

"Classical studies exist because of this book," Petrou said.

Plato's works previously existed in manuscript form, but Manutius, founder of the celebrated Aldine Press, tackled the gargantuan task of printing them in Greek. While Johannes Gutenberg may have prepared perhaps 65 typographical characters to print in English, Manutius would have created 1,300, Petrou said, as each Greek letter (with its various diacritical marks) has at least 35 versions. (Manutius, whose printer's

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Uniqueness Is Common, *continued from page 1*

some deep, deep traditions here," she explained carefully, "and I need to make sure I understand what we like about them and what's good about them, as well as what's not working."

Stewart bundles a personable mien with a thoughtful nature, and her plans for the near future reflect those characteristics. As she enters her second year at the helm, her vision will look to align with the campus's value-based strategic framework that is about to emerge. Stewart says she will work with Library personnel to articulate and establish priorities (with measurable changes) the team would like to see by Fall 2025 concerning the Library and university community. Those goals, when formulated, will likely include her longtime focus on organizational culture and the well-being of staff and patrons alike, as well as her long-held understanding of the interface of libraries, staff, and constituents.

"It's my job to make sure that we're healthy, taking care of our own people, that they have the opportunity and the time to continue to learn and to be in connection with the rest of the community."

—DEAN CLAIRE STEWART

In light of that "people, places, and things" mindset, Stewart looked back at the past year and what she anticipates for the foreseeable future.

People

A recent finding by a Big Ten cross-consortial analysis of collections has found, Stewart said, that "uniqueness is common"—that is, there is less duplication across the vast materials held by this campus. She likes to apply that unique descriptor to Illinois' people as well.

"The way I like to think about that is, you have these libraries that are full of highly skilled personnel—they know what they're doing," she said. "What I've learned about this Library is that we have an incredibly skilled faculty and staff. They know a lot. They know a lot about what's going on in their disciplines."

Despite that and an appreciation for the ideas that percolate up from them, Stewart is not averse to giving a gentle nudge. "We really want our people . . . to be thinking beyond the boundaries of the Library and thinking about the work only we can do and what it actually means and why we're doing it," she said. "And who we need to be connecting with outside of the Library in order to continue to interpret that work for the future."

As a leader, she said "it's my job to make sure that we're healthy, taking care of our own people, that they have the opportunity and the time to continue to learn and to be in connection with the rest of the community. That's a big part of the planning." She also wants to continue to listen, delegate decision-making, and cut bureaucratic red tape.

Two other constituencies merit Stewart's attention from different ends of the spectrum—alumni and students. She finds the passion of the Library's donor and supporter community a source of amazement, "really unlike anything I've experienced in any of my other library roles," while student testimonials—whether thanks for academic help or memories of meaningful experiences—continue to pour in.

Those experiences spring from myriad opportunities available to students—including the estimated $1 million in textbook savings costs afforded by the Library's pilot Open Educational Resources program, loanable computing technologies, and collaboration with campus units—from the Writers Workshop to McKinley Health Services to the cultural centers—to name just a few. An upcoming challenge for the Library will be addressing improvements necessitated by changes made to the Americans for Disabilities Act, which will mandate immediate accessibility to all digital content.

Places

As to the Library Building Project, Stewart notes "a pretty big setback" on Phase One (the transformation of the former Undergraduate Library into a home for Archives and Special Collections). "It's not that we've lost faith in the vision," she said. The delay reflects unprecedented escalation in construction costs across the nation. Happily, more reasonable bids were submitted in late spring; assuming the U of I Board of Trustees approves them at its July meeting, construction on the Phase One project may begin this fall. (For updates on the Building Project, visit **library.illinois.edu/specialcollectionsbuilding**.)

The Library also is facing a storage crunch both now and when additional phases of the Library Building Project kick in. Additionally, space updates are under consideration for the Grainger Engineering Library Information Center, as well as feasibility studies for the Music and Performing Arts Library.

Stewart continues to find ways to reinforce the general place the Library holds in regard to the rest of the university community. "We should be deeply integrated," she believes, in questions of student success, co-curricular academic support, and forward thinking to provide scaled research and reference support to scholars at the forefront of learning. "It's about sustained excellence," she said, which takes planning, foresight, and collaboration.

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‘Lost in the Stacks’ Helps Students Find Their Way

Endowment assists library student workers

The phrase “lost in the stacks” might bring to mind an unnerving undergraduate experience, a good thriller mystery, or perhaps a Vegas weekend with a pile of poker chips.

These days, however, it also refers to a Library gift that helps students in need.

Alan ’77 LAS and Connie Liddy Mitchell ’82 LAS created the Connie and Alan Mitchell “Lost in the Stacks” Library Endowment as a way to keep student library workers in school. The endowment, which will go into effect this fall, provides financial assistance to help retain student enrollment at the University of Illinois.

Alan and Connie Mitchell

“Our kids knew a number of kids when they were going to school who had to drop out because they didn’t have the finances; their families weren’t able to go and support them that much,” Alan recalled. “And we thought that that was a shame.”

Education—and the Library—have been important factors in the Mitchells’ family history. Alan’s mother went to school at faraway Iowa State University because her own home state of Florida at the time did not offer higher education to women. The Mitchells’ three children earned higher education degrees (two from Illinois—Alice, MS 2015 LIS, and Clark 2020 ENG—while George went to Iowa State). Alan’s three sisters—Kay Ann Mitchell ’73 LAS, Sue Jeanette Mitchell ’75 ENG, and Amy Lea Mitchell ’86 ENG—graduated Bronze Tablet from Illinois. Connie’s sister, Betsy Liddy Nassos, is a 1977 graduate of the UI College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

And the connection to the Library and what it has to offer remains strong. As an undergraduate, Connie followed in her sister’s footsteps and worked at the Ricker Library of Architecture and Art. Over three years, Connie helped to process acquisitions and assisted the head librarian in creating a bibliography. Connie also recalled a small residence-hall library near the laundry room. “It was a convenient place to study or grab a book off the shelf,” she said, “easier than running up and down the stairs to check if your laundry was done.”

In addition, while earning her graduate degree at Illinois in library and information science, the Mitchells’ daughter, Alice, worked at the Center for Children’s Books.

“We just have a real fondness for the Library,” Connie said. The library system in Illinois—ranked among the top in the nation—”is really an unsung hero,” she said. “I just think it’s one of those assets that’s just phenomenal.”

Although they did not attend campus at the same time, as undergraduates Alan and Connie enjoyed typical student experiences. Alan studied chemical engineering, loved professor Richard Scanlan’s classical civilization course, and was fond of frequenting dollar movies. Upon graduation, he worked for the U.S. Department of Energy at Oak Ridge National Laboratory; later, with an MBA from the University of Chicago, he switched to the food manufacturing industry. He met Connie at Quaker Oats while they both were working in marketing research; he retired after 22 years with Kraft Foods.

Connie earned a bachelor’s degree in economics at Illinois, participated in Block I, joined a German choir, and attended football and basketball games. After working at Quaker Oats, she eventually pivoted to staying home to raise children and volunteer in the community.

Javonda Pelman ’07 LAS, the Library’s director of advancement, worked with the Mitchells to find the right channel for their donation. “As a library, one of our initiatives is student success,” Pelman said. “And so this kind of fits within that realm of how Connie and Alan have described why it was important to them. It’s really keeping students in school without that barrier of how am I going to make this tuition payment or I can’t pay rent or I can’t afford food while I’m at school.”

Connie described the endowment as targeted toward a student “who is on the cusp of maybe needing to drop out for financial reasons.”

“Helping out with student funding, you know, hit a good note with us,” she said, “with something that was passionate to us.”

And with the security of a job, a library student worker may find those barriers lowering.

The endowment’s title—”Lost in the Stacks”—reflects the Mitchells’ puckish sense of humor. It also indicates the importance of the Library, where, Alan points out, one can get dreamily “lost” while immersing oneself in one’s studies.

”I told my kids that I don’t care which school you go to, when you go there, it’ll feel like home,” Alan said. With the Mitchells’ “Lost in the Stacks” legacy, it looks as if more and more students may find that home at Illinois.

Golden Opportunities

Library holds special connection to Paris Olympics

This summer, the Olympic Games will take place in Paris—just as they did a century ago—and members of the Osborn family will be there to honor their ancestor's triumph.

At the 1924 Games, Harold Osborn '22 ACES, a high school teacher and former Illini track star, leaped to the pinnacle of his track-and-field career, earning a gold medal in the high jump and, just days later, another gold in the decathlon. In all of Olympic history, no athlete has won gold in the same Games in the decathlon and another event, a distinction that earned Osborn being named the "greatest athlete in the world" by an admiring press. All this, despite being blind in one eye.

In his 22 years of competition (1917 to 1939), Osborn took home a slew of accolades, including narrowly missing another Olympic medal in the 1928 Olympics. His achievements include six world records and 17 national titles, induction into the National Track and Field Hall of Fame and the Illinois Athletics Hall of Fame, international championships, and a stint as a University of Illinois assistant track coach in the 1940s. But in his personal life in Champaign, Illinois, he remained a modest osteopathic physician whose daughters, oblivious to their father's fame, played with his tributes in a self-styled "trophy club" in the attic. Only his beautiful Olympic certificates were openly displayed in the waiting room of the doctor's office he had established on the first floor of his house.

"He was not the kind of person to brag," said Susan Osborn Jones '69 LAS, the youngest of "Doc's" four daughters. "I think we learned [about his feats] after he was gone. . . . When we were growing up, the trophies and the medals were just things that we played with."

The sisters—Carol Osborn Grimm '55 ED; the late Roberta Osborn Huneryager; Elizabeth Osborn, MS '73 AHS; and Susan—all attended Illinois and gradually came to understand the scope of their father's accomplishments, as well as the contributions of their mother, Margaret Bordner Osborn '32 LAS, whom Harold courted via long-distance letters during his competitive years on the track circuit. Beginning in the 1980s, Margaret began donating various family memorabilia to the university; over the years, the daughters decided that the best place to assemble the treasured items in one place was the Student Life and Culture (SLC) Archives, which welcomed the artifacts with open arms.

"We're just really excited," said Ellen Swain, MS '95 LIS, head archivist at SLC. "It's been a joy to work with the family. And it's such a rich resource for 1920s student life and Olympic history."

The materials include track and Olympic medals; Osborn's black book detailing his personal and career statistics; photos, clippings, and certificates; a track uniform and shoes; and a flapper dress that Margaret bought in Paris while on a U of I study trip.

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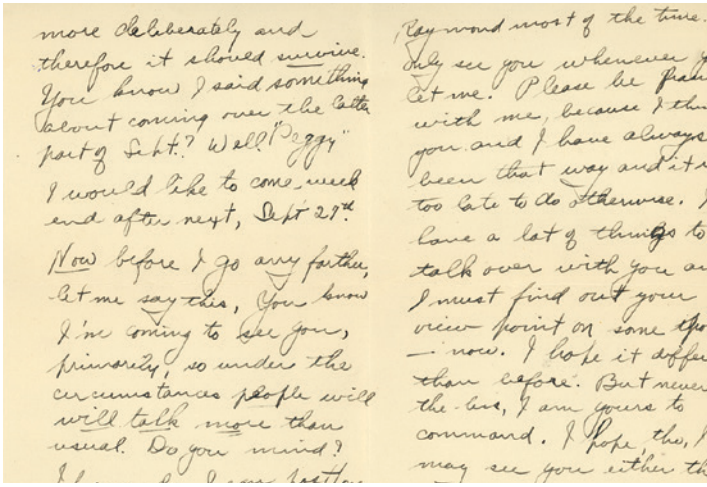


more deliberately and
therefore it showed survive.
You know I said something
about coming over the latter
part of Sept? Well Peggy
I would like to come week
end after next, Sept 27th.
Now before I go any further,
let me say this, You know
I'm coming to see you,
primarily, so under the
circumstances people will
will talk more than
usual. Do you mind?

Key word most of the time
only see you whenever
Let me. Please be
with me, because I
you and I have always
been that way and it
too late to do otherwise.
have a lot of things to
talk over with you
I must find out your
view point on some
— now. I hope it
than before. But never
the less, I am yours to
command. I hope, the
may see you either

One of more than 60 love letters Harold wrote to Margaret.

Three of four of Harold's daughters are still living and are committed to preserving their father's legacy. *From left to right:* Susan, Carol, Elizabeth, and Roberta (Roberta passed away in 2017.)

All in Good Time

Main Library building hits century mark

When the University of Illinois (then known as the Illinois Industrial University) was founded in 1867, its Board of Trustees designated $1,000 for the purchase of 644 library books, a number so small the entire set could be housed in the regent's office.

Not long after, the Library began to outgrow its quarters—a process it would repeat again and again through the ensuing years. In the late 19th century, the Library settled into the first floor of the now defunct University Hall (where the Illini Union now stands), male students seated on the east side, females on the west. Later, the Library occupied its first stand-alone building in what is now known as Altgeld Hall. But in 1912, with University President Edmund J. James urging trustees to acquire 1 million volumes within the decade, space became a critical issue—and 100 years ago, the Main Library moved to its present location just south of the Main Quad.

Take a look at that milestone embedded in the timeline provided here, which notes not just an impressive growth in volumes (at present topping 15 million) but significant markers that galvanized the Illinois campus. Topics such as educational librarianship, intellectual freedom, and innovative academic and technical feats have laid the groundwork for the University Library to be recognized as one of the most remarkable such institutions in the world. An event this fall will celebrate this centennial milestone (see page 11).

1867
Illinois Industrial University Founded.

Board of Trustees appropriate $1,000 for purchase of 644 volumes to be housed in the office of **Regent Gregory** who served as Librarian.

Books later moved to Library Hall in the first Univesity Building ('The Elephant').

1868
Library Founded.

1869
Henry Marshall Douglass served as the 1st Librarian (1869–1871).

1873

James Crawford serves as Librarian (1873–1893)

1874
Library transferred to newly-consturcted University Hall, located on present site of the Illini Union. Books were transported by wheelbarrow during the summer vacation.

1893
Charles M. Moss serves as Librarian (1893–1894)

1894
Percy Becknell appointed 1st full-time librarian with library experience (1894–1897) and begins to catalog library collection.

1897

Katharine Sharp named Librarian and Director of the Library School (1897–1907).

Sharp modernized the Library by developing reference services, contributing library functions and professionalized cataloging practice.

1897
Library moved to newly-constructed building (later named Altgeld Hall).

Melvil Dewey delivered dedication address.

1907

FKW Drury named Acting Librarian (1907–1909).

1909

Phineas Windsor named Librarian and Director of the Library School (1909–1940).

Windsor built the Library's holdings from 127,000 to 1,500,000 volumes during his tenure.

1924
Main Library building completed.

1926
Library moves into Main Library building.

1929
Main Library dedicated.

Second Stack addition completed with federal relief funds.

1935
1 1 millionth volume acquired. Gift of John Needels Chester.

1940
Carl M. White named Librarian (1940–1943).

Third Stack addition completed.

1943

Robert B. Downs named Director of the Library and Library School (1943–1958); Dean of Library Administration (1958–1971).

1946
2 2 millionth volume acquired.

1956
3 3 m ac

1860 | 1900

To see a comprehensive timeline, please visit friends.library.illinois.edu.

1994
Grainger Engineering Library Information Center dedicated.

1998
9 millionth volume acquired. Christophorus Lieb through generosity of Betty Jean Peters Albert in honor of Waco W. Albert.

2018
John P. Wilkin resumes his role as University Librarian and Dean of Libraries (2018–2022).
Sir Isaac Newton Manuscript acquired.

1975
Robert Oram served as Acting University Librarian (1975–1976).
5 millionth volume acquired with assistance from Library Friends and Research Board.

1999

Paula Kaufman named University Librarian (1999–2013).

2021
First director of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility hired.

2001
Agriculture, Consumer & Environmental Sciences Library dedicated.

2012
13 millionth volume acquired through the generosity of Robert E. and Juanita J. Simpson.

1982
6 millionth volume acquired through generosity of John E. "Bud" Velde, Jr.

2022

Christopher Prom named Interim Dean of Libraries and University Librarian (2022–2023)
Archives and Special Collections building approved by the Board of Trustees.

1966
4 millionth volume acquired.

2003
10 millionth volume acquired through generosity of Alan M. and Phyllis W. Hallene.
Oak Street facility opened.

2013

The University Library welcomed its fifteenth Dean of Libraries, **John P. Wilkin** (2013–2017).

1969
Undergraduate Library Building opened.

1984
6th stack addition (compact stacks completed).

2000

millionth volume quired.

1970
5th stack addition completed.

1986
Michael Gorman named Acting University Librarian (10/1986–8/1987).
7 millionth volume acquired through generosity of John E. "Bud" Velde, Jr.

2009
11 millionth volume acquired through generosity of Robert A. and Emily S. Watts.

2017

Bill Mischo named Acting Dean of Libraries and University Librarian: William Mischo (2017–2018).
Wilkin named Interim Vice Chancellor for academic affairs and provost designate.
Sesquicentennial celebration.
14 millionth volume acquired.

1958
4th stack addition completed.

1971

Lucien W. White named University Librarian (1971–1975).

1987

David Bishop appointed University Librarian (1987–1992)

2010
12 millionth volume acquired through a generous gift from Jim and Diane Staes.

2023

Claire Stewart named University Librarian and Dean of Libraries
15 millionth volume acquired through the generosity of Betty Jean Peters Albert.

1972
Library Friends group founded to increase visibility and financial support for the Library.

1991
Mortenson Center established.

1976

Hugh C. Atkinson named University Librarian (1976–1986). Atkinson brought automation to the library catalog.

1992

Robert Wedgeworth named Interim University Librarian (1992/93) then University Librarian (1993–99).
8 millionth volume acquired through generosity of John E. "Bud" Velde, Jr. 1992.

2024
Rare Book & Manuscript Library acquires first edition of Plato's works in Greek.

NEH Grant to Amplify Access to the Archives of Women Scientists

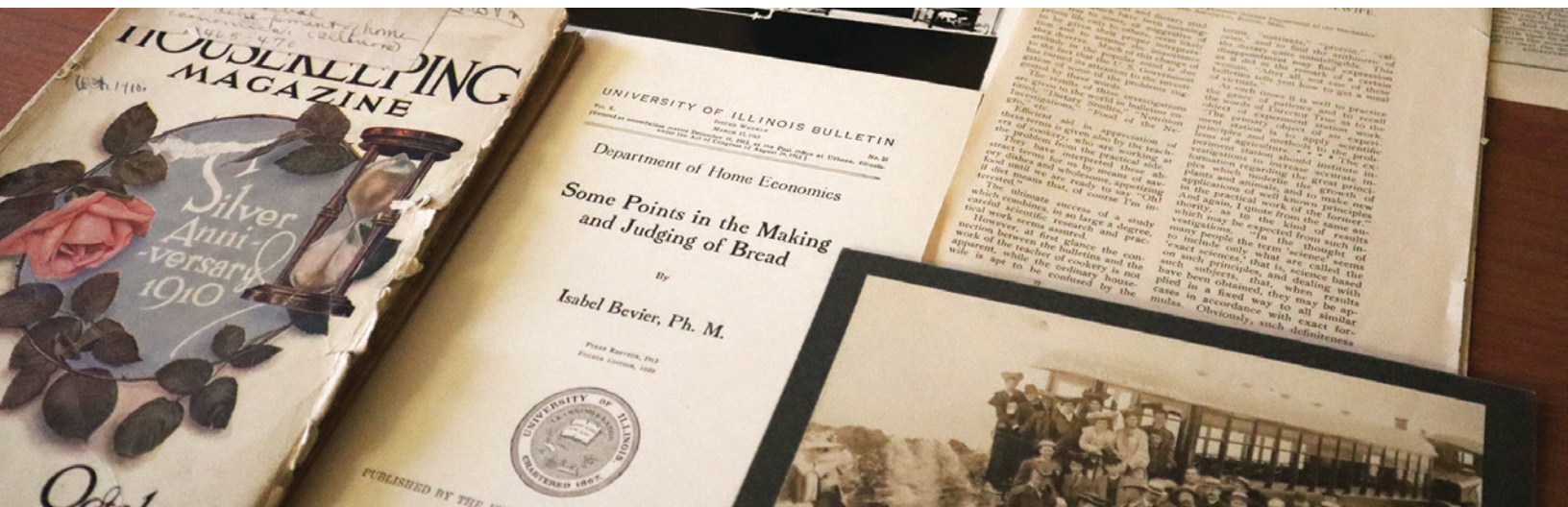
By Bethany Anderson, Natural and Applied Sciences Archivist

From left to right: **Bethany Anderson, Kristen Wilson, and Mary Ton**

Bethany Anderson, Mary Ton (Digital Humanities Librarian), and Kristen Wilson (Illinois Distributed Museum Coordinator) have received a $60,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to create digital resources and the foundation for a network of partners that amplifies access to the digitized archives of women scientists, focusing initially on the domestic science movement. The project, "No Longer at the Margins: A Digital Project to Amplify Access to the Archives of Women in Science," received one of thirty-three Humanities Collections and Reference Resources Grants awarded nationwide. "No Longer at the Margins" was also selected to receive funding from the NEH's special initiative, American Tapestry: Weaving Together Past, Present, and Future, which is awarded for humanities projects that address "contemporary social challenges, including strengthening our democracy, advancing equity for all, and addressing our changing climate."

The notion of amplification is key to this project. To "amplify" means to "extend or increase…in amount, importance, dignity" as well as to "enlarge (a story or statement) by telling it more diffusely or fully, or by adding fresh details, illustrations, or reflections; to expand" and (in a scientific sense) to "make multiple copies of." Taken together, these meanings inform the ethos of this project to create a collaborative network to amplify access to these materials and the stories of women scientists by developing resources that can eventually be shared between several allied projects that promote the history of science and women in science.

The project will create workshops, workflows, and machine-generated datasets for computational analysis, as well as develop partnerships around the collective goal of amplifying access to these materials. Anderson, Ton, and Wilson will be working with the University of Minnesota Archives, who will be digitizing their domestic science materials, and Science Stories, a linked data project that uses structured data from Wikidata and other machine-readable open data sources to tell the stories of women in science. The project's interdisciplinary advisory board comprises a broad array of stakeholders in history, archives, and information science, and includes representatives from the Association for Women in Science, Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, History of Women Philosophers and Scientists, Lost Women of Science podcast, Rosalind Franklin Society, and Science History Institute. In collaboration with these partners, the team hopes to promote women in the history of science and their important contributions through enhanced digital access to their archives.



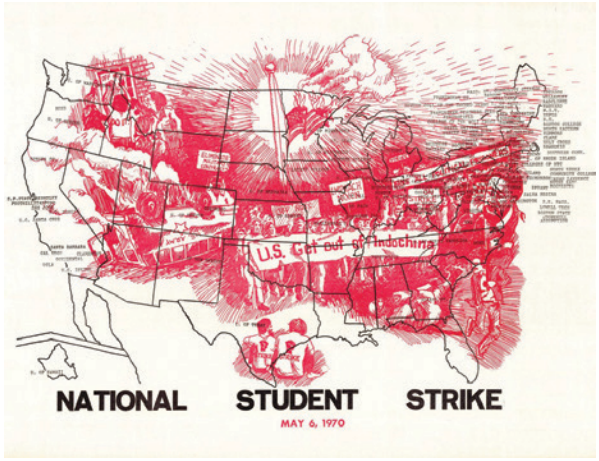
Library Is Looking For

$345 for *A chart map of Georgia, showing the percentage of slaves in each county* (1861), printed in Harper's Weekly at the start of the Civil War. The **Map Library** is interested in this item, which measures 12 x 16.5 inches and is in good condition.

$495 for *Das is die mapa mudi und alle Land un Kungkreich wie sie ligend in der ganze Welt* [This is the mappa mundi of all the lands and kingdoms which there are in the whole world] (1924), a reproduction of a world map originally created circa 1480. Circular in design, the detailed illustration places Paradise at the top (east) and includes windheads, four major world rivers, and a border of terrors from the unexplored world. While it is written in everyday German (the first map printed in the vernacular), the **Map Library** considers this to be no ordinary find.

$650 for *THREE-WAY DOOM* (1945), a poster from a Time magazine story showing the devastating effects of American bombing on the Japanese Empire during World War II. Drawn by well-known Time cartographer Robert M. Chapin, this poster is sought by the **Map Library**.

$1,200 for Lilawaste Lake Country refuge-to-be (1937), a detailed proposal of safe harbor for Native Americans of the Lakota and Dakota tribes. Purported to be drawn by Iktomi, a Lakotan trickster, the map was actually created by a White man, Ivan Drift, who spent most of his life on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Replete with intricate illustrations and compelling text, the map grapples with numerous plans and problems, and was included in the book *America Needs Indians!* The **Map Library** needs this item!



$1,250 for NATIONAL STUDENT STRIKE, May 6, 1970 (1970), a vibrantly visual call to action in protest of the U.S. bombing of Cambodia. The extremely rare poster seeking strikes across college campuses features vivid scenes and slogans to rouse the fight against expanding the war. The **Map Library** would like you to respond to its invitation to add this poster to its collection.

$1,800 for Map Illustrating the Operations of the U.S. Forces against Vicksburg (1863), an extremely rare piece detailing Union and Confederate military activity around Vicksburg, Mississippi, during the Civil War. The U.S. Coast Survey was called upon to provide up-to-date field maps to assist the U.S. Army in its efforts; the map shows the path of General Ulysses S. Grant as well as rivers, roads, and railroads, with information gleaned from cartographers, scouts, and spies. The **Map Library** would like to add this hand-colored item (in very good condition) to its collection.

$1,800 for Rock Island Barracks, Ill (1864), a hand-colored, bird's-eye view of the facility housing Confederate prisoners of war. Situated on an island, the military installation depicts 84 barracks and a hospital site, surrounded by a 12-foot fence. The city of Rock Island and the Mississippi River are visible in the background. The **Map Library** would like to acquire this rare item, measuring 18.5 x 14.75 inches.

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Find more Library Is Looking For items online at **library.illinois.edu/friends/library-is-looking-for**.

Library Is Looking For, continued

$2,750 for Historical Map, American Expeditionary Force (1932), described by Boston Rare Maps as "a spectacular pictorial map of the Western Front by a veteran of the American Expeditionary Force, celebrating its contribution to victory in the First World War." Drawn by Ezra C. Stiles years after he served with General John "Blackjack" Pershing's legendary unit, the lively item illustrates various critical wartime lines and is bordered by related scenes and explanatory notes. Scattered throughout are several sayings pertinent to the soldiering life, such as "And they call this sunny France?" and "When do we eat?" The illustration, sought by the **Map Library**, measures 33¼ x 26½ inches.

$4,500 for Birds Eye View of the Seat of War . . . (1861), a very rare map encompassing Chesapeake Bay, central Maryland, eastern Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The hand-colored, topographical depiction, created at the very beginning of the Civil War, includes both Washington, D.C., and the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, as well as Baltimore, Harpers Ferry, Manassas Junction, and Fort Monroe. This item would complement similar elements from the same time period in the **Map Library**'s collection.

$8,500 for The Illustration of the Graet European War. No. 16. A Humoros Atlas of the World [歐洲大戰亂畫報（其十六）滑稽欧亜外交地図**]** (1914), providing an extra-European look at the world during World War I—a viewpoint not currently present in the **Map Library** collection. The chromolithograph map somewhat playfully implies Japan's take on the outbreak of the First World War: Russia is a bear, America a badger, Germany a boar, and China a pig. Indicating its growing self-image as a force in the region, Japan represents itself as an armed samurai. This extremely rare map is in excellent condition.

Thank You

The following donors have adopted these items previously featured in *Friendscript*:

- **Lewis and Susan Hopkins** for *1960 areas of Negro residence* (Map Library)
- **Daniel J. Jares** for *A Thing Well Begun is Half Done (Nicaragua Canal)* (1899) (Map Library)
- **Larry Krupp** for scores from the Forbidden Music Regained project (Music and Performing Arts Library)
- **Bob and Kay Merrick** for *Medici Aesop* (Classics Library Collection)
- **Brenda Pacey** for her gift to support the Family Study Room (Teaching, Learning, and Academic Support) and rotating exhibits (Exhibition Committee); *College Blue Book* (2023 ebook edition) (Social Sciences, Health, and Education Library); and *Tokyo Industrial Exposition Report Volume 1 (Tokyo Kangyo hakurankai jimu hokoku jokan)* (Ricker Library of Architecture and Art)
- **Cynthia Swanson** for *Grand Panoramic View of the Heart of Chicago* (1892) (Map Library)
- **Jacqueline Vossler** for *Illinois advertising map, compliments of R.L. Loy, Effingham, Illinois* (1890) (Map Library)
- **William Wilkes** for *Chicago* (1981) (Map Library)

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Golden Opportunitites, *continued from page 3*

Perhaps most touching, however, is the trove of more than five dozen love letters that Harold wrote to Margaret in the 1920s. (After Margaret died, her daughters found them in a shoebox in her closet.) Each missive addresses Margaret with a different endearment—including one in which the Olympian called her "someone more precious than gold."

"It's so wonderful to have it all together," Swain said of the rich conglomeration of Osborn materials, both personal and professional. "The context . . . just tells an amazing story, both of her life and his.

"Researchers will benefit from these materials for years to come."

In conjunction with the opening of the 2024 Paris Olympics, the Library is coordinating with the Osborn family to host a webinar on July 25 about Harold Osborn's accomplishments. The occasion may be attended in person or via live stream. Please watch for event details on the Library's website at **go.library.illinois.edu/calendar**.

In addition, this fall the Main Library will mark another significant 1924 event—100 years in its present location. As part of that Nov. 15 celebration, the Osborn collection will also be featured.

Uniqueness Is Common,
continued from page 3

Things

Expanding campus partnerships. Prioritizing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility efforts. Proceeding with the Library Building Project. Thinking ahead while serving the present. Analyzing the tools and applications of AI.

These are just some of the items that will garner Stewart's attention in the coming year. It's not so much about rooting out problems, she said, as figuring out how to build on strengths that have undergirded the Library's excellence throughout its existence.

"How do we strengthen and sustain those core services, the things that people always expect a library to do?" Stewart posits. "But [also], how do we continue to reinterpret that role?

"We're trying to understand what's coming," she said. "How do we think about our information expertise for a future world and a future university? We want to be—as we always have been—a little bit ahead."

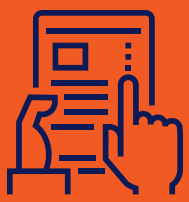
Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE

A Century of Scholarship, Main Library 1924–2024

Join us for the Main Library building's 100th Anniversary with a luncheon in the Reading Room, exclusive exhibits, and 1920s-inspired performances as well as the Dedication of the Shebik Family Reading Room.

- November 15
- Main Library



We encourage you to visit the Library's online calendar at **go.library.illinois.edu/calendar** for the most up-to-date information about events.

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Annual gifts strengthen the Library and ensure its standing as one of the world's preeminent public university collections. We invite you to join this tradition of private support, which makes a critical difference in the quality of the Library's collections, programs, and services.

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Library Acquires First Edition of Plato's Works, *continued from page 2*

mark is among the 27 that grace the Main Library's Reading Room, also developed other methods during his career to ease the way for readers, such as the use of commas, semi-colons, and italics, as well as the development of small, portable books.)

At Illinois, the study of classics has been a cornerstone, with such classes being taught since 1867, the year the campus was founded. What is now known as the Classics Library Collection has become a renowned center of classical studies, considered one of the largest and best such libraries in the world.

In addition to the library's outstanding holdings, the U of I Department of Classics bears a long and storied history. Among its many significant academics was one of its earliest leaders, professor William Abbott Oldfather, known as the greatest American classical scholar of his era. He headed the department from 1926 to 1945 and spent summers excavating archaeological sites in Greece. During World War II, Oldfather helped save several European scholars threatened by Nazi Germany by extracting them and bringing them to the United States. Also, because Oldfather pushed the use of photostatic technology, copies of many ancient manuscripts destroyed by war are now available in the Main Stacks.

In addition to being welcomed on the Illinois campus the Plato acquisition traveled in February to an event at the National Hellenic Museum in Chicago to celebrate International Greek Language Day. The occasion drew a crowd of 400, including the consul general of Greece.

The recently acquired Plato publication—and its enthusiastic reception by the university and a wider audience—refutes the concept that study of the classics is a dying tradition. Indeed, the university's department grew by three professors just this year.

"You cannot move forward if you don't know the past," Petrou said when asked why such study is important. "You need the knowledge of the past in order to build something new."

The Library Is Looking For . . .

$17,000 for *The Republic of Plato in Ten Books* (1763), the first English translation of Plato's masterpiece. As just eight copies of this work exist in institutional libraries, the **Classics Library Collection** would find this a valuable addition in expanding its tradition of Plato works. Librarian Elias Petrou sees classics academia trending toward Plato and believes the university has the potential "to become one of the leading 'platonic epicenters' in this field."