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SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY ASSOCIATES
C O U R I E R



VOLUME XXIII, NUMBER 1, SPRING 1988

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ASSOCIATES COURIER

VOLUME XXIII

NUMBER ONE

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- The Forgotten Brother: Francis William Newman,
Victorian Modernist
By Kathleen Manwaring, Syracuse University Library 3
- The Joseph Conrad Collection at Syracuse University
By J. H. Stape, Visiting Associate Professor of English,
Université de Limoges 27
- The Jean Cocteau Collection: How 'Astonishing'?
By Paul J. Archambault, Professor of French,
Syracuse University 33
- A Book from the Library of Christoph Scheurl (1481–1542)
By Gail P. Huetting, Librarian, University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign 49
- James Fenimore Cooper: Young Man to Author
By Constantine Evans, Instructor in English,
Syracuse University 57
- News of the Syracuse University Library and the
Library Associates 79

News of the Library and the Library Associates

REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

As I write in early March 1988, it is exactly two years since I assumed the position of University Librarian at Syracuse University and an opportune time to report formally to the Library Associates on these eventful years in the life of the Library. It has been an exciting period of change and innovation, as this University strives to achieve new levels of excellence in its academic and research programs. We see the Library as an integral part of those efforts.

In broad outline, the library staff devoted the academic year of 1986-87 to the assessment of and planning for the entire library system; in the following year, now drawing to a close, we began the initial stages of implementation of many of the recommendations resulting from the planning process. We have been profoundly encouraged by the support of the University administration and faculty, by the participation of library personnel at all levels, and by the profusion of good ideas that have come forth from many segments of the community. We have made a good start toward realizing the potential of this Library to serve its community. Much remains to be done.

One major achievement of the past year has been the development in the Bird Library of a new, unified information center on the first floor. This was hardly a new idea, but a need recognized almost from the opening of our doors in 1972, when it soon became clear that staffing was insufficient for the multiplicity of service points in the original design. Until this fall, Bird Library has had "subject floors" that functioned quite like separate branch libraries, each with its own specialized staff. In order to provide a more centralized and interdisciplinary approach to reference and information services, we have merged service points on the Area Studies, Social Sciences,

and Humanities floors with the first-floor General Reference Department, to form a considerably larger Information Services Department. Subject specialists in the various disciplines remain available for reference, collection development consultation, and bibliographic instruction. More staff are available at any given time to assist library users. Reference tools have also been brought together in a single, more usable collection. A larger and more highly visible information/reference desk makes it easier to approach staff for information, and for staff to assist users with indexes, reference tools, or the online catalog. Interdisciplinary work is greatly enhanced in this new setting.

Such specialized automated reference tools as *Infotrac* and *Compact Disclosure*, invaluable sources of bibliographic and other information on a wide variety of subjects, are being far more heavily utilized in this new first-floor location. Library staff in the Information Services Department are able to introduce these newer technologies to a wide variety of library users.

The issue of reference services was but one of many addressed during the planning year. Two staff retreats, held at Minnowbrook Conference Center at Blue Mountain Lake during 1986, helped librarians focus their thinking about possible elements of change and the mechanisms to make it happen. Subsequently, seven task forces were established to examine virtually all aspects of the Library, including such areas as organization and staffing, physical arrangement, user behavior, and future directions in automation. Each task force was charged with making both short- and long-term recommendations for change. Virtually all librarians on the staff contributed to this effort.

Concurrently, the Library was named as one of five units of the University selected for in-depth study as part of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation visit in March 1988. The report the Library prepared for that visit drew heavily on recommendations and observations made by the Library's task forces. In addition, Professor Michael S. Nilan of the School of Information Studies planned and conducted a series of surveys designed to give the Library information about its users' needs. The task force and Middle States reports as well as user surveys have all helped the Library to develop specific short- and long-term goals and have contributed to the Library's ongoing planning process.

All of this has been achieved with virtually no disruption in ser-

vice, at minimal capital cost, while giving us valuable experience towards planning more permanent quarters for information services, a crucial part of longer-term (and more expensive) plans for the reconfiguration of the entire Library. These plans include, at Bird Library, changing the present two-entrance layout to a single entrance/exit, reorganization of the general collection into a single, unified, rational, and understandable A-Z shelving sequence, and creating stairwell access to all floors. Other major projects in the planning stage include technological and automation improvements, and the locating of funds for preservation and collection development activities as well as for space and other critical needs in the Science and Technology Library.

Access Services and Security have also been major preoccupations of our planning during the past two years. Access Services responsibilities include circulation, interlibrary loan, reserves, and maintenance of our large collection of current periodicals. This year the department has assumed responsibility for reshelving all general stack materials used in the Library or borrowed and returned by readers. In the past, books located on each of the subject floors were reshelved by staff on those floors. Between September and December 1987, Access Services staff reshelved 90,000 borrowed books. Perhaps four to five times that number, used in-house but not borrowed, were also returned to their proper places on the shelves. Regular reshelving of library materials is perhaps the single most essential but unsung and unheroic task the Library performs.

Security issues have also been under discussion much of the year. The campus and Library are accessibly "downtown". Our collections of some 2.5 million books and journals draw, in a typical week, approximately 32,000 users. As can be imagined, overcrowding occurs, especially at certain times of the day and the academic year. There is also relatively heavy use of library resources by those with no current affiliation to the University. These conditions, as well as the occasional theft of personal property, have led the Library to reexamine some current access and security policies. A first step has been to establish a new Security/Facilities office with responsibility for building access, maintenance, and security. New staff and some revised policies will soon be in place to provide an improved atmosphere in the Library for study and research. An integral part of this process has been to ask everyone currently affiliated with the Uni-

versity to provide identification on entering the Library. Those not affiliated with the University have been asked to complete a short registration slip, in order to enable the Library to learn more about this group of users. So generous has the University been in sharing its library resources with the larger community, that this procedure, common to almost all urban libraries, has been regarded by some with dismay. While Syracuse University Library materials should always be available to scholars and others needing them, no university library can any longer afford to be the first resource for members of the broader community who can easily obtain identical or similar materials in school, county, corporate, or public libraries nearby.

Two other issues related to library atmosphere should be briefly noted: noise and the consumption of food and drink. Although the Library has in the past been misused as a social center, students and other users are beginning to indicate (if letters to the editor and articles in the *Daily Orange* are any indication) a willingness to cooperate in making behavioral changes.

One crisis we have shared with virtually all university libraries since 1985 is the rapid escalation of prices of periodicals, journals, and other serials. Because of the increased volume of published scientific work, inflation, and the weakened dollar abroad, costs in this period have far exceeded rises in our budgets. Funds for books and other materials are correspondingly less available. In the fall of 1987 Vice-Chancellor Gershon Vincow proposed a significant increase in acquisition funds, contingent upon simultaneous efforts by the Library and faculty to reduce on-going journal costs by judicious cancellation of peripheral journals considered less essential to our current research priorities. The program has involved much negotiation and many difficult decisions but has successfully improved our financial ability to support better the monograph-based disciplines in the social sciences and humanities.

In the area of technology and library automation several major decisions loom ahead. Syracuse University Library was one of the first in the country to develop and implement an online public access catalog as the primary tool for access to collections. The system, known as SULIRS, though much used and liked by our users, is, unfortunately, the victim of a technological obsolescence that requires major changes, replacement, or enhancement over the next few years. Planning continues in this crucial area of library service.

The special collections of the George Arents Research Library—of particular interest to many of our Associates—have also received a good deal of planning attention in the past year. Despite extensive collections of rare books, manuscripts, and archives, chronic understaffing since the early 1970s has left large cataloging and processing backlogs which we must deal with in a systematic way. Four planning groups addressed this and other needs of the Arents Library; their recommendations will be considered later this spring.

In addition to the active program of events of bibliographic and library interest, and the publication of the semiannual *Courier* (in which we take great pride), a major Library Associates concern is to support the growth of the collections with funds for special acquisitions. With the Associates' help we have made significant additions during the past few years, including major manuscript collections of Stephen Crane, Rudyard Kipling, Albert Schweitzer, and Robert Phillips (S.U. class of 1960). We are very pleased to be able to say that during this last year we have added more than a hundred new members to our roster. We thank all our members for their support.

The Library is looking forward to being a part of the University's "Campaign for Syracuse", through which we hope to realize many of the plans outlined here. It will require energy and foresight to carry out these plans effectively and in ways that enhance our service to the University and the scholarly community. The Library stands ready to meet that challenge.

David H. Stam
University Librarian

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

In late 1987 the George Arents Research Library purchased four Benson J. Lossing letters for its collection of Lossing (1813–1891), a historian and artist who popularized United States history with his pictorial field books. The new materials, which span the period of July 1869 to September 1874, are addressed to Archibald Wilson, a bookshop owner in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., and concern the publication of a book of poems written by Wilson's father, William, and edited by Lossing.

With the letters are several newsclippings pertaining to the publication that give us a picture of William (1801–1860). He was an immigrant from Scotland in the 1830s, a frequent contributor to newspapers both in his homeland and in the United States, and a poet—all in all, a man of sufficient standing to be included in the *Dictionary of American Biography*.

On the whole, William Wilson's *Poems*, the topic of this group of letters and clippings, was well received on both sides of the Atlantic and went to three editions (1869, 1875, 1881), all published in Poughkeepsie by Archibald Wilson. In contrast to the popular acclaim is an unsigned, lengthy review in the *New York Daily Tribune* of 12 July 1881. It reads: "The poet is neither a Burns nor a Motherwell, but walks quite in the beaten path, and gathers of the wild grasses that grow beside it". The critic goes on to remark that the "zest of character to Wilson's book is its Scotch enthusiasm and felicitous use of the Scotch dialect".

Sad to say, the Syracuse University collection of Benson J. Lossing materials is to date lacking a copy of this book, which is needed to round off an interesting vignette in Lossing's life.

Carolyn A. Davis
Manuscripts Librarian

Syracuse University Library recently acquired the literary papers of poet and editor Robert Phillips, a distinguished alumnus of the University (B.A. 1960 and M.A. 1962) and long-standing member of Library Associates. Mr. Phillips is the author of a number of volumes of poetry, fiction, and critical works as well as the editor of numerous literary anthologies. His poetry and other writings have appeared in the major literary periodicals over the past twenty-five years. His critically acclaimed editions of the letters, poems, and stories of Delmore Schwartz have done much to revive interest in Schwartz's work.

Since leaving Syracuse University in 1962, Mr. Phillips has succeeded in balancing a full and productive literary life with responsibilities as the creative director in several of New York City's major advertising firms. Last year, Mr. Phillips received the Award in Literature given by the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters; also, he was one of the poets invited to participate when Robert Penn Warren was installed as Poet Laureate. Syracuse Uni-



Robert Phillips (Photo: Thomas Victor).

versity recently honored Mr. Phillips by presenting him with the George Arents Pioneer Medal awarded to alumni who have achieved excellence in their fields of endeavor. In recognition of his gift to the University of a considerable portion of this collection, Mr. Phillips has been named a life member of Library Associates.

In addition to all of his own published and unpublished writings, his papers include extensive correspondence files with some of the major literary figures of the past three decades including Horace Gregory, Marya Zaturenska, Robert Francis, William Heyen, Philip Larkin, Karl Shapiro, Erica Jong, and Elizabeth Spencer. Mr. Phillips' extensive interviews with Shapiro, Larkin, Spencer, and others, undertaken for and published by *The Paris Review*, are included together with hundreds of incoming letters from dozens of writers, early drafts of the work of these writers, and other related material. Of special interest is an extensive file of more than three hundred letters from Joyce Carol Oates, a classmate of Robert Phillips at Syracuse. This file documents a friendship that has extended for nearly thirty years and will be of considerable interest to future scholars studying the life and work of both Oates and Phillips. The acquisition of the Robert Phillips Papers, made possible, in part, by generous support from members of Library Associates and through Mr. Phillips' own gift, complements the Gregory, Zaturenska, Francis, and Granville Hicks collections in the George Arents Research Library and strengthens considerably the Library's holdings of original research materials of twentieth-century writers.

Mark F. Weimer
Rare Book Librarian

The Slide Collection for Fine Arts and Architecture at Bird Library has received a donation of ca. 2000 slides from Winston Weisman, Professor Emeritus at Pennsylvania State University. In his long and distinguished career as an art historian Professor Weisman published many articles on architectural history, in particular on the history of the skyscraper. As a result of this interest, the donated collection of slides represents a splendid record of the development of commercial architecture in the United States and in Europe. It includes engraved views of New York around 1850 by Henry Hoff that illustrate not only early technological developments such as the passenger elevator and skeleton construction, but also the implications of the zoning laws that shaped the environment around the high-rise buildings.

It is through the dedicated effort of Dr. Richard Porter, former Director of the Lowe Art Gallery and a former student of Professor

Weisman, that Syracuse University Library is the recipient of this important collection of architectural slides. A checklist of the holdings has been prepared.

Johanna Winterwerp Prins
Slide Curator

POST-STANDARD AWARD CITATION, 1988,
FOR JOSEPH AND ELAINE SPECTOR

For more than half a century the Spector family has vigorously supported Syracuse University. Joseph and Elaine Spector have continued that family tradition with distinction, from their student days at the University to the present time. An honorary trustee of the University and a Varsity Club member, Joseph Spector has also been cited as a University Letterman of Distinction. In addition, he has been prominently active in community affairs. His services include membership in both the Syracuse Chamber of Commerce and the Metropolitan Development Association.



Joseph and Elaine Spector, recipients of the Post-Standard Award for 1988
(Photo: Bill Gandino).

Over many decades the Spector family's particular center of interest has been the Syracuse University Library. The seminar room named for Sol Spector, Joseph's father, is the most visible evidence of the family's generosity toward the Library. Their enthusiasm for special projects such as the acquisition of the Albert Schweitzer and Stephen Crane collections has been noteworthy. But most importantly, Joseph and Elaine Spector have given the Library marvelous books over the years. In 1967 they donated a collection of important Greek, German, and Dutch Bibles from the fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth centuries. In that same year, they presented as well a copy of Marc Chagall's *Cirque*, one of the most prized and beautiful books of this century. To honor them on the occasion of Joseph Spector's fiftieth reunion year, an exhibition of their selected gifts has been mounted in the Spector Room of Bird Library.

For their continuing support and commitment to scholarship and to all that a university stands for, it is highly appropriate that the 1988 Post-Standard Award for Distinguished Service to the Syracuse University Library be presented jointly to Joseph and Elaine Spector.

ANNUAL MEETING

At the annual meeting on 22 April 1988, presided over by Vice-Chairman Arpena S. Mesrobian, the Board of Trustees accepted with regret the resignation of Chester Soling. Mr. Soling has been Chairman of the Library Associates since 1983 and has adeptly guided the organization through a period of considerable growth and change. With unanimous acclaim the Board thanked him for his dedication and energetic leadership. The meeting preceded the spring luncheon, at which the Post-Standard Award was presented to Elaine and Joseph Spector, and David H. Stam, University Librarian, spoke on "Why Libraries Matter".

During the morning's business, the Board of Trustees approved the amended bylaws, which are presented beneath, and elected the following officers: Antje B. Lemke, President; David H. Stam, Executive Director; and Mark F. Weimer, Secretary. Also, the following members were elected to the Board of Trustees: Sarah K. Auchincloss, Henry S. Bannister, Antje B. Lemke, Arpena S. Mesrobian, Vernon F. Snow, Eileen Snyder, Walter E. Sutton, and Dorothy

Wertheimer. Chancellor Emeritus William P. Tolley and Professor Emeritus Mary H. Marshall, charter members of this association, were named Honorary Trustees in recognition of their years of support and service to the Library Associates.

BYLAWS OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

(Adopted on April 22, 1988)

ARTICLE I: Membership

Section 1. Membership is open to any individual interested in the Syracuse University Library. Categories of membership shall be established by the Board of Trustees upon recommendation of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Any person who contributes in one year at least \$5,000 in cash or \$15,000 in property acceptable to the Syracuse University Library shall be enrolled as a life member.

ARTICLE II: Officers

Section 1. The officers of this association shall be a President, Executive Director, Secretary, and Treasurer. All officers shall be elected by the Board of Trustees from its own membership or from the membership at large.

Section 2. The terms of all officers shall commence at the adjournment of the annual meeting.

Section 3. The terms of office of the President, Executive Director, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be for three years.

ARTICLE III: Duties of Officers

Section 1. The officers of this association shall perform the usual duties of such officers, together with such duties as shall be prescribed by the Board of Trustees.

Section 2. The President shall preside over meetings of the Board of Trustees and provide community leadership in developing support for this association.

Section 3. The Executive Director shall have overall responsibility for directing the activities of this association and for the functioning of its board and committees.

Section 4. The President and Executive Director are ex officio members of all committees.

Section 5. In the absence of the President, the Executive Director shall assume the duties of the President. In the event of a vacancy occurring in the office of the President, the Executive Director shall serve as President until the next meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Section 6. The Secretary shall record and distribute the minutes of all meetings of the association and the Board of Trustees and maintain the membership and other records of this association. In addition, the Secretary shall carry on all correspondence of the association and Board and perform such other duties as the Board of Trustees shall determine.

Section 7. The Treasurer shall be responsible for overseeing the financial affairs of the association and for reporting on these matters to the trustees.

ARTICLE IV: Board of Trustees

Section 1. There shall be a Board of Trustees of this association consisting of up to thirty-three elected members. The Board shall elect a President, Executive Director, Secretary, and Treasurer for terms of three years. No more than eleven trustees shall be elected each year for a three-year term.

Section 2. The Chancellor and vice-chancellors of Syracuse University, the University Librarian, the Associate University Librarian for Collections, and officers of the association shall serve as ex officio members of the Board of Trustees. All ex officio members shall be voting trustees.

Section 3. The Board may elect to the Board of Trustees honorary members, by a unanimous vote, upon nomination by the President. Honorary members shall have all the privileges of the elected trustees and shall serve for an unlimited term.

Section 4. Between regular meetings of the association, the Board of Trustees shall act for the association.

ARTICLE V: Duties of the Board of Trustees

Section 1. The direction of the association and its affairs shall be vested in the Board of Trustees.

Section 2. The Board of Trustees may establish and dissolve committees. The President, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, shall appoint members to committees and designate the chairs thereof. The President may also establish additional ad hoc and standing committees with the Board's approval.

Section 3. The Board of Trustees shall have the power to fill any vacancies in its membership between annual meetings.

ARTICLE VI: Committees

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers and ex officio members of the Board, the immediate past President, and such other members as the President shall appoint for a term of one year. The Executive Committee shall have all the powers of the Board of Trustees between its meetings except to amend the bylaws.

ARTICLE VII: Nominations

Section 1. At least thirty days prior to the annual meeting, the President shall, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, appoint a nominations committee of at least three members to nominate candidates for those vacancies to be balloted upon at the next annual meeting.

ARTICLE VIII: Meetings

Section 1. This association shall hold its annual meeting in the month of April or May each year for the election of trustees and the transaction of other business. The date of this meeting shall be determined by the President, and written notice shall be given to the membership at least ten days prior to the determined date.

Section 2. Other meetings of this association may be scheduled by the President or the Executive Director.

Section 3. The Board of Trustees may hold regular meetings at

such place and at such time and upon such notice as it may determine.

Section 4. Special meetings of the Board of Trustees may be called at any time by the President or the Executive Director by giving notice to each trustee.

Section 5. After proper notification, members present shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.

ARTICLE IX: Special Rules

Section 1. The President and the Executive Director shall officially represent this association.

Section 2. No member shall receive directly or indirectly compensation from this association. This association may, however, reimburse any member who has incurred approved expenses in the affairs of the association.

Section 3. With respect to all questions of construction of the constitution or bylaws, the decision of the Board of Trustees shall be final.

Section 4. All matters that may affect, or be affected by, Syracuse University policy shall be cleared with appropriate Syracuse University officials.

ARTICLE X: Amendments

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended by the Board of Trustees at any meeting of the same provided that a ten-day notice of the proposed amendment is given.

IN MEMORIAM

MARIE LITTLE BIRD, widow of Ernest Stevenson Bird for whom Syracuse University's Bird Library was named, died on February 29, 1988 in Granby, Connecticut. Both she and her husband were vigorous supporters of this library. Her surviving son, the Reverend Paul Lachlan Peck, has requested that those who wish to make memorial contributions address the Marie L. Bird Rare Book Endowment Fund at the Ernest Stevenson Bird Library, Syracuse University.

RUTH CANFIELD TOLLEY, wife of Chancellor Emeritus William Pearson Tolley, died at their home on January 12, 1988. She was a graduate of Syracuse University and a member of Alpha Phi Sorority.

Ruth Canfield and William Pearson Tolley were classmates at Binghamton Central High School and prominent together in student leadership, and literary and scholarly activities. Upon graduation in 1918, they both continued these interests with high success at Syracuse University.

In 1925 Ruth Canfield and William P. Tolley were married. During the twenty-seven years (commencing in 1943) that Dr. Tolley was chancellor of Syracuse University, Mrs. Tolley devoted special attention to and showed warm concern for faculty wives and children. She was a warm, steadfast, and forthright supporter of her husband in all his work for Syracuse University. In particular, she joined him as an active partner in his appreciation of the library and the development of our special collections. She was a sure and honored friend of the Library Associates.

THE SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ASSOCIATES, founded in 1953, is a society whose efforts are devoted to the enrichment of the Syracuse University Library and especially the rare book and manuscript collections. The Associates' interests lie in strengthening these collections through the acquisition of unusual books, manuscripts, and other research materials which are rare and often of such value that the Library would not otherwise be able to acquire them.

The Associates welcome anyone to join whose interests incline in the direction of book collecting or the graphic arts. The perquisites of membership include borrowing privileges and general use of the Syracuse University Library's facilities and resources, as well as invitations to exhibitions, Associates-sponsored lectures, and special events of the University Library. In addition, members will receive our incidental publications, typographic keepsakes, and the *Syracuse University Library Associates Courier*, a semiannual publication which contains articles related to unusual and interesting aspects of the Library's holdings and, in particular, to the holdings of the George Arents Research Library for Special Collections.

SUGGESTED MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS are as follows: Benefactor, \$500; Sustaining member, \$200; Individual member, \$50; Faculty and staff of Syracuse University, \$30; Senior citizen and student, \$20. Checks, made payable to Syracuse University Library Associates, should be sent to the Secretary, 100 E. S. Bird Library, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY 13244-2010. For further information about the programs and activities of the Library Associates, telephone (315) 423-2585.

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