



PERSPECTIVES

NUMBER NINETEEN

SEPTEMBER 1998

Edward O. Wilson to Speak at Friends Dinner

Edward O. Wilson, Pelligrino University Research Professor at Harvard University, will be the featured speaker at the Friends of the Library annual dinner on Saturday, November 7.

The winner of two Pulitzer Prizes, Wilson is recognized as one of the most important scientists living today. He is included in John Simmon's *The Scientific 100*, a ranking of the one hundred most influential scientists of all time. *Time* magazine named him one of America's twenty-five most influential people in 1996.

Professor Wilson is especially well known for several wide-ranging studies that synthesize broad areas of scientific inquiry. In *Sociobiology* (Harvard, 1975) he argued that many social behaviors—such as altruism, aggression, sexuality, and religious experience—have a genetic base. A finalist for the National Book Award, *Sociobi-*

ology occasioned wide-spread controversy and debate and also led to a variety of new scientific studies of the potential genetic component in human behaviors. His book *On Human Nature*, which explored many similar issues, was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for general non-fiction in 1979.

Wilson's major contributions to other areas of scientific inquiry include the understanding of ecosystems, the concept of ecological equilibrium, the importance of biodiversity, and problems of environmental degradation. His autobiographical work *The Naturalist* received the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize in 1995 and was named one of the eleven best books of the year by the *New York Times*.

Wilson began his career as an entomologist, focusing in particular on the behavior of ants. His



Edward O. Wilson

early research, which demonstrated that ants communicate through the discharge of chemicals called pheromones, opened a new area of biochemical study. His book *Insect Societies*, a synthesis
continued on page 3

1,150 Elsevier Journals Now Available Online

The Library is now participating in an agreement between OhioLINK and Elsevier Scientific Publishing that makes recent years of all journals published by Elsevier available to the Oberlin College community through the OhioLINK Electronic Journal Center. As a result of the agreement, 1,150 Elsevier titles are now accessible online in full text, with graphical images. These journals support all basic and applied sciences, including com-

puter science and mathematics, plus certain social sciences, notably economics, business, management, and environmental and behavioral sciences.

Oberlin's participation in the OhioLINK agreement substantially increases campus access to scholarly journal literature, while also helping to control escalating journal subscription costs. The agreement makes available many expensive journals, such as *Brain*

Research and Neuroscience, that the Library has not been able to subscribe to in the past, even though they have been requested by faculty. The Library presently receives 59 Elsevier titles in print form.

The OhioLINK Electronic Journal Center is an online service that delivers journal content in electronic format to end users via a World Wide Web browser. The center also
continued on page 5

Citation Indexes Available via the Web

Three citation indexes published by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) are now accessible through the World Wide Web from any networked computer on campus. These databases collectively index more than 7,000 journals and other scholarly sources and offer many unique features.

ISI Citation Databases are broad, multidisciplinary databases of bibliographic information that provide a variety of retrieval options. Articles are indexed by subject, author, journal title, and author affiliation. Because the information stored about each article includes cited references, it is also possible to search the databases for articles that cite a known author or work.

Cited reference searching allows a given work to be used as if it were a subject term to identify more recent articles on the same topic. This type of searching often locates relevant articles that cannot be retrieved through traditional subject searching.

The following is a brief description of the three ISI databases:

Arts & Humanities Citation Index covers 1,100 of the world's leading arts and humanities journals. It also indexes individually-selected, relevant items from over 6,800 major science and social science journals. Disciplines covered include: architecture, art, classics, dance, folklore, language, linguistics, literature, music, philosophy, religion and theater.

The **Social Sciences Citation Index** covers the literature of the social sciences, indexing 1,700 journals spanning 50 disciplines. It also covers selected items from

continued on page 5

Friends of the Library Fall Programs

Saturday, October 3, 4:30 pm, King 106

Harold Jantz Memorial Lecture, "Dante Gabriel Rossetti and the Embodiment of Knowledge,"

Jerome McGann, John Stewart Bryan University Professor, University of Virginia

Saturday, November 7, 1998

1:30 pm Friends Council and Membership Meeting,
Goodrich Room, Mudd

5:45 pm Annual Friends Reception and Dinner,
Root Room Carnegie

8:00 pm Featured Speaker, Edward O. Wilson, Slide Talk:
"The Diversity of Life."

Thursday, December 3, 4:30 pm, Mudd 050

Faculty Talk, Marcia Colish, Professor of History,
"Library Ramblings."

Recent Gifts

Herbert Shore, Emeritus Professor at the School of Theater at the University of Southern California, is giving the Library a collection of over 1,000 books and journal volumes related to Africa. The collection focuses on Mozambique and Southern Africa and includes a variety of primary research materials, many related to Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane, Oberlin Class of 1953. Mondlane led Mozambique's independence movement from Portugal prior to his assassination on February 3, 1969. The collection also contains manuscript materials that will be added to the Oberlin College Archives. Professor Shore's gift, which will be designated the "Herbert Shore Collection in Honor of Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane," was facilitated by Emeritus Professor of Sociology Albert McQueen '52.

Marian Baum, former President of the Friends of the Library, has donated a number of fine volumes, including the first Paris editions of three novels by Henry Miller and a 1930 edition of Melville's *Moby Dick* illustrated by Rockwell Kent.

The estate of Jewel LaFontant-Mankarious '43 has donated 508

volumes from her personal collection, including works on Africa and American contemporary affairs. Ms. Lafontant-Monkarious, a Chicago lawyer and civil rights leader, held important positions in both the Nixon and Bush administrations. Her gift contains several fine association copies, including works inscribed by President Nixon and author Alex Haley.

Daniel Merrill, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy, has donated over 1,300 volumes from his personal library upon the occasion of his retirement from the faculty.

The Lannon Foundation of Santa Monica, California has given the library 53 videotapes of interviews and readings by major American writers.

The Library also gratefully acknowledges major monetary gifts from Wallace Sprague '38, Lloyd Frank '47, Richard and Geraldine Meyer '42, Arthur and Bess Friedman '46 and '49, Robert and Fiona Rotberg '55 and '90. The Rotberg's gift is the first of a multi-year pledge to establish an endowed fund for African and Latin American Studies.

Jerome McGann is 1998 Jantz Lecturer

Jerome McGann, John Stewart Bryan Professor of English at the University of Virginia, will deliver the Harold Jantz Memorial Lecture on Saturday, October 3.

An exceptionally distinguished and prolific literary scholar, McGann's primary research interests are in the areas of British Romantic poetry, nineteenth century British and American literature, and textual criticism.

Professor McGann's major book publications include: *Fiery Dust: Byron's Poetic Development* (Chicago, 1969); *Swinburne: An Experiment in Criticism* (Chicago, 1972); *Don Juan in Context* (Chicago, 1976); *A Critique of Modern Textual Criticism* (Chicago, 1983, Virginia, 1992); *The Beauty of Inflections: Literary Investigations in Historical Method and Theory* (Oxford, 1985); *Social Values and Poetic Acts* (Harvard, 1987); *Towards a Literature of Knowledge* (Oxford and Chicago, 1989); *The Textual Condition* (Princeton, 1991); *Black Riders: The Visible Language of Modernism* (Princeton, 1993), and *Poetics of Sensibility: A Revolution in Literary Style* (Oxford, 1994).



Jerome McGann

McGann also edited the definitive edition of Byron's poetical works.

Professor McGann is also the author of over 125 articles on such authors as Dryden, Byron, Keats, Shelley, Blake, Tennyson, Wordsworth, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Christina Rossetti, and Ezra Pound as well as on Romanticism, textual criticism, the theory of texts, critical editing, hypertext, and contemporary poetry.

Professor McGann has held

previous professorial appointments at the California Institute of Technology, Johns Hopkins, and the University of Chicago. A member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, he is the recipient of two Guggenheim and two NEH fellowships as well as an honorary doctorate from the University of Chicago.

The Jantz Lecture is coordinated on a rotating basis by the Library, the German section of the German-Russian Department, and the Allen Memorial Art Museum. The lectureship honors Harold Jantz '29, a distinguished scholar of German and comparative literature. This year's lecture is hosted by the Library in cooperation with the Department of English.

Professor McGann's Jantz Lecture will focus on the Pre-Raphaelite poet and painter Dante Gabriel Rossetti, exploring in particular the relationship between painting and literature and its expression in book illustration. The title of his lecture is: "Dante Gabriel Rossetti and the Embodiment of Knowledge."

Edward O. Wilson to Speak at Friends Dinner. . . from page 1

of research on various insects, was a finalist for the National Book Award in 1972. *The Ants*, published by Harvard in 1990, was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 1991.

In *Consilience*, his most recent book, Wilson argues for the goal of explaining all areas of knowledge within a coherent system of scientific principles. Working from the assumption that human life is a physical phenomenon, it attempts to "trace causation across many levels of organization." *Consilience* was a *New York Times* best seller for many weeks following its pub-

lication.

Wilson is the recipient of the National Medal of Science, numerous prestigious awards in biology in publishing, and over twenty-five honorary degrees. Many of his articles and books are among those most cited within the scientific and scholarly community.

Professor Wilson's visit to Oberlin is sponsored by the Friends of the Library, the Mead-Swing Lectureship, the President's Office, and the Biology Department.

His talk following the Friends dinner is entitled "The Diversity of

Life." It will be illustrated with slides and will explore issues related to biodiversity, natural history and conservation.

Library Perspectives, a newsletter for users and Friends of the Oberlin College Library, is issued two times a year. Printed from an endowed fund established by Benjamin A. and Emiko Custer. Editors: Ray English and Jessica Grim.

Focus on the Collections:

The Violin Society of America - Herbert K. Goodkind Collection

Itzhak Perlman has called it “the most significant single collection of literature in the world about the making, playing, and teaching of stringed instruments.” He was referring to the collection of the violin collector, appraiser and bibliophile Herbert K. Goodkind (1905-1982), which was jointly purchased by Oberlin and the Violin Society of America in 1986 and is now housed in the Main Library Special Collections Department. The collection, one of the most comprehensive in the world for its subject matter, includes over 1,250 books, scores, and periodical titles that are separately cataloged; more than 550 auction catalogs; research and clippings files; personal papers; photographs; and two paintings.

The core of the books and scores collection, containing rare titles about the violin and scores for solo violin, violin chamber music, and violin methods treatises, was amassed by Hyman Frankel (d. 1959), a book and violin collector and twenty-five-year associate of Goodkind. Frankel asked Goodkind to care for the collection after his death. Goodkind continued to cultivate the collection and dreamed that it would one day be housed at a college where it could be accessible to students, scholars, builders, and musicians. The Oberlin Conservatory Library has in turn continued to nurture the collection by purchasing materials on the construction and history of stringed instruments in all languages.

The main focus of the collection is the construction of stringed instruments. Topics covered include acoustics; construction tools and materials; varnishes and varnishing techniques; bow construc-



Violin Instruction Book from the VSA - Goodkind Collection

tion; the repair, maintenance and restoration of stringed instruments; the techniques of individual makers; and the history of the violin and its ancestors. The collection also contains Goodkind's body of more than 550 exhibition catalogs and catalogs of musical instrument collections; his handwritten notebook indexing photographs of violins from published works, catalogs, and brochures; and works of fiction involving violins or violinists.

Other historical materials and media that provide “a valuable resource for the world of stringed-instrument players” (Yehudi Menuhin) are the collection of auction catalogs with violin sales, pricing and ownership information; the Herbert K. Goodkind papers; the papers of Edward Abell, an early twentieth century connoisseur of violin history and violin making; Goodkind's research files of photocopies of articles from periodicals and newspapers; photographs of

violin makers, violins, historical figures, and royalty; reproductions of the 1971 painting of Stradivari by Alton S. Tobey; and two paintings, the 1971 Tobey commissioned by Goodkind and a 1980 painting of Goodkind by Ted Koepper.

Some of the high points of the V. S. A.-Goodkind collection are:

- a first edition copy of Leopold Mozart's treatise on violin playing, *Versuch einer grundlichen Violinschule, entworfen und mit 4*, published in 1756, the same year as the birth of his son Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
- a nineteenth century album of 60 original albumen photographs of Franz Liszt, eight of which have Liszt's signature
- a 1747 treatise on the physics of violin tone production so rare that only one other copy was known to exist in 1894
- a copy of the 1751 London edition of *The Art of Playing on the Violin*, attributed to violinist and

continued on page 5

Violin Society of America. . . from page 4

composer Francesco Geminiani and thought to be the first work of its kind

- one of the oldest and rarest works on the theory of bowed instruments, unrivaled as a contemporary history of the viol and its music, the 1687 Paris edition of Jean Rousseau's *Traité de la Viole, qui Contient une Dissertation Curieuse sur son Origine*

- over fifty books about the early nineteenth century violin virtuoso/composer Niccolò Paganini, including works published during his lifetime

- thirty-two books about varnish and varnishing published between 1776 and 1981.

The collection also includes two copies of Goodkind's own magnum opus, *Violin Iconography of Antonio Stradivari, 1644-1773*, the definitive illustrated listing of 725 known Stradivari instruments

with the names of their owners past and present.

Herbert Goodkind was a founding member of the Violin Society of America, originally the American Society for the Advancement of Violin Making. The society was created to bring together concert artists, professional and amateur players, makers of instruments and bows, collectors, dealers, music lovers, and conservatories and libraries of music. Hans Tausig, former president of the VSA (1985-1995) said the society chose to become partners with Oberlin in the purchase of the collection because of our midwestern location, renown as a center for the study of music, and reputation for providing excellent conservation care of library materials while still providing open access to scholars. Members of the society and other stringed instrument scholars consult the collec-

tion each year while attending violin restoration and stringed instrument workshops hosted by Oberlin.

The VSA - H. K. Goodkind Collection: A Guide and Selective Index to the Stringed Instrument Construction Collection at the Oberlin College Library, compiled and edited by Linda Richer, lists all book and periodical titles in the collection as well as individual titles in the catalog collection. It includes descriptions and lists of the related archival holdings as well as a selective index to the stringed instrument construction and history materials. Copies of the guide may be ordered for \$25 (includes shipping) from:

Alan Boyd
Associate Director of Libraries
Oberlin College Library
148 West College Street
Oberlin, OH 44074-1532

Citation Indexes Available via the Web. . . from page 2

over 3,300 of the world's leading scientific and technical journals. Disciplines covered include: anthropology, history, law, psychology, political science, public health, social issues, sociology, urban studies, and women's studies.

The **Science Citation Index** indexes 5,300 major journals across 164 scientific disciplines. Some of the disciplines covered include: agriculture, astronomy, biochemistry, biology, chemistry, computer science, mathematics, medi-

cine, neuroscience, physics, plant sciences, and zoology.

To access ISI's citation databases from a Web browser from the Oberlin College campus network, use the following URL: **http://cite.ohiolink.edu/isi/CIW.cgi**

1,150 Elsevier Journals Now Available Online. . . from page 1

provides full text access to almost 200 journals from the Academic Press (see *Library Perspectives*, September 1996). Agreements with additional publishers are planned for the near future.

The Electronic Journal Center complements the traditional paper-based journal collection at Oberlin by providing an easy-to-use World Wide Web interface to some of the scientific, technical, and social sciences journals the Library already receives, as well as offering access for the first time to hundreds of additional titles. The Center al-

lows users to:

- Browse through journal tables of contents, navigating through different titles, issues and articles using hypertext links

- Bookmark Electronic Journal Center URLs to provide quick access to issues and articles for future reference and to mail citations to colleagues

- Read articles on-line using a variety of formats

- Print high-quality black-and-white versions of articles on any laser printer connected to the users' local workstation

- Search the title, abstract, author and/or full text of the articles in the collection to find relevant material.

In addition, it will soon be possible to:

- Save frequently used searches to be re-executed at a later time

- Run automatic searches each time new data is added, and receive the results through e-mail.

To access the Electronic Journal Center from the Oberlin College campus network, use the following URL:

http://journals.ohiolink.edu/etext/

JOIN US. BE A FRIEND.

The **Friends of the Oberlin College Library** provide significant support for special acquisitions and programs that help the library fulfill its fundamental role in the academic life of the college.

Members receive the *Library Perspectives* newsletter (published two times a year), invitations to Friends programs, and other privileges. Most of all, Friends have the satisfaction of supporting Oberlin's outstanding library.

Annual membership categories: \$1 Student

\$30 Friend

\$100 Sponsor

\$40 Couple

\$500 Patron

\$50 Associate

\$1000 Benefactor

Please return this coupon with your membership contribution to:

**Friends of the Oberlin College Library
Mudd Center, Oberlin, OH 44074**



Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Please make checks payable to Oberlin College.
Friends contributions are tax deductible.

Printed on recycled paper

Library Perspectives

Oberlin College Library
Mudd Center
148 West College Street
Oberlin, OH 44074

Non-profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Oberlin, Ohio
Permit No. 8