



PERSPECTIVES

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In Memoriam

William Andrew Moffett, 1933-1995

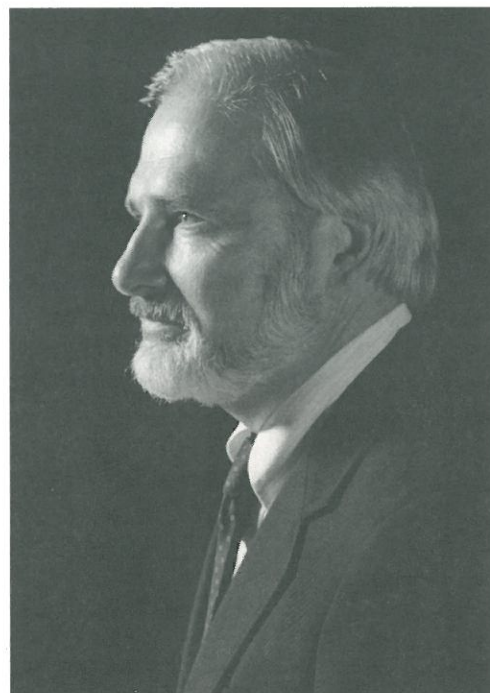
The Oberlin community was greatly saddened by the untimely death of William A. Moffett, who served as Azariah Smith Root Director of Libraries from 1979 to 1990. Moffett died at his home in Pasadena, California on February 20, following a two-year struggle with cancer.

President Nancy S. Dye, in announcing his death to the campus, noted that "Bill Moffett greatly improved the quality of Oberlin's library." Director of Libraries Ray English commented that "his death has taken a gifted librarian who would have continued to have a significant impact on the library profession for years to come."

The list of accomplishments during Moffett's tenure as library director is impressive. In the eleven years he was at Oberlin the quality

and service orientation of the library staff was markedly improved, library functions were automated and the first online catalog was installed, support for library acquisitions and collection development was substantially increased, an addition to the Conservatory Library was built and the former library was renovated, and a variety of services in support of the academic program were greatly improved and expanded.

Moffett had an immediate impact on Oberlin from the time he arrived in the Winter of 1979.



William A. Moffett

Alumni who were students at that time remember him as a very visible figure who changed the tone of
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Reveal Journal Table-of-Contents Site License

The Library recently negotiated a campus site license with the UnCover Corporation that will continue to provide the *Reveal* journal table of contents service at no cost to faculty who establish profile accounts.

This change has been made in response to the UnCover Corporation's decision to charge users an annual fee for the *Reveal* service.

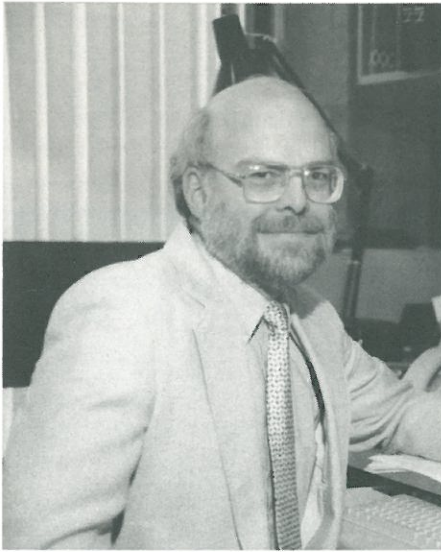
Reveal is one of several services from UnCover that are made available by the Library at no cost to faculty. These services include access to the extensive UnCover journal article database and rapid fax delivery of the full text of articles identified in the UnCover database. Faculty who use the *Reveal* service receive the table-of-contents of selected journals through electronic mail soon after

the journal issue is published.

Established users of *Reveal* will continue to receive the service, so long as it is being sent to an "Oberlin.edu" e-mail address. New users need the library's deposit account number and password to create a *Reveal* profile and to receive articles by fax. That information is available from reference staff in the main and branch libraries.

From the Director

The Library of the Future: Differentiating Real Promise from Madness and Snake Oil



Ray English

The rapid development of electronic information technologies has brought significant benefits to many academic libraries. At Oberlin the judicious implementation of these technologies will be an integral part of library planning for the foreseeable future. But one unfortunate by-product of the electronic information revolution is the confusion, uncertainty, and patently false impressions it has created in the minds of many well-informed people regarding the future of academic libraries.

The absence of a clearer picture of the library of the future has resulted from exaggerated predictions about the potential of the emerging electronic information environment. Futuristic scenarios include expert systems software; widespread electronic publishing; digitization of older books, journals, and other materials; shared access through electronic networks; and use of these resources from powerful workstations. There is no doubt that these trends will occur. In fact, many of them are already upon us. But in the more extreme utopian visions, this electronic future is what *constitutes*

the library. Printed books and the physical spaces we know as libraries become things of the past.

Two new books, one intended for general audiences and the other for library professionals, should help create a more realistic impression of future libraries in the public mind. The first is *Silicon Snake Oil: Second Thoughts on the Information Highway* by Clifford Stoll (Doubleday, 1995). The second is *Future Libraries: Dreams, Madness, and Reality* by Walt Crawford and Michael Gorman (Am. Lib. Assn., 1995). Stoll is an astronomer and popular writer who is best known for *The Cuckoo's Egg*, a book about his discovery of a computer hacker who penetrated classified systems at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory. Crawford is a senior analyst for the Research Libraries Group and Gorman, a prolific author in the library field, is Dean of Library Services at California State University, Fresno.

Stoll's *Silicon Snake Oil* combines thoughtful reflection and outright diatribe in a consistent attack on the hyperboles that have accompanied discussions of the information superhighway. Stoll mounts a variety of arguments to support his claim that "the bookless library is a dream, a hallucination." While his book is itself overstated and subject to hyperbole, it does point out serious flaws in futuristic library models. These include reader preference for the book format, the fact that electronic media are not archival in nature, the cost of digitization, difficulties relating to copyright and preservation, and the problems of providing structured access to information in a distributed electronic environment.

Crawford and Gorman's *Future Libraries* critiques futuristic electronic library models while also assessing the value of electronic technologies for improved library services. Their chapters on "The Madness of Technolust," "Deconstructing Dreams of the All-Electronic Future," and "Future Libraries: Beyond the Walls" merit careful reading by those who want to consider the realistic potential of electronic technologies for libraries.

As I consider the future of academic libraries, it appears certain that electronic information technologies will become increasingly important. These technologies have enormous potential for providing improved access to information resources of various kinds, including bibliographic access tools, reference works, journal and newspaper articles, as well as materials that would not otherwise be part of a library's collections. At the same time, the printed book has proved remarkably enduring as a preferred format for sustained reading and reflection. There's no valid reason to believe that it will be replaced by the computer. In addition, libraries in their current form offer physical spaces that are exceptionally well suited to the kind of reading and reflection that is central to liberal education. So we have every reason to believe that libraries, though they will change rapidly as electronic technologies progress, will continue as physical spaces that contain materials in many formats and that rely heavily on books, journals, and other printed materials. Electronic resources will be a significant part of the future library environment. But it's important that we not mistake the part for the whole.

—Ray English, Director of Libraries

Collecting Faulkner

"There it was, my own Grail vision, an end to a quest that I had often thought might be as impossible as those of Don Quixote. Sitting on a shelf in the back of a tiny bookstore in downtown Ann Arbor was a book entitled *Faulkner's MGM Screenplays*. I was stunned. I had often hoped as I searched through used bookstores from Washington, D.C. to San Francisco that someday I might come across something as exciting as this book." So writes David Filner (Class of 1996), the winner of the second annual student book collecting competition sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Filner, a double degree student in viola performance and English, began collecting works by and about Faulkner in his sophomore year at Oberlin, after taking a class on Faulkner. "We were required to read only eight of his novels, but once the class had finished I was starved for more. I wanted to read everything that I could by this man, whether a novel, an article in *Sports Illustrated*, or an interview with students at the University of Virginia."

In the essay he submitted for the competition, Filner relates that his love for book collecting derives from his mother, who "stops at each and every bookstore that she

passes and searches the collection until she finds what she wants." His quest for Faulkner materials "began by collecting the easiest



David Filner

material to obtain and the most basic, Faulkner's nineteen major novels. Although I obtained them when I could, I tried to move chronologically so that I would have a picture of his developing style. Along the way, however, I came across a series of works that chronicled Faulkner's ideas about life and his work directly: *Faulkner at the University*, *Lion in the Garden*, and the other books that con-

tained speeches, interviews, or letters written by Faulkner. Once I had basically all of his novels, I began to look to his days as a Hollywood screenwriter to provide me with more access to his writing." Filner adds that currently he is focusing on Faulkner's works but may eventually add some biography to his collection as well. Emphasizing the sheer joy to be found in the process of collecting, Filner concludes his essay by stating: "I am sure that I will have a wonderful time leaving no stone unturned in my quest."

Books from David Filner's collection were exhibited in the Main Library during April. He received his first place prize, a check in the amount of \$300.00, on April 29 prior to Leonard Baskin's lecture on the Gehenna Press, a program jointly sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the Friends of Art.

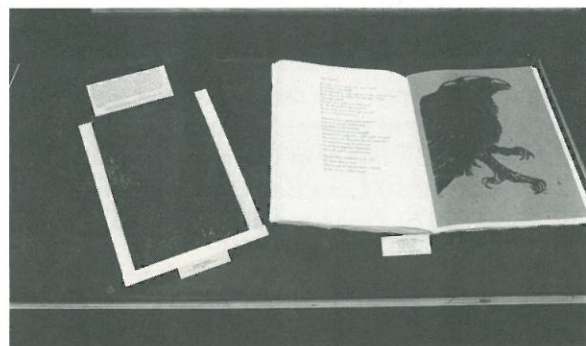
Judges for this year's contest were Paul Csank, of Keisogloff Rare Books, Cleveland; Susan Hill, of Miranda Books, Oberlin; and John Zubal, of John T. Zubal, Inc., Scholarly and Antiquarian Books, Cleveland. The Library is grateful to Friends members Willis and Marybeth Bridgeman of Amherst, Massachusetts for generously providing the prize for the contest.

Gehenna Press Exhibition

A selection of books and prints from the Gehenna Press, which was founded by artist and printer Leonard Baskin, is on display in the Main Library through Commencement. This exhibition, curated by Head of Special Collections Dina Schoonmaker, illustrates the production of this fine press through its fifty-three year history. It contains many items that are on loan from Leonard and Lisa Baskin.

One particularly interesting aspect of the exhibition is the inclusion of woodcut blocks and an etching plate used in the production of Gehenna Press books and prints. Pictured at right is *Capriccio*, a book of poems by Ted Hughes and engravings by Leonard Baskin (Gehenna Press, 1990). To the left of the

volume is the woodcut block used in printing the illustration.



Lucy Marks: Special Cataloger for a Special Collection

The Frederick B. Artz Collection in the History of Printing is one of the Library's finest special collections. Assembled by former Professor of History Frederick Artz over several decades beginning in the 1920s, the collection includes over two-hundred fifty rare books and manuscripts that illustrate the history of Western printing. This superb collection contains fine examples of illuminated manuscripts and incunabula as well as representative volumes from virtually all of the great printers in the Western tradition up to the early twentieth century.

While the collection was bequeathed to the library in 1983 upon Professor Artz' death, access to its riches has been limited because it has been cataloged only in abbreviated form. Since the library does not have a rare book cataloger on the staff, it was previously impossible to provide proper bibliographic access to the collection. That situation has now changed as a result of a unique cooperative arrangement that has drawn on the skill and generosity of two alumni and the assistance of a peer college.

During the past twelve months Lucy Marks '73, a librarian at Drew University in Madison, New

Jersey, has cataloged the rare books in the Artz Collection under a special arrangement with the Drew Library. Ms. Marks is a



Lucy Marks

professional rare book cataloger who worked previously at the Beinecke Library at Yale and at the Pierpont Morgan Library. During the course of the project volumes in the Artz collection were shipped to her in installments. She did descriptive cataloging work on them in her home, relying at times on the expert knowledge of her neighbor and friend Paul Needham, Curator of Rare Books at Sotheby's. She also used the Drew Library cataloging facilities for access to national bibliographic databases as well as OBIS,

Oberlin's online library system. The result of her work, completed one full year after she began the project, is complete cataloging for all rare books in the Artz collection.

This special project was made possible through the generous financial support of Wallace Sprague '38. Mr. Sprague has a strong interest in printing history that was kindled in large part by his studies at Oberlin with Professor Artz.

Harold Jantz '29, one of Oberlin's most eminent scholars and bibliophiles, said of the Artz collection:

"Most fortunate is the college library that is destined to inherit such a collection, for it will present and represent in tangible symbolic form the continuity of the human mind confronting the world in all its aspects, seeing the present far better from its perspectives out of the past and, perhaps also, into the future."

Most fortunate as well is the college library that has the assistance and support of such alumni as Lucy Marks and Wallace Sprague. The Library wishes to express publicly its thanks and appreciation to them and to the Drew University Library for making this project possible.

Recent Gifts

Arthur M. Eastman '40 recently donated a facsimile of the first folio of Shakespeare, the first collected edition of his plays, published in 1623. This 1968 facsimile, edited by Charlton Hinman, is a most welcome gift, since it is now no longer available. Eastman presented the gift in honor of Professor Emeritus Andrew Bongiorno, the inscription reading: "In honor of the rarest of teachers, Andrew Bongiorno."

Leonard and Lisa Baskin have given the library the beautifully illustrated 1970 Gehenna Press edition of Goethe's *West-Östlicher Divan / West-Eastern Divan*.

John McClellan of Cleveland Heights, Ohio has donated his personal collection of 683 volumes in the fields of philosophy and logic.

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

Frederic Cassidy '30, Editor of *Dictionary of American Regional English*, to Speak at Commencement

What do an elbow cousin, a flibbertigibbet, and a helmetpod have in common? And just what relation do these things have to cow rigging? They are all entries in one of the most extraordinary reference works to come along in decades, the *Dictionary of American Regional English* (DARE). It is *the* place to find out what's been insinuated if someone accuses you of *catawampiously* crossing the street. The Chief Editor of this important reference work, Frederic G. Cassidy '30, will be speaking at Oberlin on Saturday, May 27, as part of the Friends of the Library Commencement weekend events.

When the first volume of DARE (covering A-C) was published in 1985, the *New York Times* hailed the set as "...an astounding achievement, a landmark for the American language and of American scholarship," and declared the set would be "a major reference and sourcebook for lexicographers, linguists, social historians and folklorists for generations to come." Volume two of the set (D-H) was published in 1991; volume three (I-O) is approaching completion. In the introduction to DARE, an 1899 quote from the American Dialect Society, the sponsoring body of DARE, is used to express the essence of DARE's purpose and scope: "the investigation of the English Dialects of America with regard to pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, phraseology, and geographical distribution." The editors'

Moffett...from p. 1

the Library and the campus dramatically. As but one example, he established a suggestion board, which became colloquially known as the "WAM Board." A forum for lively—and at times heated—discussions and debate, the board

words, however, also from the introduction, provide the larger picture: "In DARE the editors have sought to produce a work...that will testify to the wondrous variety and creativeness of human language...."

What is perhaps most extraordinary about DARE is the depth and breadth of the project, as demonstrated by the extensive research undertaken by the editorial staff and fieldworkers. For five years a corps of about 80 fieldworkers conducted almost 3,000 face-to-face interviews in over 1,000 communities, covering all 50 states, in order to collect the data presented in DARE.

Frederic G. Cassidy received both the B.A. and M.A. from Oberlin College in 1930 and 1932, subsequently earning the Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. Professor Cassidy taught at Oberlin, Columbia, Stanford, the University of Strasbourg, and the

University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he was Professor of English from 1949-1978, and has been professor emeritus since 1978. Cassidy's publications, in addition to the *Dictionary of American Regional English*, include *Dictionary of Jamaican English*, *A Method for Collecting Dialect*, and *Jamaica Talk*. Cassidy has been the recipient of numerous awards and grants, including the Gold Musgrave medal, a National Endowment for the Humanities grant, a National Science Foundation grant, and a grant from the U.S. Office of Education. He has received honorary degrees from Oberlin, Indiana State University, the University of Wisconsin, and the University of Michigan.

Frederic Cassidy's talk, "American Regional Language: How We All Speak" will take place at 3 p.m. on Saturday May 27, in King 106. A reception in the Rice/King courtyard will follow

From the *Dictionary of American Regional English*

beatenest n One's best; one's utmost effort.

1907 Wright *Shepard* 12 **Ozarks**, "Taint no wonder 't all, God rested when he made these here hills; he jus naturally *had t'* quit, fer he done his *beatenest an'* was plumb gin [=given] out.

callithumpian n A boisterous, rowdy group (or a member of such a group) that assembles with noisemakers, spec: a For merrymaking in a parade, esp on New Year's Eve or the fourth of July.

hooky bob v phr, hence freq vbl n *hooky bobbing*, also *hooky bobbins* Also sp *hookey bob* chiefly NW Cf **bum-riding** To hold onto a moving vehicle so as to be towed along over snow or ice.

served as a focal point for Moffett's efforts to make the Library more responsive to student and faculty needs.

Moffett also increased Oberlin's visibility within the national library community. In 1986

he invited over seventy library directors from the nation's most selective liberal arts colleges to Oberlin for a conference to discuss common concerns. The event was so successful that it led to the

—continued on p. 6

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founding of the Oberlin Group, a consortium of leading liberal arts college libraries. Moffett also became an articulate and very effective advocate within the profession for the value of liberal arts colleges and their libraries.

Moffett achieved national notoriety in 1981 when he captured a professional book thief at the Library. The incident was at the time one of the most serious and celebrated cases of library theft. Moffett used the occasion to draw attention to the serious problem of book theft and the need for law enforcement and the library profession to improve their response to the problem.

In 1990 Moffett became director of the Huntington Library in San Marino, California. In that capacity he gained international recognition when he opened access

to qualified scholars to the Huntington's microform copies of the Dead Sea Scrolls, breaking a long-standing monopoly on scrolls study.

One of the nation's most prominent library figures, Moffett was named Academic-Research Librarian of the Year by the Association of College and Research Libraries in 1993. He was the recipient of numerous other awards and honors.

Reaffirming his long-standing affinity with Oberlin, William A. Moffett chose to be buried in Westwood Cemetery. His ashes were interred there on May 5 in a private service. On May 6, following a memorial service at First Church, the William A. Moffett Auditorium on the lower level of Mudd Center was dedicated in his memory.

Contributions in memory of William A. Moffett may be made to either of the following:

William A. Moffett Endowed
Library Acquisitions Fund
Oberlin College Library
Mudd Center
Oberlin College
Oberlin OH 44074-1532

William A. Moffett Endowed
Library Acquisitions Fund
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San Marino CA 91108

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