



LIBRARY

A Newsletter of the
Oberlin College Library

PERSPECTIVES

NUMBER THIRTEEN

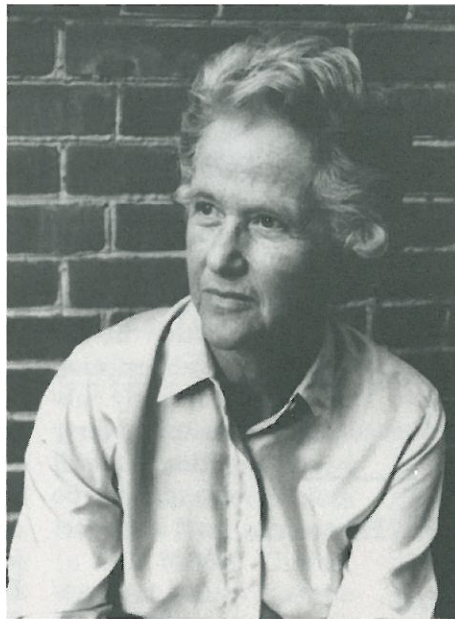
SEPTEMBER 1995

Elizabeth Eisenstein to Deliver Jantz Lecture

Dr. Elizabeth Eisenstein, Professor Emerita at the University of Michigan, will deliver the fifth Harold Jantz Memorial Lecture on Saturday, November 4 in conjunction with the annual Friends of the Library fall events.

Professor Eisenstein's research, particularly her book *The Printing Press as an Agent of Change* (Cambridge, 1979), has been instrumental in creating a new understanding of the importance of printing in cultural history. Her work has also helped move printing history into the mainstream of historical study.

Professor Eisenstein is the author of four books and numerous scholarly articles. Her most recent book is *Grub Street Abroad: Aspects of the Eighteenth Century French Cosmopolitan Press* (Oxford, 1992). After receiving the



Elizabeth Eisenstein

A.B. from Vassar College and the M.A. and Ph.D. from Radcliffe College, she taught at the American University in Washington, D.C. from 1959 to 1974. She was Alice

Freeman Palmer Professor of History at the University of Michigan from 1975 until 1988.

Professor Eisenstein is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Rockefeller and Guggenheim Foundations.

The Jantz Lecture, responsibility for which is shared on an annual rotating basis by the Library, the German section of the German-Russian Department, and the Allen Memorial Art Museum, honors Harold Jantz '29, a distinguished scholar of German and comparative literature and a noted book and art collector.

The title of Professor Eisenstein's lecture is: "Printing as Divine Art: Celebrating Western Technology in the Age of the Hand Press."

Mellon Foundation Funds Ohio College Library Cooperation

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation of New York City has awarded a grant in the amount of \$840,000 to fund the development of a consortium of five Ohio liberal arts colleges in order to improve educational effectiveness and realize cost savings at participating institutions.

A major portion of the grant will support cooperation and re-

source sharing among the five libraries of Oberlin College, Denison University, Kenyon College, Ohio Wesleyan University, and the College of Wooster. Four of the five libraries (Denison, Kenyon, Ohio Wesleyan, and Wooster) will use the grant to develop an online shared library catalog linked by a dedicated telecommunications network. All five libraries will have

access to electronic reference databases on a server to be located at Oberlin.

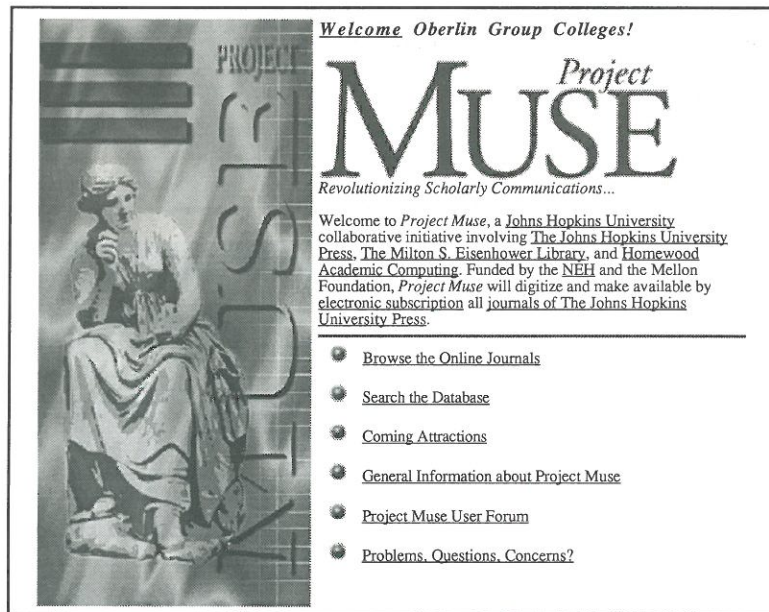
The electronic database project, which was funded by Mellon in the amount of \$140,000, will allow the five college libraries to share database subscriptions at significantly lower cost. It is anticipated that the database server

—continued on p. 2

Project Muse: New Electronic Journal Access

The Oberlin College Library is among the first institutions nationally to offer its academic community Internet access to the full text of certain scholarly journals. Johns Hopkins University's Project Muse is a path-breaking venture in providing journals electronically. Oberlin is a charter member of Project Muse, along with fifty-seven other liberal arts colleges, all members of the Oberlin Group library consortium.

Starting on August 21, the full text of recent issues of the following journal titles were made available through Project Muse via the Library's World-Wide Web site: *Configurations*, *Modern Fiction Studies*, *Reviews in American History*, *English Literary History*, and *Modern Language Notes*. Additional journals will be added approximately each month until all forty journals published by Johns Hopkins University Press are



Welcome Oberlin Group Colleges!

Project MUSE
Revolutionizing Scholarly Communications...

Welcome to Project Muse, a Johns Hopkins University collaborative initiative involving The Johns Hopkins University Press, The Milton S. Eisenhower Library, and Homewood Academic Computing. Funded by the NEH and the Mellon Foundation, Project Muse will digitize and make available by electronic subscription all journals of The Johns Hopkins University Press.

- [Browse the Online Journals](#)
- [Search the Database](#)
- [Coming Attractions](#)
- [General Information about Project Muse](#)
- [Project Muse User Forum](#)
- [Problems, Questions, Concerns?](#)

Project Muse Home Page

subscribe to Project Muse journals at a fifty-percent reduction in the regular electronic subscription rates. The Library currently subscribes to twenty-seven of the forty titles that will eventually be part of Project Muse.

In developing Project Muse, Johns Hopkins University Press hopes to create electronic journals that are easy to use, reasonably priced, and more widely accessible within indi-

vidual academic communities. The Project Muse database is updated and maintained on a server at Johns Hopkins.

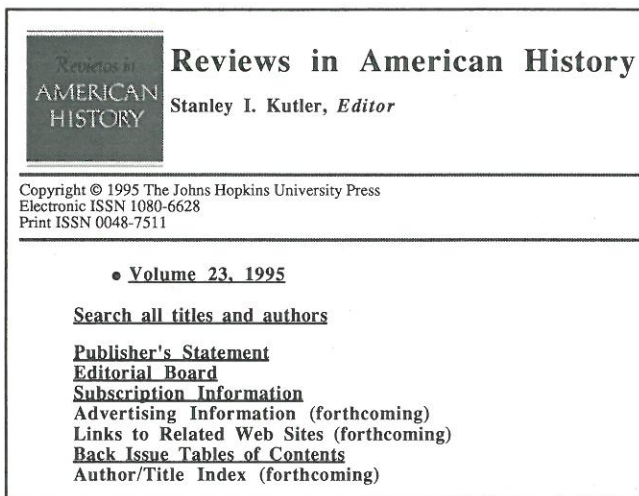
Each of the Project Muse titles will be cataloged in OBIS, with a direct link from the catalog record to the Project Muse server. These direct links will provide seamless connections between searching the

Library's online catalog to see if we have a given journal title, and viewing the text of the journal articles themselves. There will also be links to the Project Muse journals from the OBIS home page (from workstations within the library) and from the Oberlin College Library home page. To explore Project Muse, connect to the Oberlin College Library home page at http://www.oberlin.edu/~library/OCL_homepage.html, and click on "What's New."

Mellon Grant... from p. 1

will have much faster response than the CD-ROM databases currently used by the five libraries, that it will have flexible search software, and that it will display periodical and serial holdings from both the OBIS system at Oberlin and the catalog shared by the other four institutions.

Project plans call for the shared catalog and the reference databases to be operational by the fall semester 1996. All five libraries will be participants in the OhioLINK statewide resource sharing system by that time.



Reviews in American History
Stanley I. Kutler, *Editor*

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Reviews in American History on Project Muse

online. Issues will be published electronically a few weeks in advance of the printed version.

Oberlin's participation in Project Muse is made possible through an agreement between participating Oberlin Group libraries and Johns Hopkins University Press. Under the terms of this agreement the Library will sub-

Library Welcomes New Staff



Paula Contreras and Maurine McCourry

The Library is pleased to welcome two new members of the professional staff.

Maurine McCourry is a music cataloger in the Conservatory Library. Her two-year position, funded by a generous gift from William G. Roe, will focus on completing retrospective conversion of

the Conservatory Library scores collection.

Maurine completed the Bachelor of Arts in music in 1988 at the University of the South (Sewanee, Tennessee) and the Master of Information and Library Studies at the University of Michigan in 1994. A singer, Maurine has also under-

taken graduate study in voice at the University of North Texas.

Having worked for nearly four years in various cataloging-related positions at the University of Michigan Libraries, Maurine brings to her work at Oberlin valuable experience in the complexities of music cataloging in the on-line environment.

Paula Contreras is a reference librarian in the Main Library Reference Department for the 1995-96 academic year.

Paula received the Master of Library and Information Science in 1994 from the University of Illinois, where she also did coursework in educational policy studies. Her undergraduate degree in sociology is from the University of California, San Diego.

Paula has had experience both as a reference librarian at Eastern Illinois University and as a graduate assistant at the University of Illinois, working in the documents, public services, and reference departments.

Oberlin Participates in New Cooperative Cataloging Program

The Oberlin College Library has been invited to participate in the Library of Congress-sponsored National Bibliographic Cooperative Cataloging Program (BIBCO). BIBCO is part of a multifaceted program among academic and research libraries that seeks to increase the availability of unique cataloging records and the cost effectiveness of creating them under mutually acceptable standards.

John Sluk, Head of the Monographs Department, will attend a BIBCO training seminar in September at the Library of Congress. John will in turn train catalogers at Oberlin as well as at least one other academic library. Oberlin is

the only college library among the twelve libraries that has been invited to participate in this initial round of BIBCO instructor training.

The program will enable catalogers at Oberlin to contribute even more frequently to the national cooperative cataloging effort. The library's catalogers are already distinguished as being the only college library staff in the nation to participate directly in two other well-respected national efforts: NACO, the Name Authority Cooperative, and Enhance, the OCLC program to improve and enrich the world's largest bibliographic database.

New Features in OBIS

An upgraded version of the software for OBIS (Innovative Interfaces, Inc. Release 9.0) was installed in August. New and improved features include enhanced limiting of searches as well as the ability to export search results to an e-mail address and to have OBIS search, with one keystroke, for additional titles by an author.

The new software also paves the way for the Library's full participation in OhioLINK, starting later this year (see *Perspectives* article, May 1994, p.1 for a brief introduction to OhioLINK).

To try out the new features, connect to the OBIS system at: obis.lib.oberlin.edu.

President Dye to Speak at Friends Dinner



President Dye

President Nancy Schrom Dye will be the featured speaker following the Friends of the Library annual dinner on Saturday, November 4.

An active library user, President Dye is fully aware of complex issues that face contemporary academic libraries. As Dean of the Faculty at Vassar College, she was the senior administrator responsible for both the library and for academic computing.

President Dye will speak on "Reading and the Future of Libraries."

Remembering the War Years

"Last Tuesday I said to you that the College, like each one of us, must now lead two lives, one normal, the other a special life related to the war.

"The normal life of the College will go straight forward. We shall continue to offer the courses that we normally offer; and those of you who may desire and be able to go through college on the normal four-year plan may do so. Indeed, if you can, you will do well to do so.

"But the College is developing also its special life related to the war; and it is of that special life that I am telling you today. That special life is being developed primarily for the sake

of the nation and for your own sake."

So began President Ernest H. Wilkins' assembly talk to the student body shortly after the United States entered World War II. The text of his talk is one of many fascinating items in an exhibition entitled "Less Frills in Everything: Oberlin College Life During the Second World War." The exhibition will be on display in the Main Library until September 18.

—continued on p. 6



From the War Years Exhibit

Friends of the Oberlin College Library Fall 1995 Programs

**Thursday, September 28,
10:00 a.m.—noon**

Library Used Book Sale: Friends of the Library Pre-sale.

Book sale continues through 7:00 p.m. Friday, September 29

Saturday, November 4

2:00 p.m. Friends Council and Membership Meeting

4:30 p.m. Harold Jantz Memorial Lecture, Professor Elizabeth Eisenstein

5:45 p.m. Annual Reception and Dinner
Featured speaker: President Nancy Schrom Dye

**Friday, November 17,
4:00 p.m.**

Faculty Book Talk by Ronald C. Kahn, Professor of Politics, *The Supreme Court and Constitutional Theory: 1953-1993.*

Friends Update

1994-95 was another successful year for the Friends of the Library. During the year over \$20,000 was contributed to the Friends, and the group made numerous important acquisitions for the Library.

As of June 30 the organization counted 812 current members, including 378 who contributed directly to the Friends, 252 who donated to other library funds or provided gifts-in-kind, 172 student members, 9 life members, and 3 honorary members.

Programs sponsored by the Friends featured Johnnetta Cole, President of Spelman College, Leonard Baskin, noted printer and artist, and Frederic Cassidy, Chief Editor of the *Dictionary of American Regional English.*

William Roe Funds Preservation Endowment and Cataloging Project

William G. Roe '64 has provided a generous gift that will be divided equally between two areas critical to the Library's mission. Half of his gift will be dedicated to the Library's preservation endowment fund. Income from this new endowed fund will be used to deacidify books printed on acidic paper and to preserve brittle books either by photocopying and rebinding them or by converting them to microfilm. The library began new preservation initiatives in these areas over a year ago after receiving a major grant from the Charles M. Culpeper Foundation. Income from the preservation endowment

will be used following the completion of the three-year Culpeper grant.

The other half of Roe's gift will be used to fund a two-year project to convert bibliographic records for scores in the Conservatory Library to machine-readable form. About twenty-five percent of the scores classified in the Dewey Decimal Classification system are not yet accessible through OBIS. Bibliographic information for these scores is currently available only in the Conservatory Library's Dewey card catalog. As a result, users of the Conservatory Library must often search multiple

locations before they locate a particular score.

Once all scores cataloging information has been converted to machine-readable form, students and faculty members will have full access to all these materials simply by searching the OBIS catalog. (See the announcement on page 3 of the new librarian whose work is funded by this gift).

William Roe has been a member of the Library Visiting Committee since its inception and he has also served as Chair of the Library Capital Campaign Steering Committee. He is a Life Member of the Friends of the Library.

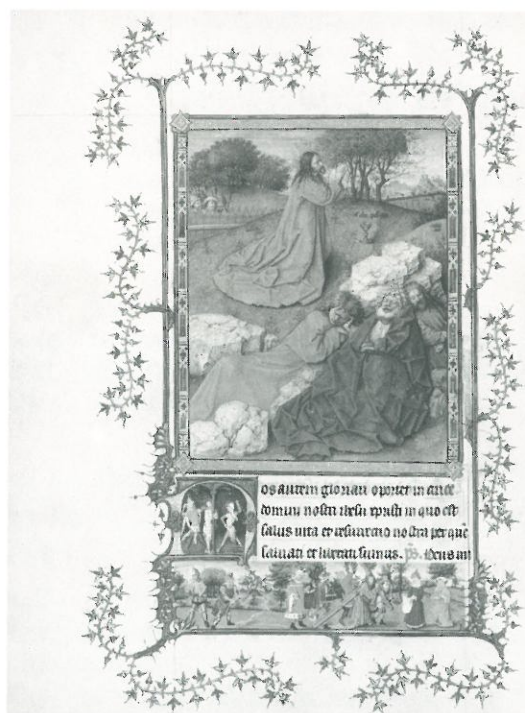
Wallace Sprague Donates Important Manuscript Facsimile

In recognition of former Professor of History Frederick B. Artz's teaching and writing on medieval history and culture, Wallace A. Sprague '38 has provided funding for a valuable, three-volume facsimile edition of the *Très Belles Heures de Notre-Dame* (*The Very Beautiful Hours of Our Lady*), a late-medieval illuminated manuscript of great scholarly importance.

Originally commissioned in 1380 by the renowned bibliophile Jean, Duke of Berry (1340–1416), the three-part manuscript served as a showcase for the most important artists active in Northern Europe from the late fourteenth through mid-fifteenth centuries. The first part of the manuscript, a Book of Hours, was completed by 1413 and is preserved today in the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris. In 1405 the Duke of Berry commissioned a second phase of the project, a prayer book and missal (texts of the Mass for the entire year), which eventually passed to John of

Bavaria, Count of Holland, who commissioned Jan van Eyck to complete the work. Now preserved in the Museo Civico, Turin and known as the Turin-Milan hours, this portion of the manuscript contains the only known miniatures by van Eyck.

Jeffrey Hamburger, Irvin E. Houck Associate Professor of Art History and a specialist in medieval illuminated manuscripts, comments that: "No manuscript of the period surpasses the *Très Belles Heures* in importance—and none plays a more significant role in my courses on late medieval painting and Northern Renaissance art. This reproduction provides a state-of-the-art simulacrum that will allow students to experience the extraordinary complexity of an elaborately



"Agony in the Garden"
from the *Très Belles Heures*

illustrated manuscript book in a way that is simply impossible with slides and diagrams alone."

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.

JOIN US. BE A FRIEND.

Members receive the *Library Perspectives* newsletter, 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

- \$25 Friend \$30 Couple \$50 Associate
- \$100 Sponsor \$500 Patron \$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.

War Years...*from p. 4*

Created by Susan Haskell '95 with assistance from the Oberlin College Archives and the Special Collections Department, the exhibition was opened in conjunction with the reunion of the classes of 1939 to 1949 held on campus in late August.

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.

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