

LIBRARY PERSPECTIVES

A Newsletter of the
Oberlin College Library

NUMBER TWO

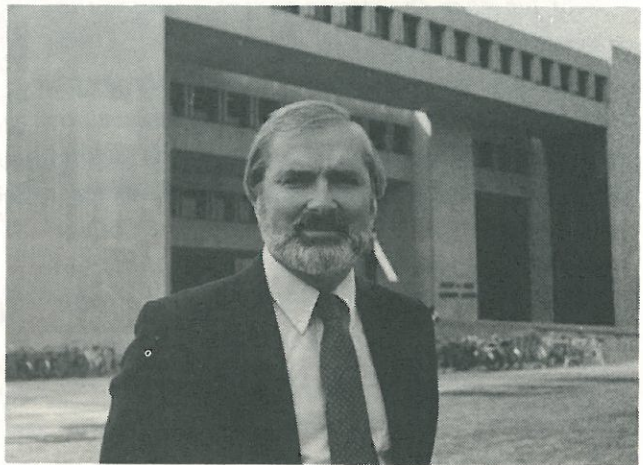
MARCH 1992

Moffett to Lecture on Dead Sea Scrolls and Intellectual Freedom

Former Director of Libraries William A. Moffett, now Director of the Huntington Library in San Marino, California, will return to Oberlin on March 10 to present the first Friends of the Library program of the spring semester. His lecture will describe the events surrounding the Huntington Library's decision to allow open access to its collection of photographs of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

The Huntington's decision to make the scrolls available to all scholars without restrictions received widespread national and international press coverage. The story was featured on front pages of major newspapers in the United States and several foreign countries, and Moffett subsequently appeared on a number of national television and radio news programs. Although initially challenged by the Israeli Antiquities Commission, which controlled and severely restricted access to the scrolls, the Huntington's decision won widespread support from scholars, librarians, and the press. It soon led to a more open policy of access to the scrolls and to photographic reproductions held by other repositories.

Because of his success in addressing the scrolls issue as well as his accomplishments while at Oberlin



William A. Moffett

and the Huntington, Moffett was recently featured by *Library Journal* as runner-up for their 1991 Librarian of the Year award.

The title of Moffett's presentation will be "Standing Up for Intellectual Freedom: Opening Access to the Dead Sea Scrolls." The lecture will be held on Tuesday evening, March 10, at 8:00 p.m. in King 306. A reception will follow in the Rice Hall Faculty Lounge.

King Gift of Renaissance Books

Mrs. Ernestine E. King '38 of Corning, New York has recently given the library five rare Italian Renaissance books. Included in her gift is an edition of Plutarch's essay on flattery and friendship published in Rome in 1514; the 1640 Florentine edition of Diego De Franchi's history of Saint Giovanni Gualberto, an important

source on the intellectual and cultural life of Renaissance Florence; a 1521 Venetian edition of essays by the Roman biographer Suetonius; a 1543 edition of the dialogues of the Italian author Speroni; and a collection of anecdotes by author and composer Antonio Doni published in Venice in 1562.

These books were purchased in Italy by Charles H. A. Wager, Professor of English at Oberlin from 1900-1939, and given to Charles and Ernestine King by Wager's widow, Annie, in 1942. Charles King '37 is the grandson of Oberlin President Henry Churchill King.

From the Director

During the course of 1991 the library received several fine gift collections, which were made possible in part by a federal tax provision enacted as part of the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1990. We're very pleased that Congress has approved an extension of this provision through June 30, 1992, since it has clear benefits for donors, libraries, and the diverse community of students and scholars they serve.

The provision allows all donors to deduct the full fair market value of charitable gifts of appreciated personal property (such as rare books, book collections, and art works) regardless of whether the donor is liable under the alternative minimum tax.

If you're considering a gift to the library of rare books or of books that are valuable as a collection, the next few months provide a fine opportunity to make such a donation. Please contact either me or Eric Carpenter, our Collection Development Librarian, at the Main Library (216-775-8285). We'll be happy to talk with you about your gift and put you in touch with other College staff who can explain the details of the tax provision.

Ray English

Azariah Smith Root Director of Libraries



William G. Roe (right), whose membership challenge was instrumental in the initial success of the Friends of the Library, presents a check for \$10,000 to Director of Libraries Ray English. The check fulfills Roe's pledge to match the membership contributions of all those who joined the Friends during the three weeks preceding the inaugural events on November 2, 1991. Approximately 165 people, 44% of the present membership, became founding members of the Friends while his challenge was in progress.

Friends Interim Council Chosen

The Bylaws of the Friends of the Oberlin College Library, which were passed at the inaugural meeting in November, call for the establishment of an interim council that will serve as the governing body of the Friends until the first duly-elected council is installed at the second annual meeting. The members of the interim council, who were chosen by a nominating committee, are listed below:

Officers:

Erwin N. Griswold '25, Honorary President; Scott B. Bennett '60, President; Nathan A. Haverstock, Sec'y

Members:

Paul B. Arnold, Marian H. Baum, Willis E. Bridegam, Marybeth Bridegam '57, Benjamin A. Custer '31, Ruth I. Hughes '85, Robert H. Jackson, Shirley Lincicum '93, Aaron Maass '95, Marlene D. Merrill, Sean M. Neall '73, Lois G. Peterson, Janice Zinser

Ex-officio members:

Terry Carlton, Chair, Faculty Library Committee; Ray English, Director of Libraries; Ronald Stephany, Vice President for Development; Jessica Grim, Reference Librarian; Dina Schoonmaker, Curator of Special Collections

Friends of the Library Programs Spring Semester

March 10, 8:00 p.m.

Lecture by William A. Moffett
*Standing Up for Intellectual Freedom:
Opening Access to the Dead Sea Scrolls*
King 306, reception following in Rice Hall
Faculty Lounge.

May 12, 8:00 p.m.

Lecture by Eliot H. Stanley
The Book Arts of Rockwell Kent
Art Auditorium.

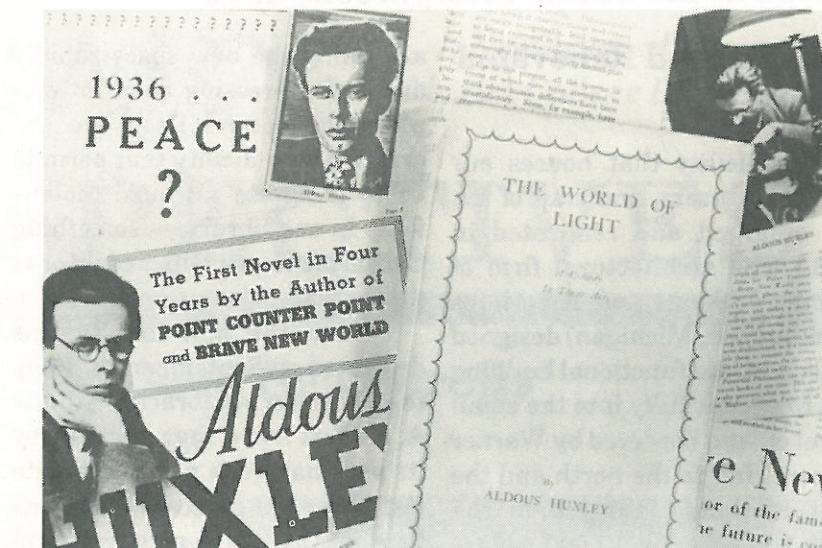
May 23, 4:00 p.m.

Friends Commencement Wknd. Reception,
with Special Collections presentation
Goodrich Room, Mudd Center.

Jackson Donates Aldous Huxley Collection

Robert H. Jackson, a Cleveland attorney and member of both the Library Visiting Committee and the Friends of the Library Council, has recently donated to the library the first installment of a collection of works by and about Aldous Huxley.

This gift will eventually comprise all first editions of Huxley's works, both fiction and nonfiction, including such titles as *Jonah*, a rare early verse work. The collection at present consists of several first editions as well as many secondary titles. The full collection will be donated by Jackson over a period of two to three years and will be housed in the Library's Special Collections Department,



where it will be available to students, faculty members, and visiting scholars.

The Library is delighted to have this significant addition to our holdings in twentieth-century English literature.

A Look at the Conservatory Library: Then and Now

Writing in the Music Library Association's *Notes* of August 1940, Catharine Ann Keyes, Conservatory Librarian at Oberlin College from 1939-45 (and a 1927 Conservatory graduate), observed that "The Library of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music (ca 35,000 vols.) dates from shortly after the establishment of the Conservatory in 1865." She went on to describe the Conservatory Library as essentially a circulating collection of scores, while Carnegie Library held "most of the important dictionaries, a number of bibliographical books, ...complete works (Bach, Schubert, Palestrina, etc.), and an adequate selection of periodicals, histories, biographies, and musical scores." She also noted the existence of two separate choral music libraries (one for the Musical Union), and a Public School Music Library. She concluded her report by observing that "the situation

cries for a much closer coordination of our resources."

Some fifty years after this published report, one suspects that Miss Keyes would be pleased to see the Conservatory Library today. (Catharine Keyes Miller subsequently served as Music Librarian and instructor of music bibliography at Columbia University and later as Music Librarian at the 58th Street Branch of the New York Public Library, the equivalent of today's Performing Arts Library at Lincoln Center.) During the last five decades the collection has more than tripled in size—in 1990 we surpassed the 100,000 volume mark for scores and books and count 38,000 recordings as part of our holdings as well. The 100,000 volume level is a particularly important milestone, placing the Conservatory Library in the company of the 10-15 largest academic music libraries in the country. One

suspects that Catharine Keyes Miller would be pleased as well by the collection's level of use and by its physical facility.

A Very Busy Place

While the process of building a music library collection is in itself a rewarding activity, the ultimate reward is seeing that collection used intensively by 550 students, 60 faculty, and some 500 participants in the numerous summer institutes and workshops sponsored by the Conservatory. During the 1990-91 academic year over 72,500 circulation transactions took place for recordings alone, another 43,000 for books and scores, and our reference staff provided assistance with more than 3,000 inquiries. By any measure, then, the Conservatory Library is a very busy place, and its large collections are used extensively.

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A Look at the Conservatory... *continued*

Enlarged and Renovated Facility

The facility that houses our collections, users, and staff of ten was enlarged and renovated in 1988. The architectural firm of Gunnar Birkerts and Associates (Birmingham, Michigan) designed an elegant and functional building that fits beautifully into the small parcel of land bordered by Warner Concert Hall to the north and the First Methodist Church to the south. The nearly 12,000 square feet of space on two floors of the addition (of which only the first floor was finished for immediate use) connects with the 6,800 square feet of library space in the 1964 Conservatory complex. While we

are filling the new space rapidly and feel a pressing need to complete the second floor, we are grateful for a facility that permits us to integrate all music collections in one library — something Catharine Keyes Miller could only dream about.

When the new facility was dedicated on September 23, 1988, then Director of Libraries William A. Moffett noted that a library by its very nature is never complete but always in process. That was true in 1940 with a collection of some 35,000 volumes scattered about the campus, and it is true of the Conservatory Library today. One can speculate about the changes that will occur over the course of another fifty years, as

unforeseen technologies transform library operations, sound and video storage and reproduction, and access to information of all types. What will remain constant, however, from 1940 to 1992 to 2040, is the commitment to preserving mankind's musical heritage as fully as possible in support of teaching, performance, and research at the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music.

Daniel Zager
Conservatory Librarian

Library Perspectives, a newsletter for users and Friends of the Oberlin College Library, is published three times a year.

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