

# The Messenger

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OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

VOL. 17 NO. 1





## OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

The Valley Library  
Main Campus, Corvallis

Marilyn Potts Guin Library  
Hatfield Marine Science Center, Newport

### THE MESSENGER

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ON THE COVER:  
*The Wayne Taysom fountain on the south  
facade of the Valley Library.*

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*At a time when state funding  
for higher education is on a downward  
spiral, does it make sense to have  
ARL membership as a goal or is it  
simply a pipe dream?*

Hello Library Supporters,

One of my long-standing goals is for the OSU Libraries to be a member of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) consortium. Why is ARL membership an important goal? First, ARL is *the* primary membership organization for research institutions. Second, it serves as a shorthand description of library excellence. Finally, such a goal provides OSU administrators and library supporters quantitative measures to see where support must increase to make OSU Libraries a top-tier library.

Currently, there are 120 ARL libraries including University of Washington, University of New Mexico, Harvard, and our sister institution, the University of Oregon. As a prominent research facility, Oregon State University Libraries deserves to be represented side by side with its academic peers. To quote the ARL home page:

The Association articulates the concerns of research libraries and their institutions, forges coalitions, influences informa-

tion policy development, and supports innovation and improvements in research library operations. Membership is based on the research nature of the library and the parent institution's aspirations and achievements as a research institution.

To be an ARL library is to be top-tier. Since achieving membership means reaching specific measurements based on quantitative data from comparable member institutions, university administrators and library supporters can quickly see where OSU Libraries need to improve. For example, the ARL measure for collection size is two million volumes while OSU Libraries' collection is slightly less than 1.5 million. In terms of journals, OSU Libraries owns 14,776 titles but ARL requires 19,175. Finally, OSU Libraries' expenditures are \$8,615,017 with ARL expecting \$10,000,000.

Fortunately, ARL also uses qualitative measures, and here OSU Libraries does much better. We have collection strength in oceanography, engineering, forestry, and of course the Ava Helen and Linus Pauling

Papers. Our library faculty is actively engaged in national and international organizations and projects that affect modern research libraries. In addition, the recent merger of University Archives with OSU Libraries is a positive force, as is the collaborative partnerships OSU Libraries has with the College of Forestry and the College of Engineering.

At a time when state funding for higher education is on a downward spiral, does it make sense to have ARL membership as a goal or is it simply a pipe dream? I am convinced it is both a solid goal and a realistic one. Financial support from campus administration is up, support from our many donors is up, and as a result of the recent endowment for the Gray Family Chair for Innovative Library Services, OSU Libraries is able to explore new services that will attract more funding as well as national visibility.

Stay tuned to this space for further developments!

*Kayle Butcher*

Karyle Butcher

**N**ew Employees:  
**Maureen Kelly** recently became the OSU-Cascades Campus librarian. Formerly the reference coordinator at the University of Puget Sound, Maureen has an MLS from the University of Washington and a degree in English literature from Portland State University. She will



*Maureen Kelly*

work directly with the Central Oregon Community College library and academic faculty.

**David Manela** joins our staff as the Library Technology Support Information Technology Consultant. David is helping maintain the public computers in the Information Commons and providing support for the laptop program. He earned a degree in computer engineering from OSU and worked for Residential Computer Network and Student Computing



*David Manela*

Facilities for many years as a student.

**Susan Wood** is the new InterLibrary Loan technician in Access Services. Susan most recently was a graduate student in women studies here at OSU. Prior to that she was employed in the ILL office at the University of Oklahoma, where she had worked in circulation as a student supervising student workers for three years before becoming a full-time staff member.



*Susan Wood*

**Christa Wrenn** is the new evening library technician in the Information Commons. She brings valuable experience from the University of Central

Florida, where she worked at the public service desks in circulation and the periodicals/AV room. Her experience supervising up to fifty student assistants is an excellent fit with her responsibilities for monitoring student workers in the Information Commons. ☼



*Christa Wrenn*

**F**aculty Achievements:  
**Bonnie Allen** was accepted to attend an intensive five-day academy in the evaluation of library service quality sponsored by the Association of Research Libraries and Texas A&M University. The academy will focus on both qualitative and quantitative methods for collecting and analyzing library service quality data. Bonnie's experience at the academy will be a great help as we continue to define the strategic direction of OSU Libraries.

**Catherine Murray-Rust** has coordinated a seminar series on digital libraries intended to help library staff prepare for digital library initiatives in OSU's future, including a natural resources digital library and support for the Tsunami Research Center. In addition to two sessions she delivered herself, she invited Robin Chandler, manager for the Online Archive of California at the California Digital Library, who presented in late April; and Michael Seadle, head of the Digital and Multimedia Center at Michigan State University, who was here at the beginning of May. ☼

**O**utstanding achievements of OSU Libraries faculty and staff were celebrated at an annual reception in December

2001. The following staff were recognized for their contributions to the library:

The Extraordinary Performance Award was given to **Bonnie Avery** for her willingness to take on additional assignments and offer her expertise to further the services of the department and the library.

The Extraordinary Performance Award was given to **Bryan Feyerherm** for his calm problem solving and willingness to lend his assistance and expertise to any department.

The Extraordinary Performance Award was given to **Elizabeth Nielsen** for her work to expand the use of and access to the riches of the University Archives across campus and in the region.

The Outstanding Library Service Award was given to **Kathy Varbel** for her consistent commitment to high-quality customer service and her enthusiastic assistance to her co-workers.

The Exceptional Merit Award was given to **Janet Webster** for her leadership in library associations and her advocacy for libraries, exemplified by her presidency of the Oregon Library Association. ☼



*Catherine Murray-Rust delivers the first of a series of seminars on digital libraries*



## OSU's First Digital Library

by Chris Petersen, Special Collections  
Faculty Research Assistant

The Valley Library's on-going commitment to the creation of digital libraries took an important step forward on February 28th, with the on-line release of the digitized Linus Pauling research notebooks (available at <http://osulibrary.orst.edu/specialcollections/rnb/index.html>). The forty-six notebooks, comprised of some 7,500 total pages, were made available to the public in celebration of what would have been Linus Pauling's 101st birthday.

As with many scientists, Dr. Pauling (1901–1994) utilized bound notebooks to record and analyze the details of his research as it unfolded. A testament to the remarkable length and diversity of his career, Pauling's notebooks span the years 1922 to 1994 and cover any number of the myriad scientific fields in which the double-Nobel laureate involved himself.

Highlights of the site include:

- A large trove of research notes written by Pauling and his assistants on the structure of crystals—investigations which would inform Pauling's eventual publication of *The Nature of the Chemical Bond* (1939), one of the seminal texts of modern science. Later notebooks contain early Pauling writings on the structure of proteins—important work which would eventually usher in the revolutionary concept of molecular disease.
- Laboratory data recorded by Ava Helen Pauling in 1923 and 1924. While it is commonly recognized that Ava Helen was the most influential person in Linus' life, few people know that, for a short time, she was actually her husband's laboratory assistant. In notebook two, Ava Helen even snuck



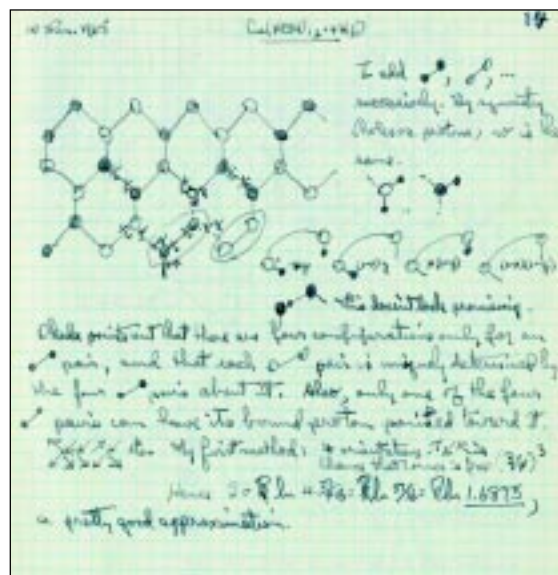
*Special Collections student workers (from left) Kim Ivancovich, Shannon Lowers, and Ryan Wick were integral in the effort to make the Pauling Research Notebooks accessible on-line.*

in a surreptitious "I love you," tucked away in a margin for Linus to discover.

- Pauling's account of a laboratory explosion caused by one of his graduate assistants—a blast so powerful that it was heard a mile away, causing the modern-day equivalent of \$182,000 worth of damage.
- Assorted scenes from daily life that Pauling thought important enough to record: his and Ava Helen's fiftieth wedding anniversary; the construction and furnishing of the couple's ranch house at Big Sur; the migration of grey whales along the Pacific coast; and the sporadic appearances of Linus' and Ava Helen's favorite local sea otter, whom they dubbed "Old Whitey."

Critical response to the website has been highly enthusiastic. Pauling biographer Tom Hager, author of *Force of Nature: The Life of Linus Pauling*, suggests that "OSU Libraries Special Collections has created a unique window on scientific history.

The online publication of Linus Pauling's research notebooks...represents a milestone in archival accessibility and a great boon for scientists, historians, teachers, and students." The website's opening was noted in both *The New York Times* and *Science*, and has been the subject of a feature article on the homepage of *National Geographic* magazine. ☼



*A page from notebook forty-six regarding the structure of copper (I) bicarbonate.*

## Shared Collection Initiative

In January 2002 a joint task force of administrators and department heads from Oregon State University and University of Oregon Libraries was formed to develop and implement the plans for a shared collection initiative. The libraries, both members of Orbis, a consortium of twenty-two academic libraries in Oregon and Washington, are the two largest research libraries in the state. The libraries share similar responsibilities and challenges and have a history of working cooperatively. The rapid rise in the output and cost of scholarly publications, much of it now in electronic format, accentuates the need for and advantages of sharing collections, especially given the most recent round of budget woes facing higher education in Oregon.

The two libraries are committed to creating a new model for building and maintaining our collections. This model

will allow for increased collection diversity, reduced redundancy, and efficient sharing of resources. Objectives of the shared collection initiative include:

**Creating a single print archive.** As each library adds electronic journals and databases, the use of print archives diminishes, thus reducing the need for extensive print holdings at each library.

**Reducing duplication.** The two libraries spend well over one million dollars on duplicate journal subscriptions. Careful analysis will be made to determine those cases where one copy of a subscription can satisfy the needs of both libraries.

**Resource sharing.** A rapid, cost-effective mechanism will be developed to efficiently share journal articles and bound volumes.

**Creating diversity.** Cooperative collection building will allow for adding titles not currently held by either library, thus enhancing research on both campuses. ☒



*Students checking out materials at the circulation desk. Under the new shared collection initiative, OSU students and faculty will have local access to portions of the UO collection, and vice versa.*



*(from left) Karyle Butcher, Cliff Mead, and Orcilia Zuniga-Forbes stand in front of a bust of Linus Pauling at the opening of the Pauling Exhibit at the Soka Music Museum in Hiroshima, Japan.*

## Linus Pauling Exhibit Opens Internationally

During April, University Librarian Karyle Butcher, Head of Special Collections Cliff Mead, Vice President of University Advancement Orcilia Zuniga-Forbes, and Administrative Officer of the Linus Pauling Institute Stephen Lawson joined Linus Pauling, Jr., to attend the opening of the "Linus Pauling and the Twentieth Century" exhibit in Hiroshima, Japan. The exhibit is designed to inspire audiences of all ages with the life of one of the greatest scientists and humanitarians of our age. It traces seven decades of Linus Pauling's life and influence on the twentieth century as scientist, humanitarian, peace activist, defender of civil liberties, and prominent researcher on orthomolecular medicine, nutrition, and health.

The city of Hiroshima was chosen because of its significance as the first target of an atomic bomb, which later became one of the defining events in the lifetime of this distinguished humanitarian. Soka Gakkai International, a Buddhist peace group whose recent leader enjoyed a robust friendship with Pauling, hosted the group.

While in Hiroshima, the group visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and other historical sites in the area. ☒



## A Misplaced Past Partially Recovered

by Bonnie Avery, Reference Librarian

**D**r. Jim Sedell is quick to point out the importance of tracking down and making available research data housed in forgotten file cabinets. Librarians sometimes call this the “grey” or “fugitive” literature.

OSU Libraries is pleased that Dr. Sedell has chosen to donate a significant piece of “grey literature,” to be housed at the University Archives, in the hopes that we can make it more available to researchers in the future. The collection consists of photos, field notes, and data from surveys of the Columbia River and its tributaries conducted by researchers of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service between 1934 and 1945. The original survey inventoried 390 streams and represented over 6400 kilometers, and this collection may well serve as the cornerstone of the OSU Digital Library Collection in Natural Resources.

Dr. Sedell is a research ecologist with the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station of the USDA Forest Service. In the 1980s Sedell’s research

interests in the historical reconstruction of watersheds led him to the available published literature on this survey, a series of seven summary reports which were issued between 1949 and 1950. The first of these indicated the series would limit itself to publishing only the “more important data.” A note added that the complete field notes, etc., were available to anyone wishing to see them.

Apparently not many researchers had made the effort to use this larger collection of information. By the time Dr. Sedell began looking for it, the reports and notes had been unbundled and moved from their original Seattle location. In mid-1986, with the help of Doug Dompier and Dale McCullough of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Sedell located a large portion of the collection in six boxes on the dirt floor of a Troutdale warehouse leased by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Accompanying them were photos and card files. Missing were the summary notes for four of the seven regions which had been transferred to Boise, Idaho in 1955 and remain at-large. Sedell applied for permission from the NMFS to archive these materials at Oregon State University for the benefit of researchers such as himself.

In these boxes, they located the research protocol as well. They were only successful in locating one of the original researchers, University of Indiana Limnologist Professor David G. Frey (now deceased). Among the areas Frey surveyed were the Grande Ronde, Salmon, and Willamette Basins. Frey agreed to come to Corvallis for a visit in 1990 and shared his keen memories of two years of surveying prior to the start of World War II with Bruce McIntosh, Jim Sedell, and others who were interested in comparing the data on stream pools from this historical collection to data they collected in a survey done between 1987 and 1997.

Of that visit, Frey wrote in a letter to Sedell,

The work you are doing is very impressive. I shall be interested in seeing what comes out of it. It should be much more valuable than just the Columbia River, as the comparison of the two surveys will indicate something about the dynamics of streams—the time frames involved—and what should be done to keep a stream in a “natural” condition.

In compiling the results of their research in 2000, Sedell and the other authors wrote,

We dedicate this research to all the individuals who worked on the Bureau of Fisheries Survey from 1934 to 1945. They toiled many long hours under difficult circumstances, only to have their data sit in boxes for 50 years, virtually unknown to the rest of the world. We are proud to walk in their footsteps in attempting to bring this work to life...

At OSU Libraries and Archives, we hope that in years to come others will find it easier to continue to walk in their footsteps. ☼



Poor fish ladder over Scio Dam on Thomas Creek, a tributary of the South Santiam River, Oregon, August 18, 1940.

## The Essence of an Individual

by Faye Harkins, Special Collections Library Technician

***"A book that bears its owner's plate carries with it a certificate of its master's love."***

—Eugene Field, U.S. poet, 1850–1895

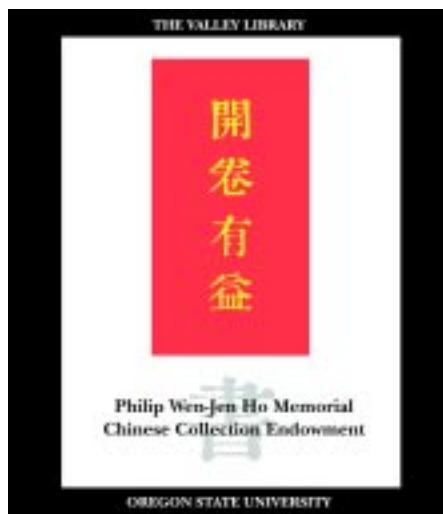
A bookplate is a label of simple or elaborate design, usually placed inside the front cover, which indicates ownership. Of German origin, the first known example is that of Hildebrand of Brandenburg, a Carthusian monk of the fifteenth century. French and English bookplates were scarce before 1600, and in

America they were seldom used before 1800, but since 1840 have become common.

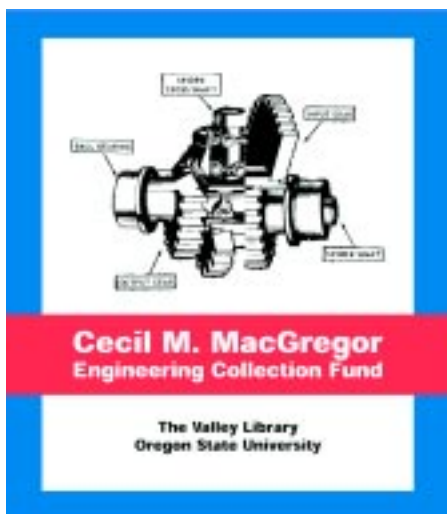
Bookplates often capture the essence of an individual. They evolved from reflecting their owner's social position (e.g., the family's coat-of-arms) to reflecting an individual's hobbies, interests, and avocations. A cursory glance at the Valley Library's collection offers a glimpse into the characters that have shaped the history of Oregon State University and its library. Some of the more recently created bookplates can be found on these pages.



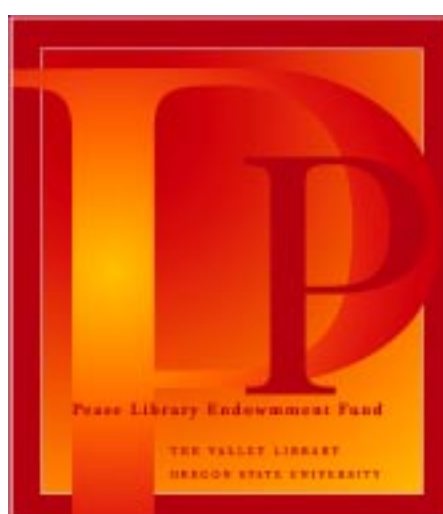
*The Niebergall Family Fund is used to buy collection materials at the discretion of the university librarian. The Niebergall family has many members that have attended OSU and the fund covers all disciplines.*



*Professor Philip Wen-jen Ho was associated with the OSU Libraries for over thirty years. This fund was established with gifts from his sons, Linden and Christopher, and his goddaughter, Hong Yi Jiang. The endowment will be used to increase the Chinese collections.*

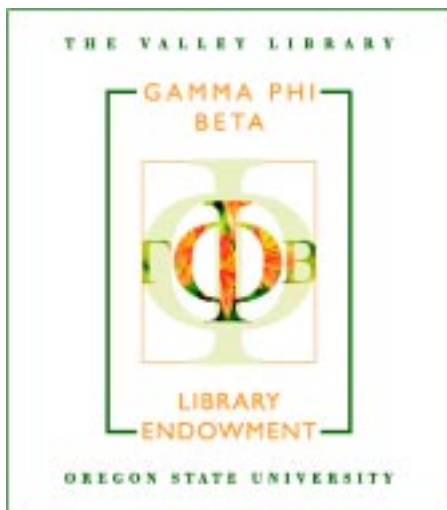


*Colonel Cecil MacGregor served more than thirty years in the U.S. Army before joining the OSU staff as an engineer. He retired in 1970 as Chief of the Physical Plant. This fund will enhance the engineering collection.*

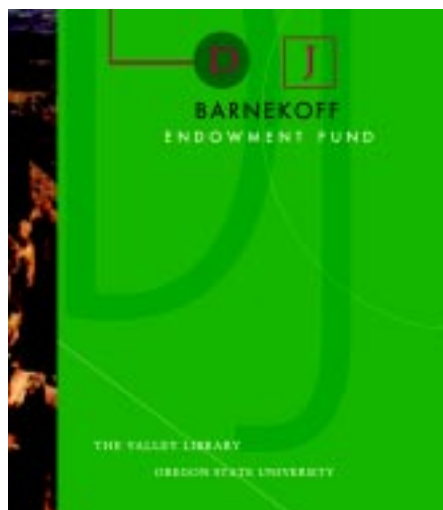


*The Pease Library Endowment Fund was set up in memory of Dr. Charles S. Pease. The funds that it generates are used for literary works, translated novels, and biographies of writers.*

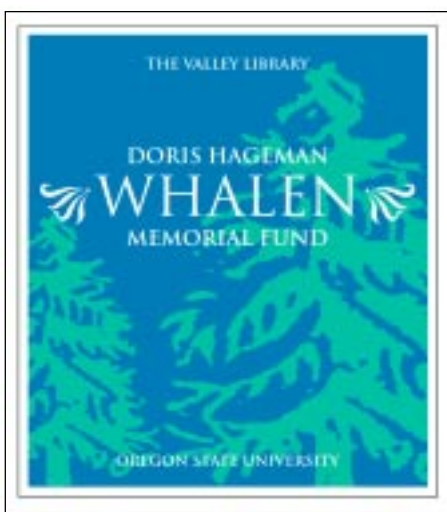




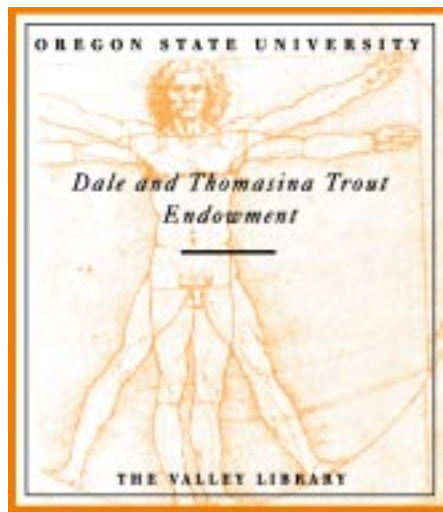
*The Gamma Phi Beta Sorority set up this endowment for the Kerr Library in 1972. It is used to enhance the general collection.*



*The Barnekoff Endowment Fund was established in 1999 to enhance the business collection. David Barnekoff graduated from the College of Business in 1968.*



*The Doris Hageman Whalen Education Fund was established in recognition of Mrs. Whalen's interest in OSU. She graduated from Oregon Agricultural College in 1939 with a degree in education and earned her master's in 1950. She spent her career educating the youth of Oregon and California.*



*The Dale and Thomasina Trout Endowment was established to create a permanent fund to acquire scientific library materials for use in the main library or the College of Science, where Dale was a faculty member.*



*The Mary Priscilla "Polly" Tarbell Endowment Fund was established in 1998 in memory of Polly Tarbell, an alumna from 1939 in business. Funds are used to enhance the general collection.*



*The Pendleton Endowment Fund was set up in 1980. Funds are used to enhance the general collection.*

## History of the Library: In the Beginning

by Larry Landis, University Archivist

Since its designation as Oregon's land grant institution in 1868, Oregon State University's libraries have played a significant role in fulfilling the university's mission. During the past 134 years, the libraries' collections have grown and changed in character, from a few volumes to 1.4 million volumes today plus access to countless resources in digital form. Our physical infrastructure also has changed significantly—from a closet to the current 343,035 square-foot Valley Library, two branches, and a presence at the Cascades Campus in Bend. But the libraries' role within the university has remained constant—to provide users with services and access to information. In the next few issues of *The Messenger*, we will explore the transformation of OSU's libraries from humble beginnings in the late 1860s to our present status as a major research library.

When tiny Corvallis College was designated by the Oregon Legislative

Assembly as the state's land-grant institution in October 1868, its facilities consisted of a modest frame building in downtown Corvallis that served all of the college's academic and administrative needs. It likely had a small collection of books (the earliest college catalogs included a solicitation of "donations to the Library"), but there is no mention of a formal library through the 1870s. Lack of funds at the chronically impoverished college precluded the purchase of many books.

The year 1880 marks the true beginning of the college's library. On May 26, Leo Stock, a student who was librarian for the college's Adelpian Literary Society, took possession of 388 books and 217 miscellaneous volumes that had been the collection of the defunct Corvallis Library Association. The society's new collection became a quasi-library for the college, as it was made available for use by college students and faculty. The collection was housed in a closet in the college building. The Adelpian Literary Society supplemented the collection with books purchased from membership dues. In 1889, the society transferred ownership of its library to the college.

Desiring to have a "good library of Standard works for the College use," the college's board of regents appropriated \$800 in early 1891 for cataloging the "books of the old Adelpian Society now in the College book case." The books were to be "put in boxes and stored in the basement of the building until some definite arrangement about them is effected" (letter



*Garlin Hill in the college library, April 14, 1900. From 1889 to 1918, the OAC Library was located in various rooms of the Administration Building. This is the oldest known photograph showing the college library.*

to President B. L. Arnold from board secretary Wallis Nash, January 5, 1891). Possibly as a result of the 1891 appropriation by the board of regents, the college published the first comprehensive listing of books in its library in 1893. The "Catalogue of the College and Station Libraries of the Oregon State Agricultural College" listed a total of 1,950 volumes held by the college. During the 1890s, donations of books continued to be an important means of expanding the collection. Donors were acknowledged in several of the college's catalogs.

The building referred to in the board of regents' 1891 letter was the new College Building (later known as the Administration Building and now Benton Hall) completed in 1889 on the college farm land west of downtown. According to a 1923 history of the library by college librarian Lucy M. Lewis, the first home of the library was "Room 36, on the third floor of the Administration building, whence all but the most eager pilgrims of knowledge were loath to climb for books." During the 1890s the library collection was moved several times to various locations in Benton Hall—one move purportedly necessitated by the weight of the books causing the floor to sag. Students were



*Students in the library reading room, ca. 1915. The library occupied most of the second floor of the Administration Building, including the use of the center area as the reading room.*



hired to look after the library collection and were paid fifteen cents an hour. One student held the position for three years, during which time he put all of the books on shelving (which had not been done previously) and made trays for a card catalog.

By 1899, when Arthur J. Stimpson ('98), the first non-student college librarian, was appointed, the college catalog listed the library's holdings at 3,000 volumes and 5,000 pamphlets and bulletins. During his two years as librarian, Stimpson adopted the Dewey decimal system for cataloging books and improved the system for loaning books. Librarians who succeeded Stimpson were Lewis W. Oren ('95), 1901–1902; and R. J. Nichols, a Willamette University alumnus who served from 1902 to 1908. During this time period the library maintained regular hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and had an average daily circulation of twenty-five books.

In July 1908 Ida A. Kidder was appointed as Oregon Agricultural College's first professionally-trained librarian. Before coming to the Pacific Northwest, Kidder had entered library school at the University of Illinois after her husband's death and received her degree in 1906 at the age of fifty-one. In November 1908 Kidder compiled a report to president William Jasper Kerr on the "present condition" of the

college library. Its holdings included 7,180 general and reference books, 5,000 government documents (it was a government depository library), and an estimated 10,000 pamphlets. The reading room (the center room on the second floor of the Administration Building) was sixty by forty feet and could accommodate 108 students. Two other rooms on the second floor held the general collection and bound periodicals, and the government documents.

At OAC, Kidder led a twelve year period of growth unparalleled in the library's history—the library's holdings increased substantially; its staff increased from one position to nine; and to accommodate these increases in books and staff, Kidder planned and oversaw the construction of a new 57,000 square-foot library building. But before the new library building became a reality in 1918, the library continued to make do in the Administration Building (Benton Hall). By 1912 the library occupied the entire second floor, and chairs in the reading room were hard to come by.

Pressured by Kidder and the college community, the OAC Board of Regents successfully lobbied the 1917 Oregon Legislative Assembly for an appropriation of \$158,000 for a new library building. Designed by Portland architect John V. Bennes (designer of more than thirty-three structures on the OSU campus) the building boasted considerable growth space for the library's book collection, a large reading room, library



*The reference desk in the new library, Fall 1918. This represented a considerable improvement over the crowded conditions shown in the 1915 photograph.*

offices, three departments, and the college museum. Ultimately named Kidder Hall in 1963 in memory of the librarian who was the driving force behind getting it approved and built, the building was ready for occupancy in the fall of 1918. Because of the wartime labor shortage, faculty of all ranks and students pitched in to move the library collection from the Administration Building to the new building, using a wooden causeway built between the buildings. The last books were moved in on October 30, 1918.

After experiencing health problems later in life, Kidder began using an electric cart (affectionately dubbed the Wickermobile) to get around on campus. Ida Kidder died on February 28, 1920. During Kidder's tenure, the library maintained a balanced general collection of books and developed notable collections in agriculture, home economics, and the history of horticulture. At the time of her death the library was a depository for federal publications, subscribed to several hundred periodicals, received the transactions of several hundred learned and technological societies, and maintained a large reference collection.

The next issue of *The Messenger* will explore the tenures of college librarians Lucy M. Lewis and William Carlson. ❧



*Moving into the new library, Fall 1918. Faculty and students assisted with moving books and furniture from the old library in the Administration Building to the new building.*

## Meet the Niebergalls

by Kim Thompson, Director of Development, OSU Foundation

**I**t is not often you meet a grandmother so devoted to her grandchildren that she lives by the credo preserved on the plaque in her kitchen, which reads: "Welcome to Grandma's house...Children spoiled while you wait!" Meet Molly Niebergall.

Since becoming involved as annual donors to OSU Libraries in 1993, we have learned that both Molly and Tom, her husband of forty-eight years, demonstrate their empathy and consideration in many ways—not just in caring for Molly's mom (a former Oregon State College student) who recently passed away, but in staying in touch with their four children and eight grandchildren. Regular visits to the Niebergalls in their Lake Oswego home often find small people eating cookies and playing with Grandpa's model trains.

This year, the Niebergalls established an endowed collection fund with their annual gift. With this fund, a permanent memorial and active philanthropic focus

are created for the Niebergall family. Creating an endowed collection fund was a way for Molly and Tom to express how much they treasured their years at Oregon State (they met at OSC), and how three generations of the family have since valued and enjoyed their own OSU experiences.

Molly O'Connor Niebergall was born in Portland, Oregon and grew up in Vancouver, Washington. A. Thomas Niebergall was born and grew up in Bend, Oregon. Both graduated from Oregon State College in 1954.

Molly and Tom were active at what was then called OSC. Molly was president of her living organization and a member of Talons and Mortar Board. Tom was vice president of the student body as well as president of Thanet and Blue Key. Molly's love and career have been honing her home economics skills through raising the couple's children. Tom graduated from the OSC School of Business and Technology, served in the U.S. Air Force, obtained MBA and law degrees, and worked as a lawyer for nearly forty years for Georgia-Pacific and Nike.

Molly and Tom chose to focus their giving on the OSU Libraries primarily



*Molly and Tom Niebergall*

because library facilities touch all of the many disciplines in today's world, rather than just the five or six academic specialties chosen by members of the Niebergall family. Both Molly and Tom are life-long learners and they greatly value the power of libraries and the importance of the written word. Tom's own library is an example of this and a joy to behold. They also embrace the newest in information services and technology.

Thank you, Molly and Tom, for your generosity and foresight, and thanks for all of the Niebergalls that will follow in your footsteps.

Gifts such as the Niebergall fund are most welcome at the library. If you would like to leave a lasting legacy such as this, please contact Kim Thompson, Director of Development, OSU Foundation, 650 SW 35th, Corvallis, OR 97330. Her phone number is 1-800-354-7281 and her email is [kim.thompson@orst.edu](mailto:kim.thompson@orst.edu) ☒



*The Niebergall family at a recent reunion at the coast.*





## University Archives

Notable new collections include:

**J. Granville Jensen Papers, 1925–1991.** This addition consists of photographs taken by J. Granville Jensen and used in presentations on geography. Depicting various cities, geological landscapes, cultural monuments, and settlements throughout the world, the photos primarily focus upon North and South America with some images from Japan and Europe. Also included in this accession are Jensen's doctoral hood and several wall plaques and certificates. Jensen joined the Oregon State College Geography Department in 1946 as associate professor, served as chair until 1964, and became professor emeritus in 1977. He studied and taught Latin American geography and natural resource development.

**Bill Tomsheck Scrapbook, 1932–1983.** This scrapbook was assembled by alumnus Bill Tomsheck and consists of materials relating to his experience at

Oregon State College, particularly as a member of the legendary 1933 "Ironmen" football team and the Alpha Zeta fraternity. The scrapbook includes correspondence, game programs and schedules, greeting cards, a medal, newspaper clippings, and photographs. Tomsheck graduated in 1935 and is the last surviving member of the Ironmen team.

## Wireless Technology in the Valley Library

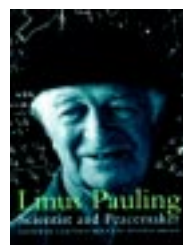
The Information Commons has been checking out laptops and configuring privately owned laptops for use in the library since 1999. Now there's no longer a need to plug the laptop in to an active dataport—sometimes a hard-to-find item in the library. We have gone wireless! In a joint venture with Network Engineering, the Valley Library is now equipped to transmit a digital data signal within its concrete and steel walls. The service is available in almost all locations in the library. More information, including the location of the "dead spots" is listed on the internet at <http://osulibrary.orst.edu/computing/laptops/personal/wireless/index.html>.

## NEH Grant Awarded to OSU Libraries

OSU Libraries' Archives and Special Collections, together with other institutions from Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Washington have been given a National Endowment for the Humanities grant for a two-year project that will encode finding aids for over 2,200 regionally significant collections and load them into a common database. The \$350,000 project will encode the material using the standard Encoded Archival Description protocol. The project will create the Northwest Digital Archives and provide consistent and integrated access to the collections held in fifteen repositories in the Northwest.

## Linus Pauling, Scientist and Peacemaker

Clifford Mead, Head of Special Collections, and Thomas Hager, biographer of Linus Pauling, are the co-editors of a recent compilation of Pauling material. Included are contributions from his

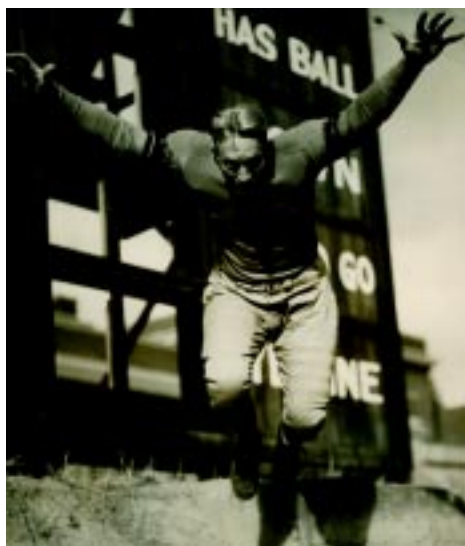


contemporaries and students, illustrations selected from the Pauling Papers, photographs, drawings, and reproductions of original manuscripts and typescripts. The

resulting volume forms a mosaic portrait of a phenomenal man and his singular achievements. The book, which came out in conjunction with the February 2001 centenary of Pauling's birth, has been selling briskly. According to Penney Coe of the OSU Press: "Sales are doing well. We've had lots of inquiries from all over the U.S. and abroad."

## William Appleman Williams Collection

Special Collections received a donation of archival materials for inclusion in the William Appleman Williams Papers. Williams (1904–1990), a history professor at OSU for twenty-eight years, was perhaps the most influential diplomatic historian of his generation. His radical critiques of American history led to profound changes in the discipline, and his book, *The Contours of American History* (1961), was named one of the 100 best non-fiction books of the twentieth century by the Modern Library. The donation, made by Williams' daughter Kyenne, contributes significantly to OSU's Williams archive—the only such collection in existence. Highlights include twenty-four Civil War-era tin-type photos of Williams' ancestors, a large family Bible printed in 1887, and items that unveil important details of Williams' formative years as a young man in rural Missouri. ☞



Bill Tomsheck as left guard for the 1933 "Ironmen" football team.

## Hiratsuka Holds Printmaking 101 for Docent Visit

by Carolyn Madsen,  
Docent Program Member

When Yuji Hiratsuka welcomed the Valley Library Docent Program to his studio, it was quickly apparent why he is so productive: he exudes enthusiasm for printmaking. A light-filled studio is where Hiratsuka creates his characteristic prints of Japanese figures interacting in myriad ways, robed in colorful patterns based on traditional Japanese fabrics, their faces lacking eyes as he believes they “reveal too much.” Hiratsuka’s work is represented in the Northwest Art Collection with a lively print entitled *Judgement* which hangs in Special Collections on the fifth floor.

One way the docents educate themselves about the artists in the collection is to visit studios to watch the artists work in context. The morning spent with Hiratsuka in his studio, built to provide enough workable space for the many steps of printmaking, including a large etching press weighing around 2,000 pounds, was packed with information about the printmaking process. Because of its complex and time-consuming nature, Hiratsuka considers himself fortunate to complete twelve to eighteen prints in a year.

Yuji Hiratsuka’s warm hospitality and concise explanation of the fine-art printing process made this an especially fruitful learning experience in the docents’ efforts to understand more about the Northwest Art Collection. The docents left with a new appreciation for all that must be accomplished before a

successful print is achieved.

After an image is created in Hiratsuka’s mind and on paper, it must be transferred to the copper etching plates that will eventually be used to make his prints. Each plate is first painted with a layer of aspartum, a tar-like substance that protects the copper surface from the acid used to etch the design.

The lines of the drawing are then scratched into the aspartum, creating a chasm for the acid to reach the copper. In addition to the line drawing, Hiratsuka adds other textures and depths of color by various aquatint processes. For these portions of the image, a patterned or velvet tone can be created by spraying a fine layer of protective Krylon onto sections of the plate surface. Darker tones may require that the plate sit in the etching solution for up to six hours. To achieve his concept for the image, it frequently takes Hiratsuka two weeks to complete the etching process for a single plate. And as each plate corresponds to only one color, four rounds of etching are usually required for a finished product.

Once the first plate is completed, ink is applied for printing. Typically, each image is comprised of four colors printed in the order of cyan, yellow, magenta, and black. As with other steps, the docents learned that the inking process is not as easy as one might expect. Even distribution of ink on the plate is critical to yield a successful layer of each color. Hiratsuka observed that each artist must develop his or her own techniques to achieve the “perfect” image during the printing step. It was exciting to watch as he prepared the



*Judgement, a mixed-media print by Yuji Hiratsuka.*

press for the first printing of the image. He made a “sandwich” by putting down a layer of newsprint to protect the bed of the printing press from ink; positioning the etched copper plate on top followed by a sheet of damp, print-quality paper carefully centered over the image; another layer of newsprint; and finally a very thick felt blanket to cushion the paper. With Hiratsuka at the controls, the press roller slowly rotated over all this, forcing the ink from the plate onto the paper. One color complete, three more rounds of etching and inking to go!

The printing process often yields surprises, and the results are not revealed until all four colors have been inked. It was obvious that Hiratsuka is his own most rigorous critic.

Yuji Hiratsuka is an Associate Professor of Art at Oregon State University and is a member of the Northwest Print Council and the California Society of Printmakers. His work is in the collection of The British Museum in London, Tokyo Central Museum, Cincinnati Art Museum, the Portland Art Museum, and others. He is represented by the Pulliam Deffenbaugh Gallery in Portland where there will be an exhibit of his work in September 2002. ☼



## Bonnie Hall

by Karen Russ,  
Docent Program Coordinator

**B**onnie Hall hobbled into the bright room, plying her crutches while her husband followed with a stack of books and prints. A recent skiing accident had left her in a cast while her broken leg healed, but that didn't prevent her from meeting with the Valley Library Docent Program to discuss her trade—botanical printmaking. After forty-some years as a scientific illustrator, thirty of those spent in the OSU Entomology Department, Hall discovered screenprinting. Over the past ten years she has developed a passion and skill for her work that has led to approximately thirty limited edition prints. Five of these were purchased by the Valley Library with the One Percent for Art program when the building was renovated in 1999. They can be found on the fifth floor in the main avenue between the elevators and

the Special Collections lobby.

Botanical printmaking dates back to the fifteenth century B.C. with the classification of Syrian plants on a frieze. The invention of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg in 1450 introduced the ability to make multiple copies of these artistic renderings. The earliest mass production of botanical prints was Curtis's Botanical Magazine (see inset box), first published in 1787 and still in print today.

Bonnie Hall's favorite subjects are wildflowers native to the Pacific Northwest, companions from her Oregon childhood. She draws inspiration from old natural history prints, striving to keep her images faithful to the form, color, and structure of each plant. Her motivation lies in a desire to bring attention to the overlooked, often undervalued, and sometimes even threatened wildflowers and plants residing in the distinctive Northwest landscape.

Bonnie Hall prefers to create her sketches directly from the original



*Bonnie Hall's botanical print, Kincaid's Lupine.*

specimen, though sometimes she must use photographs to aid her drawing. She often carries a color guide with her into the field so she can find the closest match in her available inks to the shades of the plant. From her rough sketches on vellum paper, she begins the process of separating the elements of the subject into color layers. Hall considers herself a "builder," making one layer at a time to be printed in succession. She describes her work as minimalist—simple lines with sharp edges and a white line to divide neighboring plant parts of the same color. She creates a stencil for each color, of which there are usually between three and ten, using a photographic process to transfer her black line drawings onto film. The last step is inking, and she typically makes 110 prints to ensure 100 good ones.

Bonnie Hall is charismatic and interested in dispersing information, both through her person and in her artwork. Her appreciation of small life forms that often go unnoticed by the general public is admirable, and the Northwest Art Collection at the Valley Library is privileged to display her works. ☼



*A page from one of the first volumes of Curtis's Botanical Magazine, 1789.*

When Bonnie Hall laid sight on the very first volume of Curtis's Botanical Magazine, published in 1787, her eyes grew wide and danced with excitement. Special Collections abounds with treasures, and its assortment of more than 100 volumes of this horticultural magazine, one of the oldest and longest published in Britain, is safely tucked away in the closed stack area. Original volumes from the late 1700s and early 1800s are hand-colored copper engravings, and those at OSU Libraries are beautifully bound with gilded pages. Early volumes feature the illustrations of renowned botanical artists Sydenham Edwards, William Kilburn, and James Sowerby. Interestingly, Special Collections' copy of the first volume contains a letter from the attorney of the late Dr. Edward Holme bound with the pages that states, "I give to Dr. Fleming of Manchester my copy of Curtis's Botanic garden from the first number compleat." No

information is available on Dr. Fleming, but the library acquired these volumes in 1948 from Charles W. Traylen Books in Surrey, England.



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