Dear Friends

In an episode from the original STAR TREK TV series Captain James T. Kirk seeks his quarters on the starship ENTERPRISE for some moments of relaxation. He picks up his reading glasses and settles down with a book. Faithful viewers saw this as a pleasant anachronism (by several centuries) designed to engender empathy for Kirk’s intellect and human warmth in a setting of instant information provided by an omniscient computer voice. The current series STARGATE S.G. 1, which sends an exploratory team to planets in other star systems and beyond, frequently finds that little-used or long-forgotten books provide answers to problems generated by a computer-controlled society.

This is science fiction’s gentle reminder that success in new methods is best regarded as cumulative to rather than eradicative of the knowledge and impulse that created it. We are so fortunate in what information retrieval techniques can provide for us in amount, quality and speed that are remarkable. We are equally fortunate that we can go to a shelf, pick out a volume, and sit, as Captain Kirk may have done, to contemplate with Keats:

A thing of beauty is a joy forever:
Its loveliness increases; it will never
Pass into nothingness; but still will keep
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
Full of sweet dreams, and health,
and quiet breathing...

A library provides us with both options, and so much more, to enhance what we are and what we may become.

Charles L. Babcock
President, Board of Directors
Friends of the OSU Libraries

Libraries’ Set Architectural Team in Motion to Begin Developing Plans for Renovation

In April of this year contracts were finalized to begin the exacting planning work that will result in the complete renovation and renewal of the William O’xley Thompson Memorial (Main) Library. Ohio State has now selected each of the architectural and engineering firms for the renovation of the Library. Under the direction of the University’s Office of Facilities Planning & Development and with campus-wide involvement, these firms will undertake the complete renovation of the Thompson Library:

- George Acock Associates Architects, Columbus; Associate Architect
- Graham Gund Architects, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Design Architect
- Turner Construction Co. - Smoot Construction Co., Columbus; Construction Manager
- Evans, Mechwart, Hambleton & Tilton, Inc. (EMH&T Engineers), Columbus; Civil Engineer
- Heapy Engineering, Inc., Dayton; Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing Engineers
- Lantz Jones & Nebraska, Inc., Columbus; Structural Engineer

George Acock Associates Architects, Columbus, has designed over $950 million of building construction in the last 28 years for clients such as Capital University Law School, the Columbus Metropolitan Library, and the Prior Health Sciences Library at Ohio State. Among Acock’s many honors are the AIA Honor Award, the International Illumination Design Award, and the City Beautiful Award. The firm is led by George Acock, a 1965 graduate of Ohio State’s School of Architecture.

Graham Gund Architects, Cambridge, Massachusetts, is an award-winning architectural firm with more than 100 national and regional awards for design excellence, including the prestigious AIA/ALA Design Excellence Award for the renovation of the Dimond Library on the University of New Hampshire, Durham campus. Over the course of its 30-year history, Graham Gund has developed a national reputation as a leading designer of facilities for arts and education, and has worked extensively with colleges, universities, and secondary schools in the United States. The firm is led by Graham Gund, an Ohio native and graduate of Kenyon College.

Turner Construction Company and Smoot Construction Company, two of Central Ohio’s leading construction firms, have entered into a joint ven-
In connection with a book exhibition in the Thompson Library’s Philip Sills Gallery, Charles C. Cole, Jr. will speak on a selection of “Overlooked Authors Deserving Recognition Born in Columbus, Ohio in the 19th Century.” He has researched and written on 34 writers of fiction and nonfiction ranging from autobiography to women’s studies. The program is scheduled for September 18, 7:00 p.m. at the Thompson Library.

Cole is the Emeritus Director of the Ohio Humanities Council and is the author of A Fragile Capital: Identity and the Early Years of Columbus, Ohio, published in 2001. He is a historian, having written eight books and over 30 articles. A former Aldus board member and current Friends of the OSU Libraries board member, he spoke to the Aldus Society in May 2001 on “The First Books Published in Columbus, Ohio.”

He will select summaries of the major volumes and briefly describe some of the authors’ careers, including the first woman born in Columbus to become a poet, a writer of a children’s book, a biographer of Walt Whitman who salvaged George Catlin’s Native American paintings, William and Joseph Sullivant, and Wilbur H. Siebert who wrote about the Underground Railroad.

The related book exhibition in the Sills Gallery, “Early Ohio Imprints,” will include 19th century books printed throughout the State of Ohio, from Cincinnati, the center of early Ohio printing, to Circleville, printing site for the monumental Nest and Eggs of Birds of Ohio; from Cleveland to Zanesville; from Columbus to Chillicothe. Heavily dominated by practical, governmental and religious works in the early nineteenth century, though still concerned with practical matters, were also printing more literary, topical and popular books, reflective of the social and cultural development of the state.
Project Comes to the Rescue of Ohio’s Agricultural Literature
— Mauricio Espinoza, OARDC News, College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

WOOSTER, Ohio—Unique and invaluable publications that convey the history of Ohio’s agriculture and rural life in their brittle pages will be saved from obliteration thanks to a preservation project led by the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC).

The four-year endeavor will rescue monographs, periodicals, memoirs and other documents published in Ohio between 1820 and 1945. Some 215 titles will be microfilmed by 2006, said Connie Britton, head of the OARDC Library and project coordinator.

“We have prepared an extensive bibliography that covers different aspects of agriculture, rural life and home economics,” Britton explained. “The list is not limited to scientific publications. It contains any document that would contribute to the history of Ohio’s agricultural life, such as information about country schools and cookbooks.”

The Ohio project is part of a long-term effort, called the National Preservation Program for Agricultural Literature (NPPAL), whose aim is to keep historically significant agricultural books and documents in each of the 50 states from being lost to natural decay.

NPPAL was commissioned in 1993 by the United States Agriculture Information Network (USAIN) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Library (NAL). Preservation work began in 1996 in nine states under the supervision of Cornell University’s Albert R. Mann Library.

“This country was an agrarian society at its roots, and this is a historical record,” said Mary Ochs, head of collection development and preservation at Mann Library and NPPAL national coordinator. “This allows historians and others to see the impact of agriculture on the social history of a region. It even goes beyond agriculture; it shows how people lived.”

Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the program is divided in two-year phases. The 23rd participating state, Ohio is part of phase 4 (2002-2004), along with Georgia, Illinois, Michigan and North Carolina. The OARDC Library and the library of Ohio State University’s College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (FAES) received $36,438 last year from NEH for the first step of the project—compilation of the state’s most important and endangered agricultural literature.

“A lot of the early Ohio publications were printed on highly acidic paper,” said Susan Logan, head of the FAES Library. “They are so brittle when you open them the pages crack up. We are very excited about the possibility to preserve some of these publications because we fear they will virtually disappear.”

Britton, Logan and Doug Morrison, a reference and series librarian with Ohio State’s Agricultural Technical Institute (ATI), have drafted a list of about 4,000 publications after searching OSCAR (the OSU Libraries catalog), The Ohio Library and Information Network (OhioLINK) and the Online Computer Library Center’s WorldCat engine.

As in other states, a panel of scholars will evaluate and rank individual titles in order of importance to social, cultural and economic history. Selected publications will be microfilmed according to their relevance during NPPAL’s phase 5 (2004-2006), for which further funding from NEH is expected.

Members of the panel are OARDC researchers Ben Stinner (Department of Entomology), Linda Lobao and Richard Moore (both from the Department of Human and Community Resource Development). They will be joined by Iowa State University historian Douglas Hurt, a national expert on agricultural and rural history.

The microfilmed documents will be made available through OSU Libraries; a copy will be also sent to the NAL headquarters in Beltsville, Md. In the meantime, Britton said, the bibliography they compiled will be published online for research and reference.

Thus far, NPPAL has salvaged some 8,705 titles in 15,310 volumes from 15 states. Phase 4 will finance the preservation of 770 additional titles from Michigan and North Carolina, which developed their bibliographies during the previous phase.

A piece of Ohio history... trade manuals, farmers’ diaries, crop and dairy research reports, cookbooks, product information, and nutrition factsheets from the 19th and early 20th centuries represent more than the account of Ohio’s agricultural development—they are a vital contribution to the rich history of the Buckeye state.

Many of the documents compiled for future preservation by the OARDC and FAES libraries offer a glimpse into the lives of those people who plowed Ohio from scratch and planted the seeds of its future development. Here are some examples:

• “Recollections of life in Ohio: From 1813-1840” (Cincinnati, 1895) is a delightful memoir written by newspaperman William Cooper Howells, father of renowned writer William Dean Howells.

• A classic of Ohio horticulture and entrepreneurial spirit is “Livingston and the Tomato” (Columbus, 1893). The books contains descriptions and drawings of the varieties brought to life by A.W. Livingston, the Reynoldsburg tomato seedsman who was the best known developer of tomato varieties in the United States in the 19th century.

• Annual reports and scientific publications from the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station (now OARDC) illustrate the development of agricultural research in Ohio and its contributions to the state’s economy since 1882.

• A price list for agricultural equipment shows just how much a horse-drawn plow was worth in 1894. Another one, from 1900, offers the latest innovation for farmhouses—electric lights.

• There was much buzzing in Medina, the center of beekeeping in Ohio, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Numerous books published by the pioneering A.I. Root Co. are a testimony to the industry’s pinnacle at the time.

• The list also includes publications produced by OSU Extension since its creation in 1914; an “Essay on
Prior Health Sciences Library to Host Frankenstein Traveling Exhibition

Everyone knows the story of Frankenstein. Or do they? One of the most enduring myths of the Western world—Mary Shelley's Frankenstein—is the focus of an exciting traveling exhibition that will be on display in the Prior Health Sciences Library from September 25 - October 31, 2003. Throughout the run of the exhibition, the Library will sponsor programming that explores major themes of the novel:

- As science fiction becomes scientific fact, what moral adjustments must we make? Should we do something simply because we have the scientific and technical means to do it, or should we observe ethical and moral boundaries?
- What was Shelley saying when she chose not to name her monster? What does it mean when we assign names to the things around us?
- How does Dr. Frankenstein's horror of his creation contribute to the tragic events that follow? What are our individual and societal responsibilities to others?

Other programming includes a community book discussion, in conjunction with co-sponsors Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) and Barnes & Noble Booksellers, and an exploration of the changing face of the Frankenstein monster in film, also co-sponsored by CML. A showing of the silent film The Golem, based on a Jewish myth of a clay man given life through a magical spell, will be hosted by the Melton Center for Jewish Studies and the Wexner Center for the Arts.

“We are delighted to have been selected as a site for this exhibition,” said Susan Kroll, director of the Prior Library. “The themes of Frankenstein have continued to ripple out over the centuries. The themes of alienation, social and ethical boundaries, personal responsibility, women's roles, and yearning to conquer death all resonate as if the novel had been written today.”

The tragic story of Victor Frankenstein and the living monster he creates in his laboratory has gripped our imaginations since it was first published in 1818. Mary Shelley was only 18 years old when she began writing Frankenstein. The daughter of social reformists, she believed that knowledge was a defense against the abuse of power by governments and individuals; armed with knowledge, humans could make responsible choices.

Shelley drew upon her wide reading in literature, history, the natural sciences, and politics in shaping the story of a researcher whose personal ambition to reveal “the secrets of nature,” and whose lack of responsibility for his actions leads to his own death and the destruction of his immediate community.

“Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature” was organized by the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Md., and the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office. The traveling exhibition is made possible through major grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the National Library of Medicine. This program is made possible in part by the Ohio Humanities Council, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For updates on programming, visit the Prior Health Sciences Library web site http://library.med.ohio-state.edu/.

Heapy Engineering, founded in 1945, has performed designs for projects on the Ohio State University main campus in Columbus, and at the regional campuses at Newark, Wooster, and Lima. Some of the more notable projects include the Jerome Schottenstein Center, the James Cancer Research Institute, and the Prior Health Sciences Library.

Lantz Jones and Nebraska's projects include numerous structures on and beyond the Ohio State campus, including the Austin Knowlton School of Architecture, Glenn A. Fry Hall College of Optometry, the Ohio Theatre Stage Addition, and McGuffey Hall at Ohio University.

Beginning this past May, a special effort was made to receive advice and input from the campus. Open meetings were held and a survey was undertaken to allow the campus community to express their ideas about the future Library. Several focus groups were assembled to inquire about their requirements for a renewed Main Library. And, an advisory committee of faculty, staff and students was appointed and held the first of many expected meetings.

In June, July, August, and September, the architects begin the essential work at “programming” the building, seeking advice from Library faculty and staff about the requirements for collections, services and work spaces in the “new” Main Library.

In October, the architects will present several conceptual programming...
Hoo-Boy! Morrie Brickman’s The Small Society


In 1966 Morrie Brickman created something different. The writer of a news story about the debut of the feature was undecided about whether it should be described as an “editorial comic strip” or a “political satire.” It was “both and neither,” according to cartoon historian Richard Samuel West, who continues by stating, “Even to this day, The Small Society defies neat categorization... Unlike all comic strips that preceded it, The Small Society was driven primarily by its topic for the day, not by its characters (who were generally Everyman and Everywoman), nor by a race to the punchline. Unlike the political cartoons of the period, The Small Society eschewed politicians and headlines in the particular to find the universal in public debate.”

The comic strip’s title provides a window into the cartoonist’s intent: “The Great Society,” Lyndon Johnson’s high-flown vision for the future of the United States, was making headlines. By titling his new comic strip The Small Society, Brickman made his perspective clear. His worldview is the everyday, and quirks of his characters belong to all of us. This is the comic strip’s greatest strength. Between 1966 and 1985, from Viet Nam to Reaganesomics, current events and American life are satirized in The Small Society. Grocery prices, inflation, taxes, family—the stuff of life for everyone—are covered in Brickman’s comic strip, often accompanied by a resounding “hoo-boy” that reflected his amazement at the world around him.

The Ohio State University Cartoon Research Library will mount a major exhibition of original daily and Sunday The Small Society from November 2, 2003 to February 27, 2004. Approximately fifty comic strips, selected from the Morrie Brickman Collection at the library, will be displayed in its Reading Room Gallery.

To celebrate the opening of the exhibit, Jules Feiffer will speak and there will be a reading of Brickman’s unpublished play, Coming of Age. “The Cartoonist as Playwright,” the play reading followed by Feiffer’s presentation, will occur at 2 p.m. November 2 in the Grand Lounge of the Ohio State University Faculty Club, 181 South Oval Dr. A reception at the library will follow.

The exhibit’s companion volume, also titled Hoo-Boy! Morrie Brickman’s The Small Society, will include reproductions of art in the show, a biographical sketch of the cartoonist, and an analysis of The Small Society’s place in the history of the American newspaper comic strip.

The November 2nd event and the exhibition are free and open to the public. The library’s regular hours are Monday–Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hours vary between terms. The library is closed on national and university holidays.

This exhibition and related events are cosponsored by The Ohio State University Cartoon Research Library, its Milton Caniff Endowment, the Victor Herbert Foundation and Herbert P. Jacoby in memory of Marge Devine, the Mark J. Cohen and Rose Marie McDaniel Endowment, the Department of Theatre, and the Melton Center for Jewish Studies.

The Ohio State University Cartoon Research Library is located underground at 27 West 17th Avenue Mall. Public parking is available at garage C, the Ohio Union ramp.

RENOVATION continued from page 4

options to the campus, suggesting what can “fit” into the new library, with what configurations, and with what changes to the exterior appearance of this great building on our Oval.

The renovation of the Thompson Library is a very complex, difficult, exciting—and essential—undertaking.

For more details, and the opportunity to make suggestions for the renovation, see our web site http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu/Renovation/.

RESCUED continued from page 3

the Family” from 1859; a book about women’s struggles in the early 1900s, published by Oberlin University; and “Agricultural Products for Crippled Children,” a publication of the Ohio Division of Charities from the 1930s.

For more information about the Ohio preservation project contact Connie Britton at (330) 263-3773 or britton.4@osu.edu. To learn more about NPPAL log on to http://neh-usain.
Acquisitions of Note—University Libraries

The Evans Digital Edition of Early American Imprints, Series I provides facsimile images of books, pamphlets and broadsides published in America from 1639 until 1800. Based on the renowned American Bibliography by Charles Evans and enhanced by Roger Bristol’s Supplement to Evans’ American Bibliography, the collection was first published by Readex in cooperation with the American Antiquarian Society. Evans is a comprehensive resource for life in 17th and 18th century America, with information on early American history, literature, music, religion, diplomacy, the Revolutionary War, religion, temperance, witchcraft, foreign affairs, agriculture and more. The complete text of the publications is searchable and readable. When the work of digitizing the collection is complete in 2004, Evans Digital will consist of more than 36,000 works and 2,400,000 images.

“The Evans Collection is used by historians and literary scholars studying all aspects of American society and culture before 1801,” said John Brooke, History Professor at Ohio State. “The collection is comprised of all non-serial [no newspapers or magazines] imprints printed in the American Colonies and the United States before 1801. As such it is the absolutely essential resource for any work on this period.”

Although the Library owns the original microprint edition and some of the original print volumes, the new electronic, facsimile edition greatly enhances the way that early American culture can be introduced to students, and it will provide more convenient access to these collections for researchers who need to study early American texts.

“The Evans Collection was critical in its original form, on microcard and microfiche, allowing reasonably easy access to the entire body of Early American imprints,” said Brooke. “Now that it is on-line in machine-readable electronic image form, it is more important than ever. We are able to conduct complex keyword searches across one hundred and sixty years of printed books, pamphlets, government documents, sermons, broadsides, etc., a capacity that will lead to fundamentally new ways of working in American history. It is an exciting time to be at Ohio State, one of the first universities in the nation to invest in this vital resource to support research in early American history.”

According to Professor Brooke, there are various projects underway including graduate seminar papers and dissertations that are making active use of the Evans Digital Collection of topics, ranging from Pennsylvania politics, agriculture in South Carolina, Massachusetts in the Revolution, crime and culture in early Philadelphia, and politics and communication in the eighteenth-century seaports.

“Ongoing faculty research on civil society in post-Revolutionary America and on the history of the Second Amendment is making intensive use of the electronic Evans,” said Brooke. “I have only had time to scratch the surface of its potential, but I can say that it will be central to my work in years to come.”

Imprint of The Declaration of Independence 1776

Opportunity Knocks!

Treat yourself to a unique learning experience while helping the OSU Libraries. Friends of the OSU Libraries is seeking a few trustworthy volunteers to assist in working with Special Collections. At the moment we are seeking individuals or partners to work a half day per week (with flexibility for travel) in the:

- Cartoon Research Library with Lucy Caswell making decisions about filing and database coding editorial cartoon acquisitions. Location—Wexner Center
- Avant Writing Collection with John M. Bennett inventorying, labeling files and writing guidelines for new acquisitions. Location—Thompson Library

For details contact FOL board member Jennie McCormick at jenniemccormick@sbcglobal.net or 885-8132 or call the Friends office 292-3387.
Armbruster Family Visits Theatre Research Institute

Members of the Armbruster family recently spent an afternoon at the Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute with the Armbruster Scenic Studio Collection. Karl and Carol Armbruster, Don Armbruster and his daughter Diane Eichler traveled from Cincinnati to join Columbus resident Leeann Foust in perusing hundreds of scenic renderings created over the eighty-three-year existence of the Armbruster Studio. Their ancestor and founder of the Armbruster Scenic Studio, Mathias Armbruster (1839–1920), was born in Württemburg, Germany, and studied art there and in Paris before moving to Cincinnati where he worked as an art-glass painter and theatrical designer. After serving in the 28th Ohio Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War, Armbruster settled in Columbus, where he established the Studio in 1875. He was joined in the business by his sons, Otto, Emil, and Albert who managed the Studio after Mathias’s death. The Armbruster Studio became one of the largest scenic studios in America, and was associated with a number of the most popular touring theatre companies in America among which were Modjeska, Robert Mantell, the Hanford-Tyler-MacLean, Al G. Field, Lasses White, and many other companies.

Of particular beauty are a number of designs for parquet floors and stained windows that Mathias Armbruster brought with him when he came to the United States. The visiting Armbrusters had not seen these designs before. Coincidentally, graphic artist Diane Armbruster Eichler has designed some work for a Cincinnati candle company that looks startlingly like Mathias’s parquets. As Diane said, “One of the most interesting things to me was the display of Mathias’s pattern work in the case out in the hall…. It’s a little spooky how similar [my designs] are to the designs Mathias did over 100 years ago.”

While the Armbrusters are no longer involved in theatre design, it is clear that the artistic tradition continues to flourish in the family. In addition to Diane, her father Don is a portrait painter, and Karl and Carol’s daughter Kathryn Haigh is Chief Registrar at the Cincinnati Art Museum.

Support Your University Libraries

In addition to your membership and support of The Ohio State University Libraries, annual gifts help strengthen the Library and ensure its standing as one of the top 20 academic and research libraries in the nation. Friends would be honored if you would consider making an annual gift to the University Libraries.

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For more information about giving to the University Libraries, please contact Shannon Tippie at (614) 247-6828, tippie.13@osu.edu, or visit www.giveto.osu.edu. Thank you in advance for your support.
Calendar of Events

May 1–August 29, 2003
Ohio Cartoonists Exhibition
Presented by the Cartoon Research Library
Philip Sills Exhibit Hall, Thompson (Main) Library
1858 Neil Avenue Mall

June 29–July 26, 2003
Third Biannual Medieval Slavic Summer Institute
Presented by the Hilandar Research Library
227 Thompson (Main) Library
For more information, please contact (614/292-0634)
or hilandar@osu.edu

Fall 2003
Early Ohio Imprints Exhibition
Presented by the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library
Philip Sills Exhibit Hall, Thompson (Main) Library

September 18, 2003
Overlooked Authors of Columbus, Ohio
Lecture by Charles C. Cole, Jr.
Presented by the Aldus Society and Friends of the OSU Libraries
7:00 p.m. Thurber House, 77 Jefferson Avenue
Please call for reservations (614/292-3387)

September 25–October 31, 2003
Frankenstein Exhibition
Presented by the Prior Health Sciences Library
376 West 10th Avenue

October 22, 2003
Jeffrey Steingardner and Peter Franklin
Presented by the Thurber House and Friends
11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Drake Performance Center
Tickets available by contacting the Friends Office

November 2, 2003–February 27, 2004
Morrie Brickmans' The Small Society Exhibition
Presented by the Cartoon Research Library
Wexner Center Building, 27 W 17th Avenue Mall

November 5–7, 2003
Friends of the OSU Libraries' Fall Book Sale
Thompson (Main) Library rooms 122 and 001

For more information about these events, please contact Library Development at (614) 292-3387.