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CORNERSTONE

THE NEWSLETTER OF MORRIS LIBRARY • SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE



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Southern
Illinois University
Carbondale

Library Renovation Passes Halfway Point

The May 18th *Southern Illinoian* heralded the installation of the roof of the addition's rotunda as marking the halfway point in Morris Library's \$48 million renovation. A heavy duty crane installed the 23,000 pound roof to the rotunda feature of the library. Library Affairs Dean David Carlson proclaimed, "This is the light at the end of the tunnel! We are pleased to have reached this point on schedule—the new Morris is in the foreseeable future."



The installation of the roof of the rotunda, part of the new look of the north face of the Library, marked the halfway point in the major renovation of Morris Library.

Recently, the exterior façade of the central tower as well as the steel framing of the addition has been completed. Concrete has been poured for the foundation and the walls of the expansion. In the interior, new elevators have been installed, and drywall is complete on floors three through five.

New views of campus will also be a feature of the design of the new Morris. In a recent interview Associate Dean Susan Logue said, "Everybody has seen the view from the north, but now they'll be able to see the south, east and west as well."

Within the next weeks the ceilings will be hung on the upper floors, and glass installation on the addition will continue. Air conditioning, light fixtures, fire alarms, sinks, and toilets will continue to be incorporated throughout the building.

This massive project, the largest renovation in the University's history, remains on schedule for occupancy of the new Morris Library for fall 2008. **GP**



CORNERSTONE is published four times a year. It is distributed free of charge to Friends of Morris Library, SIUC faculty and friends of the University.

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For a complete listing of the library staff, follow the **ABOUT THE LIBRARY** link to the **STAFF DIRECTORY** on our home page:

<http://www.lib.siu.edu/hp/>

SOUTHERN
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Message from the Dean

Three Women, Three Legacies, One Connection



It was a relatively small event in the Public Library in Troy, Illinois, but it was a special gathering nonetheless. On May 20, 2007, the staff of the Special Collections Research Center of Morris Library organized the Troy event as an early celebration for the official opening of the Jeanne Hurley Simon Papers later this year. Ms. Simon was, of course, the wife of the late Senator Paul Simon, and Troy was the home of the Simon family in their early political years. For those of us in libraries, Jeanne was very special, and Morris Library is proud to be the custodian of her papers. Throughout her career she exhibited a genuine love of libraries and worked ceaselessly on their behalf. The definitive recognition of her role was her appointment as chair of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. Each year, Morris Library distributes scholarships to two or three students who have expressed an interest in a career in librarianship. The scholarships are supported by funds from an endowment established in honor of Jeanne Hurley Simon.

In the course of the arrangements for this event, I learned about another important American woman with a Morris Library connection, Victoria Claflin Woodhull-Martin. She was the first woman candidate for president of the United States with Frederick Douglass as her running mate. Woodhull-Martin's career is a fascinating mix of progressive social policy, mysticism, and a "spicy" personal history that many would describe as sensational even today, let alone during the late 1800s. I was unaware of her place in American politics and culture, and I must confess I was also unaware that Morris Library was the depository of her papers including letters, telegrams, pamphlets and speeches.

Woodhull-Martin married a Dr. Caning Woodhull at age 15 in 1853. After her marriage, she continued to travel with her family, including her sister, Tennessee, participating in the family's medicine and fortune-telling shows. In 1864, Martin divorced Dr. Woodhull and was married "by the spirits" to Colonel James Harvey Blood in 1866; they divorced ten years later. In 1870, she and her sister began a weekly publication called the *Woodhull and Claflin's Weekly* "which advocated equal rights for women, a single standard of morality and free love, and campaigned against prostitution and abortion." The *Weekly* endorsed her for president of the United States, and the Equal Rights Party nominated her on May 10, 1872, at Apollo Hall in New York City.

The Library's notes on Victoria Woodhull-Martin conclude:

Victoria Claflin Woodhull-Martin was the "first woman" in many endeavors. She was the first woman to speak at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., to open a bank on Wall Street, and to be nominated for President of the United States. Her notes in the collection . . . add that she was the first woman to speak about the wireless, to say we would fly the ocean, to offer a prize for a flight over the Atlantic Ocean . . . and the first woman motorist [collection General Correspondence, July 18, 1904—a letter from M. Glen Fling requesting information from her as the first lady motorist.]

Continued on page 6

The Library Is Seeking . . .

With research library budgets strained by the increasing costs of electronic journals and databases, more traditional reference/replacement volumes are sometimes left behind. THE LIBRARY IS SEEKING . . . looks for private funding for those items that would not otherwise be purchased by the library. If you are interested in underwriting one of these items, please contact Kristine McGuire at kmcguire@lib.siu.edu or 618-453-1633.



\$315 for the PBS series *America at a Crossroads*. This series of eleven independently produced documentaries explores the challenges confronting the post-9/11 world including the war on terrorism; the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan; the experience of American troops serving abroad; the struggle for balance within the Muslim world; and global perspectives on America's role overseas. Series host Robert MacNeil provides context to the compelling stories and provocative points of view. This set of eleven DVDs would not only be useful for the Department of Political Science, but also the Department of Cinema and Photography.

The Adopt-a-Book Program encourages donors to purchase needed titles within which a personalized bookplate is placed.

For more information, please call 618-453-1633.

\$540 for *Celtic Culture*, five-volume set, edited by JOHN C. KOCH. Designed as an accessible but comprehensive overview of Celtic studies, this fascinating encyclopedia is part of a major research project underway at the University of Wales. The more than 1,500 entries from

over 300 scholars range in length from 100 to 10,000 words, describing Celtic civilizations of Ireland, Britain, and Brittany, from ancient to present, other Celts in Europe and Turkey, and the Celtic diaspora into the Americas and Australia.



\$550 for *Encyclopedia of India*, four-volume set, edited by STANLEY WOLPERT. With a population of 1.3 billion and per capita incomes growing at a rate of 3.8 percent annually since 1980, India is poised to become one of the economic giants of the century. Historian Wolpert has assembled an outstanding cast of 200 contributors to write 580 articles describing the history of one of the world's oldest civilizations—it gave us Buddhism, Hinduism, and ancient philosophies like yoga and Vedanta.



\$170 for *Historical Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections, 1788–2004*, edited by J. CLARK ARCHER and others. Just glancing at the 2000 presidential election maps makes you wonder how Al Gore won the popular vote since Bush won a huge majority of counties. Closer inspection reveals that Gore actually won the most densely populated counties. Put together by the fertile minds of four leading geographers, this atlas maps election results for over 3,000 U.S. counties in every presidential election since 1788, examining candidates and issues in each of the fifty-five elections.



\$335 for *Dictionary of Battles and Sieges* by TONY JAKES, three volumes. JAKES has rendered a great service to history by compiling the most detailed list of battles ever published. Defining a

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battle as a clash between organized forces of combatants, he notes that some have been epic engagements lasting weeks and involving millions while others were frontier skirmishes. Entries for the 8,500 battles listed include name and date of the battle, name of the war, context, commanders, and outcome.



\$275 for *The Grove Encyclopedia of Decorative Arts*, two volumes, edited by GORDON CAMPBELL. Decorative arts, as distinct from fine arts, emerged in the eighteenth century. Decorative arts includes crafts like ceramics, glassware, weaving, and interior decoration. Renaissance specialist Campbell has culled hundreds of entries from the 34-volume *Dictionary of Art* (1996) and added more than 1,000 new ones covering everything from designers to manufacturers to craftsmen.

Morris Library Receives \$147,000 Bequest in Honor of Emma Smith Hough

Morris Library has received a gift of approximately \$147,000 from the estate of Anita Crites Crawford of Champaign, Illinois. The funds will be used to establish scholarships in the name of her friend and sister-in-law, Emma Smith Hough of Murphysboro, who was a high school and city librarian for more than thirty years. Hough died in 1989. Three scholarships will be awarded each year, two to undergraduate students and one to a graduate student. According to the requirements of the bequest, these awards will be given for papers or other creative work based on creative and exceptional use of library resources.

The Emma Smith Hough Library Research Scholarship Awards will be administered by a five-person committee from Morris Library. An award of \$1,500 will be made to a SIUC sophomore or junior in the humanities, fine arts, or social sciences. Another award of \$1,500 will be made to a sophomore or junior at SIUC in the sciences, engineering, or applied technologies. And, \$2,000 will go to a

“Though Anita Crites Crawford was not a SIUC student, faculty, or alumna, we are delighted that she honored her dear friend and Murphysboro librarian Emma Smith Hough with this bequest.”

SIUC graduate student in any discipline.

To ensure awareness and quality applicants, the Library will expend up to \$1,000 each year to promote these scholarships. Library Affairs Dean David Carlson said, “Though Anita Crites Crawford was not a SIUC student, faculty, or alumna, we are delighted that she honored her dear friend and



Courtesy of Sallie Logan Public Library

Emma Smith Hough’s remarkable career included more than thirty years of service as a librarian, first for the Murphysboro high school and later, the Sallie Logan Public Library.

Murphysboro librarian Emma Smith Hough with this bequest.”

Anita Crites Crawford grew up in Gillespie, Illinois, where her mother was a schoolteacher and her father was a glassblower. In the 30s she attended Lindenwood College in St Charles, Missouri, but later transferred to the University of Illinois. In 1940 she married Emma Smith’s brother, Walter, and during World War II the Smiths assisted her mother with the family business in Gillespie. In 1948 the Smiths earned law degrees from the Lincoln

College of Law in Springfield. After her husband’s death, she worked for the home economics extension at the

“People like her give freely of their time to any community project. She really put her heart into whatever she was doing.”

University of Illinois and married W. L. Crawford. Anita Crites Crawford served as a lawyer for the Attorney General’s Office in Springfield before retiring in 1986. She died in May 2005.

Originally from Perry County, Emma Smith came to Murphysboro when her father became the bookkeeper at the Southern Illinois Mill. She was the class valedictorian upon graduating from Murphysboro Township High School. When she was nine she won a piano and studied music until she became a competent pianist. That piano still graced Hough’s living room when the *Southern Illinoisian* featured her in an article in 1982.

She received her BA from the University of Illinois in 1924 and a graduate degree in education from SIUC in 1948. She served as the librarian at Murphysboro Township from 1940 to 1962—she then continued as the librarian for the Sallie Logan Public Library in Murphysboro from July 1963 to May 1976. Interviewed in 1982 Mike Jones, a teacher at Murphysboro Junior High School, said, “Emma spent a lot of time

doing work for the community at Sallie Logan Library. People like her give freely of their time to any

“People like her give freely of their time to any community project. She really put her heart into whatever she was doing.”

community project. She really put her heart into whatever she was doing.”

When she made the transition from high school to city librarian she was “amazed at the care with which patrons choose books,” according to a 1963 *Southern Illinoisan* article. At that time John W. Allen’s *Legends and Lore of Southern Illinois* had just been published, and it had a waiting list of readers. “I haven’t even had a chance to look at it. It came in and it went out, just like that,” she said. Other titles of local history proved very popular such as Mrs. John A. Logan’s *Reminiscences of a Soldier’s Wife* and Paul Angle’s *Bloody Williamson*. “People are becoming conscious of the rich history of the area,” Hough said.



Courtesy of Sallie Logan Public Library

Mrs. Hough was the familiar face of assistance for high school students in Murphysboro in the 40s, 50s, and 60s.

Hough devoted her time to numerous organizations including St. Joseph’s Hospital Auxiliary, the Murphysboro Junior Women’s Club, the Friends of Sallie Logan Public Library, and the Jackson County Nursing Home Auxiliary. For her altruistic endeavors she was awarded the DIANA (Distinguished International Academy of Noble Achievement) Award by the

“Living here for so many years has permitted me to see the improvements which have been made. Murphysboro is still a town to be proud of.”

local chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha in 1976. Hough once remarked, “Living here for so many years has permitted me to see the improvements which have been made. Murphysboro is still a town to be proud of.” **GP**

[EDITOR’S NOTE: Special thanks to Cliff Swafford of the Jackson County Historical Society and Donella L. Odum of the Sallie Logan Public Library for their assistance with the preparation of this article.]

Name Selected for Library Sculpture

The end has come—a decision’s been made, and the kinetic sculpture that will adorn Morris Library’s new north entrance has a name. *Wings of Knowledge*, submitted by Kandi Riddle, an SIUC employee with Information Technology, was selected by artist Evan Lewis over some two hundred other entries. She will receive a hand-made candelabra from Lewis.

Lewis cited the popularity of the name in a vote among Library employees, stating “*Wings of Knowledge* is a highly suitable choice given the winged appearance of the sculpture and the fact it adorns the new library.”



The wind-driven piece by the Chicago sculptor will be installed in the vestibule of the Library’s north entrance. The interior mobile will be powered by a rotating exterior arm, which derives its power from the force of the wind. The exterior of the three-and-a-half story north entrance will be glass, allowing the sculpture to be clearly visible from the outside, particularly when illuminated at night. **GP**

Finally, in this *Cornerstone*, you will read about another important woman, Anita Crites Crawford. She did not contribute on the national stage as Jeanne Hurley Simon or Victoria Woodhull-Martin, but in a much quieter way, she has made a lasting and significant impact at SIUC. Through a generous estate gift, Crawford honors the memory of an important woman in her life, Emma Smith Hough. Crawford's gift substantiates the vital legacy of student scholarships. Her generosity will not only improve opportunities for students but will enhance the use and visibility of the collections at Morris Library. I encourage you to read the details of this story that begins on page 4.

In a year when a woman is a strong contender for the nomination of a major political party, it is wonderful to have such examples of strong and vibrant women in leadership, each of whom have made their own unique impact to the country, their local community, and SIUC. These are powerful legacies and striking examples of the strength and depth of the resources at Morris Library, and yet more evidence of the pride that alums can take in being a Saluki and the legacy that is Morris Library.



DAVID CARLSON

Developing the Big Picture

by *Kristine McGuire, Director of Development for Morris Library*

As I pondered what to write for this inaugural column on development I thought I should, to quote a song, "start at the very beginning." What is development and why does Morris Library need it? Most people think development is fundraising, however, it is much more. Development is building real relationships to ensure the long-term well being of Morris Library and the academic success of our students.

Over the past forty years the state's appropriation to Southern Illinois University Carbondale has fallen to 32.2% of the University's total budget, a decline of over 50% since 1967.

However, the expenses to operate this outstanding facility have gone in the opposite direction. Today, the subscription fees of some of our electronic journals cost up to \$15,000 each. To provide the resources needed by our students, these electronic journals are a necessity, but even with careful monitoring, we are faced with sacrificing one item to pay for another.


In a recent Associated Press article in the *Southern Illinoisan* James Kaplan, chairman of the Board of Higher Education in Illinois from 2003 to 2007, stated that "Up until now, I think the administrative cuts cut into the fat and not the bone. At this stage, you're cutting into the bone." The article continued, "[Kaplan] shares the blame for the stagnant funding of the past few years

"With your help Morris Library will continue to be where knowledge leads to understanding and understanding to wisdom."

because he failed to convince Blagojevich that higher education should be as high a priority as primary education."

This is how *you* can help—in each issue of *Cornerstone* is the Library Is Seeking column. Please peruse this list of actual needs, and if you see something that you would like to support, please contact

me. Or perhaps you would be more interested in making a gift toward the renovation and expansion. The new Morris Library will not only be larger but reconfigured with group study rooms, conference rooms, classrooms, reading areas and more! The plans can be viewed at <http://www.lib.siu.edu/abt/renovation/>. If you are interested in sponsoring something, be it a chair, a table, a group study room, or some other item, please contact me. In all cases a bookplate or plaque acknowledging your gift will be placed with each item sponsored.

As a Friend of Morris Library, you will have the satisfaction of helping the students of today and tomorrow fulfill their dreams of a college education. The student using a book or sitting in a chair made possible through your generous donation may be the next Dennis Franz, Joan Higginbotham or Dick Gregory. With your help Morris Library will continue to be where knowledge leads to understanding and understanding to wisdom. 

Special Collections Receives Grant for Theater Collections

Special Collections Research Center has received a grant from ORDA (Office of Research and Development) at SIUC to benefit theatrical holdings. The Mordecai Gorelik and Marjorie Lawrence Collections, two of the largest theater collections, will be particularly enhanced by this grant. Manuscripts librarian, Randy Bixby, has spearheaded the effort to improve the collection.

Bixby points out, "The primary focus of the seed grant is to identify preservation and media transfer needs. Theater collections tend to have a lot of ephemera, scrapbooks, images, sound recordings, etc. And one of the requirements for the ORDA grants is that the seed grants should lead to further grant requests from outside agencies."

With thirty boxes of material that occupy twenty-five cubic feet, the Gorelik Collection principally consists of set designs, photographs, correspondence, and production material from Gorelik's career. Born in 1899 in Minsk, Russia, Mordecai "Max" Gorelik was known for his work with the Group Theater, his allegorical approach to set design, and his writings on the theatre. He was also one of the first American practitioners to adopt the theories of Bertolt Brecht. Gorelik designed sets for more than fifty Broadway plays and numerous motion pictures. In addition to his designs, the collection serves as an invaluable resource for the study of theatre stage design and production. He

was a professor of theater at SIUC from 1960 to 1972. Gorelik died in 1990.

At ninety-seven boxes, 289 free-standing volumes, and fifty-five cubic feet of material, the Marjorie Lawrence Papers are one of the largest collections in SCRC. Born in Australia in 1909, Lawrence studied voice in Paris before making her operatic debut in New York in 1935. She was best known for her dramatic appearances in the operas of Richard Wagner. The onset of polio in 1941 compromised her promising career, and though she toured extensively, she



Courtesy of Special Collections

Strong in voice and spirit, Marjorie Lawrence created the Opera Workshop at SIUC, teaching here from 1960 to 1973.

turned to teaching international students at her ranch in Hot Springs, Arkansas, where she died in 1979.

Bixby said, "Part of the grant is to determine what use has been made of the collections in the past, and how we can

increase awareness of the collections to foster further research." It's been said the devil's in the details; accordingly, better descriptions are planned for these collections, "All of the theater collections have inventories, but most of the inventories would benefit from additional descriptions. Collections of sheet music may list only the titles of the first and last piece of music in a folder or box, with no indication of what falls in between," said Bixby. She points out that this funding will provide "one quarter-time graduate assistant for one year, one quarter-time undergraduate assistant, and some preservation supplies." **GP**

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Katherine M. Dunham Papers

by Pam Hackbart-Dean, Director of Special Collections Research Center

In February 1965, the culmination of Katherine Dunham's eleven-week period as an artist-in-residence at Southern Illinois University Carbondale was a stage performance of Gounod's opera, *Faust*. Dunham staged and choreographed the production, giving it a unique twist by its setting in World War I Germany. Over the next few years, Dunham would continue to teach as an artist-in-residence at Southern Illinois University Carbondale and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. In September 1965, she would honor Morris Library's Special Collections by donating her personal and faculty papers, highlighting her career through the period of her association with Southern Illinois University Carbondale ending in the late 1960s.

The Katherine Dunham Papers consists of correspondence, writings, scripts, notes on dance techniques, and musical scores that illuminate the extraordinary journey of a woman who changed the face of American modern dance. Her collection documents all aspects of her varied experience as an African American anthropologist, dancer, choreographer, and educator. Her personal correspondence comprises the bulk of this collection, and notable correspondents include Josephine Baker, Harry Belafonte, Doris Duke, W. C. Handy, Langston Hughes, Eartha Kitt, Butterfly McQueen, Anthony Quinn, and Paul Robeson.

This Collection also highlights Dunham's early explorations as an anthropologist in the 1930s when she studied a multitude of dance forms and movement types. However, it is Dunham's focus on the movements and dances of the African diaspora that so influenced her development as a

choreographer for her company, which introduced African and Caribbean dance movement to the American public, as well as her manuscripts related to her published works *The Dances of Haiti*, *Journey to Accompong*, *Island Possessed*, and *The Negro Dance*.

Dunham's papers provide direct support for teaching and research at SIUC, while also serving a larger research community around the world. These papers are recognized as a leading source of biographical information about the artist herself, in addition to supporting research by national and international scholars of dance. Also, Dunham's papers serve the Southern Illinois University Carbondale community as a foundation for research and exhibitions, as it contains extensive material (including early sound recordings of Haitian music) for historians and students of African American dance and dance anthropology. More information

about Dunham's collection is available on SCRC's website—<http://www.lib.siu.edu/departments/speccoll/index.html>. Other institutions that have some holdings related to Dunham and her work include the Library of Congress and the Missouri Historical Society. ✦



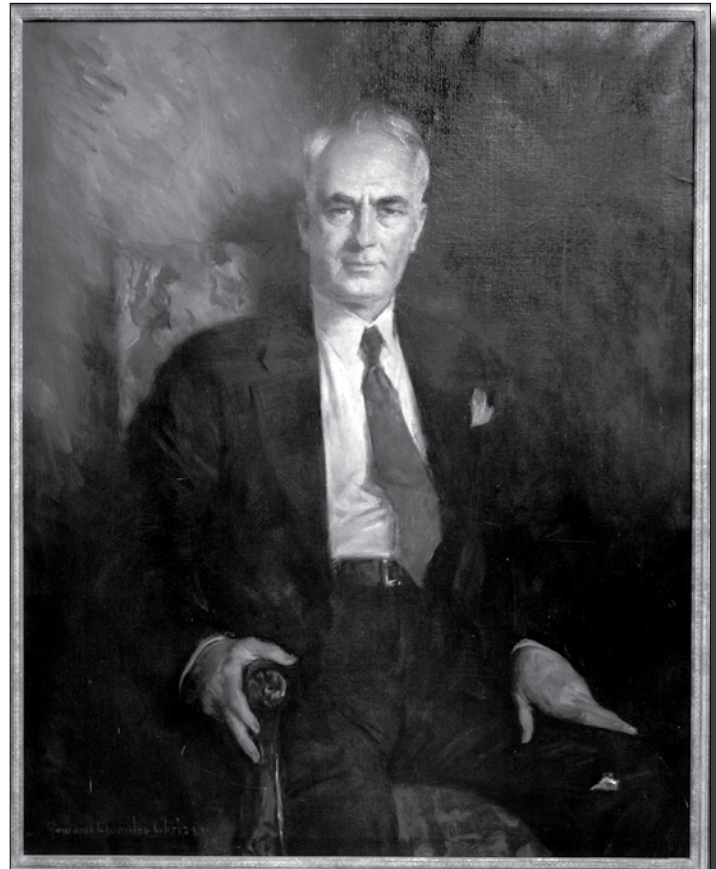
Mexican artist Miguel Covarrubias caricatured Dunham for this Danish theater program.

performer, choreographer, and teacher. Her papers also contain examples of music from her field research from Haiti recorded by Dunham and others. Additionally, the collection consists of photographs documenting Dunham's remarkable career as a performer and

The Library Is Seeking ... continued from page 3

\$1,200 for conservator's repair to this oil-on-canvas portrait of southern Illinois politician KENT KELLER.

Born on a farm near Campbell Hill, Illinois, June 4, 1867, Kent Ellsworth Keller was "a farm boy who hated farm work," according to David Kenney, professor emeritus of political science at SIUC. He attended public school in Ava, Illinois, and graduated from Southern Illinois Normal University in Carbondale with a four-year degree in the classics in 1890. He attended Heidelberg University in Germany in 1891-92, "where he was imbued with the socialist ideals of the German Republic," according to Kenney. He taught school in Duckwater, Nevada, and in Ava, Illinois, but during this period of his life, he was frequently involved in mining activities in an attempt "to get rich quick." Graduating from St. Louis Law School in 1896, he was admitted to the bar the same year and began a practice in Ava. His political career began in 1913 with election to the Illinois legislature. He was a delegate to the 1916 Democratic National Convention and was elected to five successive sessions of Congress between 1930 and 1940. He became closely aligned with President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and David Kenney credits Keller as "father of the New Deal." He spearheaded the legislation that brought Crab Orchard Lake to southern Illinois, but Republicans derided this



Courtesy of Special Collections

project as "Keller's frog pond." Two coal-fired power plants on opposite sides of the lake were envisioned, but never realized. He was unsuccessful in his bid for congressional reelection in 1940 due to isolationist, anti-militarist sentiment in Jackson County, and he turned to lecturing and literary endeavors. From June 1945 to August 1946 he served as special adviser to the United States Ambassador at Mexico City. Keller was a persistent, but unsuccessful congressional candidate in four elections between 1942 and 1950. He died in Ava, Illinois, on September 3, 1954, and is interred in the Ava Evergreen Cemetery. In addition to Crab Orchard Lake another element of his legacy is the highway that connects Ava with Route 3, which bears his name.

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618-453-1633



\$825 for *Dictionary of Medical Biography*, five-volume set edited by W. F. & HELEN BYNUM. This exemplary resource, assembled with the help of almost 400 contributors, comprises biographies of well over 1,000 individuals from the medical field, along with a series of essays describing medical traditions around the world. While major figures like Galen, Pasteur, and Nightingale are included, so, too, is Vladimir Negovskii, a Ukrainian who pioneered the use of cardiac massage in resuscitation.

\$540 for *The Encyclopedia of the American Revolutionary War*, five-volume set edited by GREGORY FREMONT-BARNES & RICHARD A. RYERSON. Viewing the American Revolution as the first step in dismantling European imperialism, this work centers around three key subjects: British imperial policy, the character of the political societies, and the nature of the Republican polities created at the time. Spain's participation, frequently ignored, gets needed attention, as do legends, diseases, and even art.

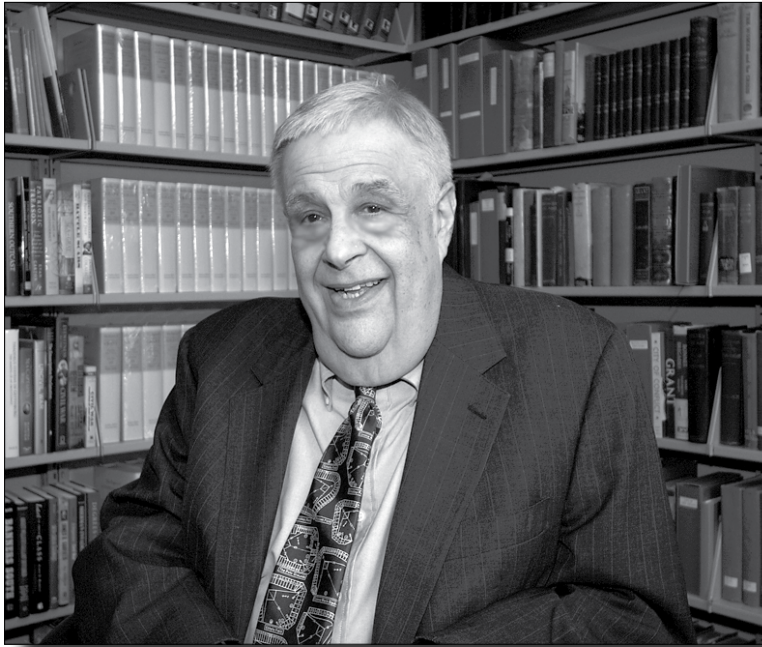
\$500 for *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of World Folklore and Folklife*, four-volume set, edited by WILLIAM M. CLEMENTS. Folklore entered the English language in 1846. Since then, folklorists have been assessing the cultural material that exists in every society. Some 200 scholars here describe 170 cultural groups as different as the Xavante in Brazil are from the Kadazandusun in Malaysia, detailing sociocultural features, belief systems, verbal and musical arts, and the impact of modernization. An outstanding set that enriches our knowledge of world cultures.

Focus on Library Faculty *John Y. Simon*

This represents the second installment of what has become a regular feature of *Cornerstone*. To better acquaint readers with Morris Library faculty, in each issue one member is chosen at random and asked to respond to a standard list of questions. We hope to provide readers with information on the background, talent, and vision of this core group of individuals who are essential to the workings of Morris Library.

John Y. Simon came to SIUC in 1964, due in part to the vision of Delyte Morris, but because of Library Director Ralph McCoy's ambition to build Morris Library as a research juggernaut. As a result of this liaison, Simon is unique in holding an appointment with Library Affairs and with SIUC's Department of History. He is executive director of the U. S. Grant Association and has edited twenty-eight volumes of *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant* to date. A native of Highland Park, Illinois, he has written extensively on Civil War topics, with an affinity toward Abraham Lincoln and nineteenth-century Illinois, and he has contributed forewords, entries, and introductions to nearly 100 publications. These contributions range from the *Encyclopedia Britannica* to southern Illinois' own *Springhouse* magazine, and he has written more forewords for SIUC Press than anyone else, with twelve to his credit currently. An advocate of historical documentation, he is the founder of the Association for Documentary Editing. He received

a Special Achievement Award of the Lincoln Prize at Gettysburg College in 2004 for the editing of *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*. That same year he was awarded the Richard Nelson Current Award of Achievement from the Lincoln Forum. Three forthcoming volumes will



John Y. Simon has been the editor of *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant* since the inception of the project.

complete *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*, and an additional volume will contain Grant material that has surfaced since the series began.

“Grant is an interesting writer. You never know what’s going to come out of his pen from day to day.”

While Simon's contributions to the understanding and appreciation of U. S. Grant, Abraham Lincoln, the Civil War, and Illinois history are considerable and significant, thousands of students

have benefited from Simon's forty-three years in the classroom. In reflecting upon his time with students, Simon said, “Whatever success I've had in teaching at SIUC, I owe to the fact that I don't do that much of it. . . . It's a treat to get to the classroom. And I think that my pleasure in teaching is reflected in some of the enthusiasm with which I teach.”

Tell us about the requirements of your position.

JOHN Y. SIMON: I was chosen to head the Grant project because I knew the people who were starting it. They knew of my interest in the Civil War and probably knew already that I was born to edit *The Papers of Abraham Lincoln*, but the Lincoln papers were already done by the time I grew up. They suggested Grant at a time when I had not thought about editing the Grant papers, but I

really embraced the project because it sounded a lot better than the teaching I was doing at Ohio State, which involved teaching the same class three times a day.

What are the challenges of your position?

JYS: In 1962 we embarked upon this project of editing everything written by Grant, and the correspondence to him. We canvassed libraries throughout the United States and some abroad in the hope of making our edition as comprehensive as possible—that's a goal that we'll never reach, but it's something we continually strive for. I suppose that's the major challenge—to be comprehensive in a world in which the resources are so widely scattered in public and private hands that it will

continued from page 10 . . .

never be achieved, and the struggle is worthwhile.

If an anonymous donor gave \$10,000 for use in your area, what would you do with it?

JYS: If we had an infusion of money like that, we'd spend it right away. To begin with, we receive matching money from the National Endowment for the Humanities, so that \$10,000 would be doubled immediately. Ours is an expensive project. Basically, we've tried to be careful with our money over the years and to save some for a rainy day. The rain's beginning to fall, so I'm afraid that \$10,000 wouldn't last very long.

What do you like best/least about your position?

JYS: Well, I enjoy the work everyday. I'm interested in what I'm doing. Grant is an interesting writer. You never know what's going to come out of his pen from day to day. New letters usually have some sort of twist to them, some sort of additional insight into the way he thinks. Because his thinking is complex, we are never really at the end of it.

Why did you become a historian?

JYS: Well, I've always been interested in history. I was interested when I was quite young. I got involved with the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop in Chicago, where I was a customer, and then I worked there during summer vacations from college. I really loved it, because the bookshop also sold manuscripts. I cataloged the books, I worked with the manuscripts—it was just the sort of thing I particularly loved to do. After my graduate training that seemed like the sort of thing I could do as an editor of the Grant papers as well.

“As for the future of libraries, I think they are going to become an ever more essential part of university settings.”

What is the future of libraries?

JYS: It's hard to say. Obviously, they are changing—there's an electronic revolution in progress. We try to keep up

with it, but it becomes difficult as time goes by because of the many changes that are coming. I know that the book is permanent, and it will be a resource no matter how much the world changes. As for the future of libraries, I think they are going to become an ever more essential part of university settings. I believe that they hold the key to making more information available and making it available in a form that's easier for many people to use.

What books would you take with you to a desert isle?

JYS: I think I'd be taking a few reference books. One thinks of favorite books, but favorite books are books that I've already read. It's important to have something new and something fresh for a desert island, and the more reference books and compendia that can be packed away on this journey the better off I'm going to be. I always think that a volume of Shakespeare would have plenty of material for me, but I suppose after a while on a desert island I'd even get sick of that. It would be hard to imagine living on a desert island without a full library. 📖

Vintage Image Corner



The staff of the 1929 *Egyptian*, the weekly newspaper of Southern Illinois Normal University, huddle about their tools of the trade—two typewriters and a dictionary. According to that year's *Obelisk*, the campus yearbook, the newspaper had a staff of twenty-five and “The past year has been marked by a decisive change in the make-up of the *Egyptian*. The pages are three inches longer than previously. There is a new emphasis upon feature articles and a frequent use of stories in a series.”



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RECENT DEVELOPMENT—At their July 12 meeting the SIU Board of Trustees voted an additional \$14.8 million in funding for the Library's renovation. This increase brings the total project cost to \$56.5 million, addresses inflationary cost pressures, and ensures completion of the sixth and seventh floors.



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING the Library's 75th anniversary as a government documents depository by attending a presentation by **DR. JOHN Y. SIMON**, Wednesday, September 12 at 7:00 PM in Lawson 141 on SIUC's campus. This talk is free, and all are welcome. Details at 618-453-1633.

Library Friends

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