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CORNERSTONE

THE NEWSLETTER OF MORRIS LIBRARY • SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE



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Morris Library's Cuneiform Tablet

by *Ann Myers, Special Collections Cataloger*

The oldest item owned by Morris Library is not a book by modern definitions; it is a small clay tablet with cuneiform writing. It would fit comfortably in the palm of your hand, though it is in two pieces and cracked in other places, so we try to handle it as little as possible. We believe the tablet dates from 2400–2200 BC, and it was found in Senkereh, also known as the biblical city of Larsa (modern day Tell as-Senkereh in Iraq).

Morris Library acquired the tablet from Edgar J. Banks, an early twentieth-century archaeologist. He was also a dealer in antiquities, buying many cuneiform tablets and importing as many as 11,000 to the United States, where he sold them to universities and museums. He excavated Bismya, or the lost city of Adab in 1903, was the first American to climb Mount Ararat in 1912, and may have been the first archaeologist to search for the Ark of the Covenant. His many adventures have led some to speculate that he inspired the Indiana Jones character.

Cuneiform writing is the earliest known writing system in the world, emerging in the 34th century BC, and it was used for over 3,000 years. Its characters could represent a number of different languages, but it was first developed from a form of hieroglyphics used by the Sumerians. These hieroglyphics had been carved into stone, and used curved as well as straight lines. When the Sumerian culture moved to Mesopotamia where



Morris' cuneiform tablet lives in a custom-made box that is in need of repair. See page 5.

stone was less common, clay became the dominant writing material. The tools used to impress marks in the clay made wedge-shaped marks which did not lend themselves to curved lines, so the hieroglyphic characters became more stylized, and eventually came to represent sounds rather than ideas. The cuneiform writing on our clay tablet covers every surface

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DEAN

David Carlson
618/453-2522/dcarlson@lib.siu.edu

ACTING ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR SUPPORT SERVICES

Howard Carter
618/453-2258/hcarter@lib.siu.edu

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR INFORMATION SERVICES

Susan Tulis
618/453-1459/stulis@lib.siu.edu

SPECIAL COLLECTION RESEARCH CENTER—MANUSCRIPT, ART & PHOTOGRAPHIC DONATIONS

Pam Hackbart-Dean
618/453-2516/phdean@lib.siu.edu

BOOK AND MONETARY DONATIONS & BEQUESTS

Kristine McGuire
618/453-1633/kmcguire@lib.siu.edu

CORNERSTONE

EDITOR

Gordon Pruett
618/453-1660/gpruett@lib.siu.edu

DESIGNER

Sharon Granderson
618/453-1011/sgrander@lib.siu.edu

PRESERVATION

Julie Mosbo
618/453-2947/jmosbo@lib.siu.edu

PHOTOGRAPHY

Greg Wendt
618/453-3860/gwendt@lib.siu.edu

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/>

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SOUTHERN

Message from the Dean

Taxpayer Access

FRPAA: It stands for Federal Research Public Access Act (pronounced fir-pa). Like many initialisms, it does not roll off the tongue but FRPAA is important legislation that was introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives in April as HR 5037. The bill was introduced on a bi-partisan basis by Representatives Doyle (D-PA), Waxman (D-CA), Wasserman-Schultz (D-FL), Harper (R-MS), Boucher (D-VA) and Rohrabacher (R-CA).

Governmental agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation give money—tens of billions of dollars annually—to universities and other groups in support of research. The results of the research are reported back to the agency through technical documents, progress updates, and a final report. Further, in most cases researchers report results in articles in peer-reviewed journals. Unfortunately, access to these articles, which represent the explication and documentation of the research findings, is limited and restricted. Access is gained only by those who have access to the journal, in print or electronic format. Typically, researchers gain access through a subscription paid for by the library of the institution with which they are affiliated.

As a society, we support and value research because we wish to discover new knowledge and understand more fully the world around us. But discoveries and new knowledge, even the most important ones, are valueless unless they are shared and communicated. When shared, discoveries can be applied, and others can learn and build upon the knowledge gained. Communication is not simply a by-product of research—it is essential to its purpose.

FRPAA requires the primary federal grant-funding agencies to provide online public access to published manuscripts stemming from the research no later than six months after publication in a peer-reviewed journal. The argument for such a requirement is that since the research is funded through public funds, the public has a right to the literature reporting the results. The six-month embargo period protects the business models of publishers which rely on the income from subscriptions.

A key objection by publishers to FRPAA is that it undermines their business model and that libraries will cut subscriptions despite the six-month embargo. Regrettably, we have some experience with journal cancellation projects at Morris, and I can report two key findings. First, we have never looked at the percentage of public access availability of articles in a journal as a criterion for cancellation. Our primary concern is and will always be the applicability and relevance of the journal to our curriculum and research interests. Second, I can report that the primary reason we cancel journals is the inability to afford what I believe are the rapacious price increases by publishers which year after year, decade after decade, exceed the average U.S. inflation rate.

I encourage you to support FRPAA. You paid for the research. You deserve access to it. If you want more information about FRPAA, I recommend the web site of the Alliance for Taxpayer Access at the following URL: www.taxpayeraccess.org

Portions of this essay were also used in a recent Op Ed piece in the SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN.




DAVID CARLSON

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.



\$170 for *Landscape As World Picture: Tracing Cultural Evolution in Images* by JACOB WAMBERG. This book presents a new and comprehensive bid concerning the manner in which landscapes in Western pictorial art may be interpreted in relation to the cultures that created them. "Unusual for its ambitious scope, Wamberg undertakes a survey of the appearance of landscape in western art from cave painting to the Renaissance, utilizing concepts from philosophy and psychology to explain the artist's, and by extension, that civilization's notion of the world around them. Wamberg develops his argument chronologically and thematically." —*BookNews*



\$225 for *Companion to Aelfric* edited by HUGH MAGENNIS. This collection provides a new, authoritative and challenging study of the life and works of Aelfric, Abbot of Eynsham, the most important vernacular religious writer in the history of Anglo-Saxon England. The contributors include almost all of the key Aelfric scholars working today and some important newer voices. Each of the chapters is a cutting-edge piece of work which addresses one aspect of Aelfric works or career.

\$110 for *Frank Auerbach* by WILLIAM FEAVER. This is the most comprehensive publication to date, and the only book in print, on the work of Frank Auerbach, a painter who has become one of the pre-eminent artists of our age, widely admired for his vivid, impulsive depictions of the world around him. His is, ostensibly, a narrow world, a small area of north London where he has lived and worked for more than fifty years, but within it he achieves images of marvelous poignancy and feel. "I'm hoping," Auerbach has said, "to make a new thing for the world that remains in the mind like a new species of living thing." Auerbach, who was born in Berlin in 1931 and came to Britain when he was eight, repeatedly paints people he knows well and places he is familiar with.

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.

\$110 for *New Perspectives on Adam Smith's The Theory of Moral Sentiments* by GEOFF COCKFIELD. "While much attention has been given to *The Wealth of Nations*, Adam Smith's companion book on *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* is often ignored or dismissed as incompatible with the central message of the more famous work. While a number of economists and other social scientists have criticized such stances, this collection of essays brings together a number of fresh and important perspectives on Smith's relatively neglected volume." — Geoffrey M. Hodgson, University of Hertfordshire, UK

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The Adopt-a-Book Program appreciates your support.

\$210 for *Cambridge History of Eighteenth-Century Music* by DAVID WYN JONES. The eighteenth century arguably boasts a more remarkable group of significant musical figures, and a more engaging combination of genres, styles and aesthetic orientations than any century before or since, yet huge swathes of its musical activity remain under-appreciated. This history provides a comprehensive survey of eighteenth-century music, examining little-known repertoires, works and musical trends alongside more familiar ones. Rather than relying on temporal, periodic and composer-related phenomena to structure the volume, it is organized by genre; chapters are grouped according to the traditional distinctions of music for the church, music for the theatre and music for the concert room that conditioned so much thinking, activity and output in the eighteenth century.

Katherine Dunham's Haitian Legacy

by Aaron Lisec, *Special Collections Research Specialist*

Famed dancer, choreographer, and teacher Katherine Dunham (1909–2006) was born in Illinois, attended the University of Chicago, lived in New York City and Dakar, Senegal, and spent much of her last years in East St. Louis. But for many who know little else about her, Dunham will always be associated with Haiti: a country she first knew as an eager student of anthropology; where she underwent a spiritual ordeal that transformed her life and shaped her career; where she returned as a dance diva to reign as mistress over one of the island's most historic properties; and whose political turmoil inspired her well-publicized hunger strike in 1992, at the age of 82.

Scholars can trace Dunham's long fascination with Haiti through the Katherine Dunham Papers, part of the University Archives in the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) at Morris Library. Dunham's papers yield a wealth of material on Haiti, beginning with her anthropological field trip to the island in 1935–36. While studying the

*"As soon as I set foot on Leclerc I felt its evil. I knew none of its history then, or, I should say, only the bright side: its gracious alleyways and staircases, the figures in baroque style around the pool graced by a bas-relief of Pauline Bonaparte Leclerc on Canova's sofa calmly regarding two awkward slaves offering the fruit of the country. . . ." —KATHERINE DUNHAM, *Island Possessed**



parade and wax cylinder recordings of ceremonial music, recently converted to compact disc under SCRC auspices.

Dunham's immersion in Voodoo traditions had a profound effect on her decision to become a dancer, and the path her dance career took. She incorporated



Katherine Dunham on steps of Haiti's National Palace in 1950.

"Here lived Pauline Bonaparte in 1802" graces the property later owned by Katherine Dunham.

ethnography of Caribbean dance forms, Dunham immersed herself in Haitian life, befriended political leaders, and was initiated into the indigenous Vaudun (Voodoo) religion in an elaborate, three-day ceremony that she described in intimate detail in her Haitian memoir, *Island Possessed*, published by

Doubleday in 1969. Her manuscript for *Island Possessed* remains with SCRC. Other mementoes of her Haitian fieldwork include film she took of a Carnival

ceremonial rhythms and movements into her choreography, and infused her routines with a Caribbean mystique that linked her indelibly to the region and thrilled audiences around the world. In 1949 she returned to Haiti to accept an award from President Dumarsais Estimé, a friend from her first visit, and shortly afterward she bought Habitation Leclerc, a large villa with a sacred spring surrounded by a tropical forest in the suburbs of Port-au-Prince. The property was once owned by Napoleon's sister Pauline, the wife of General Leclerc, sent by France to crush Haiti's nascent rebellion. Famous for her extramarital exploits, Pauline Leclerc hosted legendary parties in her villa. Under her husband's successor, General Rochambeau, the plantation

continued from page 4

achieved a more sinister notoriety, with stories of rebellious slaves buried alive or fed to ravenous dogs.

To exorcise the spiritual remnants of this “evil” legacy, Dunham enlisted the help of a Voodoo priestess, who spent months on the property. Still, as she suggests in her memoir, Dunham never quite felt at home in her tropical paradise, where she lived on and off for more than two decades. Her relationship with the island itself was similarly mixed. She had a deep sympathy for the long-suffering poor, for whom she ran a free medical

clinic, and little respect for the small ruling elite, with whom she was expected to mingle. President Estimé was driven into exile soon after she bought her villa, and she reached an uneasy truce with his successors, including the notorious Duvaliers, “Papa Doc” and “Baby Doc.” In the 1970s, Dunham leased most of Habitation Leclerc to a French developer, who built a luxury resort catering to wealthy celebrities. But she kept a house there, and maintained her ties to the country. In 1992, after a coup in Haiti led to the mass migration of so-called Haitian boat-people to Florida, Dunham embarked on a hunger strike in her East

St. Louis home to protest U.S. policy against the refugees. Her efforts drew attention from national and worldwide media, and she was only persuaded to stop after 47 days, amid serious concern for her health. Dunham was later named “Spiritual Mother of Haiti” by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. To honor her memory, her home in Haiti has been transformed into a cultural center and botanical garden; its condition after the devastating January 12th earthquake is unknown. ◀▶

continued from page 1

CUNEIFORM TABLET SEEKS NEW HOME

The custom-made box in which the cuneiform tablet resides has served its purpose well for the past several decades. But the library’s conservators feel that more durable material would benefit the tablet’s preservation. We are seeking \$275 in underwriting for this purpose. Please contact Kristine McGuire at 618-453-1633 to conserve this ancient treasure.

of the tablet, and the lines even curve to fit the contour of the clay. This was a characteristic of later cuneiform writing in which the signs are crowded together, making the text particularly difficult to decipher.

If a scribe wanted to preserve the writing on a clay tablet, he would either lay it out in the sun to dry, or fire it in a kiln to harden the clay. However, not all clay tablets surviving today were deliberately fired. If the information on the tablet was not considered important, the clay would be left damp, and the tablet might be

reused later. Many such tablets were accidentally preserved for later generations when the buildings housing them were razed by invading armies.

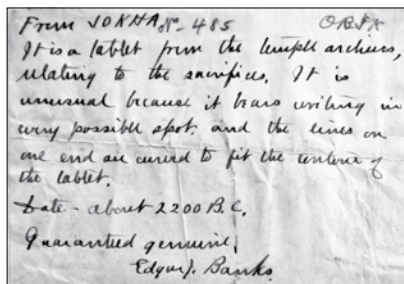
The city-state of Larsa, where our clay tablet was found, dates to Babylonian times, 2800 or 2700 BC, and was the site of worship of a sun-god named Utu in Sumerian, and Shamash in Akkadian. The name Senkereh appears to refer to an ancient mound that may have

been the site of the sun-god’s temple. Senkereh was first excavated in 1850, and efforts to recover the ancient city continued into the twentieth century. The little documentation we have regarding the tablet indicates that it was found in the temple archives, and that it relates to sacrifices. We don’t know the nature of these sacrifices, but Shamash was also the god of justice, and the

sick would appeal to him for relief from unjust suffering at the hands of demons.

Much more remains to be discovered about the nature and origins of our cuneiform tablet. The fact that this 4,000 year-old relic has survived to the present day is astonishing and is a reminder of the impermanence of many other media. It provides a tangible glimpse into a time so far removed from our own that it is almost alien to us. We hope to continue

to preserve this piece of the past for many more generations to come. ◀▶



Banks’ note for Morris’ tablet states, “It is a tablet from the temple archives, relating to the sacrifices. It is unusual because it bears writing in every possible spot, and the lines on one end are curved to fit the contour of the tablet. Date—about 2200 B.C. Guaranteed genuine, Edgar J. Banks”



Courtesy Eustis Historical Museum

Edgar J. Banks was the basis for the film character of Indiana Jones.

The Library Is Seeking . . . continued from page 3

\$285 for *Handbook of the Birds of the World. Volume 12: Picathartes to Tits and Chickadees*. This series is the first ever to illustrate all the species of birds in the world, in addition to providing access to all the essential information about each one of them. This volume includes coverage of the Passeriformes: Picathartes, Babblers, Parrotbills, Australasian Babblers, Logrunners, Jewel-babblers and allies, Whistlers, Australasian Robins, Fairywrens, Bristlebirds, Thornbills, Australian Chats, Sittellas, Australasian Treecreepers, Tits and Chickadees. 52 color plates, more than 400 color photographs, distribution maps. Morris Library currently holds the previous eleven volumes of this acclaimed series.

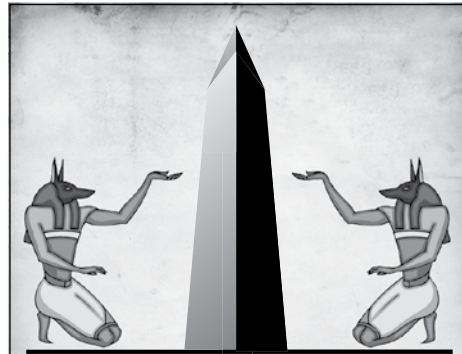


\$100 for *Arthritis Sourcebook, Third Edition* edited by AMY L. SUTTON. This title provides updated information about diagnosing, treating, and managing degenerative, inflammatory, and other specific forms of arthritis. It also explains the symptoms and treatments of related diseases that affect the joints, tendons, ligaments, bones, and muscles. Details about currently used medical, surgical, and self-care management strategies are included along with tips for reducing joint pain and inflammation and managing arthritis-related disability.



\$480 for *Encyclopedia of Human Rights* edited by DAVID P. FORSYTHE. "Recent years have witnessed a proliferation of reference books on human rights. Inspired by *Encyclopedia of Human Rights*, compiled by Edward Lawson (2nd ed., 1996), this one is sui generis. In editing this five-volume work of exceptional scope and depth, Forsythe has produced a magnum opus sure to take its place as a major contribution to the literature. All previous encyclopedic works on the subject pale in comparison. The sheer massiveness of this undertaking makes it a remarkable achievement." —*Choice*

\$160 for *The World of Child Labor: an Historical and Regional Survey*, edited by HUGH D. HINDMAN. "This encyclopedia surveys child labor in a global and historical context. Editor Hindman observes that child labor always has been a chronic problem, but for the first time, a global effort is emerging to end the practice. Comprehensive in scope, the volume contains 222 original essays by 190 contributors." —*Choice*



SUPPORT AN OBELISK

In 1914 the *Obelisk* became the campus yearbook for Southern Illinois University, and Special Collections has embarked on a project to digitize *Obelisks* from 1914 to 1960. A gift of **\$100** will underwrite the insertion of an electronic bookplate, containing your name, an inscription, and a photograph. These volumes will be full-text searchable. Contact Kristine McGuire at 618-453-1633 or kmcguire@lib.siu.edu for more information about becoming a supporter of this project.

\$295 for *Encyclopedia of American Disability History* edited by SUSAN BURCH. "Editor Burch has produced an excellent resource on the history of disability in the US. Over the past four decades, increasing attention has been focused on the disabled population. This set, the first to incorporate such a wide variety of information into one resource, is currently the premier encyclopedia on disability." —*Choice*

\$210 for *Socioeconomic and Legal Implications of Electronic Intrusion* edited by DIONYSIOS POLITIS. In the information society, electronic intrusion has become a new form of trespassing often causing significant problems and posing great risks for individuals and businesses. This book focuses on abusive and illegal practices of penetration in the sphere of private communications. A leading international reference source within the field, it provides legal and political practitioners, academicians, and intrusion researchers with expert knowledge into global theft and spam perspectives, identity theft and fraud, and electronic crime issues.

To underwrite any of these items
contact Kristine McGuire at
kmcguire@lib.siu.edu or
618-453-1633

\$210 for *Cambridge History of Nineteenth-Century Music* by JIM SAMSON "After more than three decades of discovery and controversy about Western art music of the 19th century, Samson has put together a collection that articulates contemporary understanding of that era's major issues. Both a reference work and a springboard for further research, this volume comprises 21 self-contained essays that range from historiography and intellectual and social context to repertory studies. Samson divides the contributions into two sections (1800–50, 1850–1900), each dealing with the particular problems of the time—e.g., periodization, standard concert fare, genius, nationalism. The editor instructed the writers to take a stand, to present an 'angle' rather than a survey. Since most of the writers are English and American, the essays and the choice of music and institutions represent the views of mostly the English-speaking scholarly world. The cogent writing is organized and little troubled by footnotes (a current bibliography ends each essay) . . ." —*Choice*

Focus on Library Faculty

Jonathan Nabe

When Jonathan Nabe returned to SIU in July 2007 it was like the closing of a circle that included service at SUNY Stony Brook, Brandeis University, and the University of Connecticut. Previously, he completed his BS in zoology at SIU in 1989, and he earned his Master's in library science at the University of Illinois in 1994.

When he was hired as the Collection Development Librarian in the sciences, Nabe commented it was Morris' excellent national reputation that was a factor in attracting him back here.

What are the requirements of your position?

I have two roles in Morris Library, one (for which I was hired) as Collection Development Librarian for the sciences, one as Coordinator of OpenSIUC, the institutional repository of SIUC. In my first role, there are many important skills, but analytical skills are the essential and common denominator for all of my responsibilities. Not just analyzing resources for purchase, which I do, but increasingly analyzing the use of resources which we already have, in order to ensure that the Library's users' needs are optimally met, in an environment of increasing costs and decreasing ability to afford everything. As OpenSIUC Coordinator, outreach is the essential quality for success, and this requires patience, persistence, knowledge, flexibility, and a whole lot else—in fact, I wrote a book about it.

What are the challenges of your position?

Making painful decisions about what we have to give up in order to keep what we most need, and communicating those decisions to faculty and students. For OpenSIUC, the biggest challenge is overcoming the inertia of overworked faculty and securing their participation.

What do you like best/least about your position?

The variety. On any given day I might be ordering books, analyzing use statistics in spreadsheets, persuading faculty to contribute to OpenSIUC, composing public relations materials, researching citation use in SIUC theses and dissertations, writing articles or preparing presentations,

and even occasionally, handling books. I have the luxury of choosing my work agenda on a daily basis. The flip side of that is that there is always too much to do, a common aspect of academic librarianship, which is a direct result of declining staffing, something that is happening everywhere. Do more with less is the mantra, but the day only holds so many hours.

Can you elaborate on your research and publications?

Last year I completed a book on starting and managing institutional repositories, something the profession sorely needed. It was an immense effort, but gratifying. You never know if you can do it until you try. My research interests mirror my job responsibilities: exploring new ways to optimize our resources and meeting users' needs, and using technology to expand the reach of faculty and student research and publications, not just locally, but around the world. What I would really like to do, though, is write a history of the management of the Shawnee National Forest. There have been some interesting conflicts there that are largely untold . . .



One of three collection development librarians, Nabe's goal is "providing to the university and surrounding communities access to the best and most useful collections possible."

Why did you become a librarian?

Again, the variety of responsibilities. Also, being part of the world of academia, with its aims of spreading knowledge, improving the lives of citizens, and managing the earth, its people and its resources more intelligently. Not for the money.

What's the future of libraries?

In terms of our collections, we will have a completely different role. Instead of paying for resources produced by publishers, we will collect, preserve, and disseminate the research produced locally—the goal of an institutional repository. That is the only way others will be able to access that valuable research, because all libraries have been, for over twenty years, cutting subscriptions and reducing the number of books they buy. And the SIUC community will increasingly access others' research that way, as other institutions also implement repositories like OpenSIUC. 📖



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Groundbreaking for the Morris patio is soon to occur. But time remains to underwrite bricks, tables, and Old Main remnants. Contact Kristine McGuire at kmcguire@lib.siu.edu or 618-453-1633.

Library Friends

Financial gifts from library friends empower Morris Library and ensure its position as one of the top research libraries in the country. We appreciate this tradition of private support, which is critical to the quality of the library's collections, programs, and services. In furtherance of the goals of SOUTHERN AT 150, SIUC and the SIU Foundation retain six percent of all gifts to strengthen the advancement program.

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