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CORNERSTONE

THE NEWSLETTER OF MORRIS LIBRARY • SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE



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Lost Chapter in History Found in Post Cards

by Aaron Lisec, Special Collections Research Specialist

Among the many hidden treasures of the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) at Morris are post cards—many of them real photo post cards—of a little known chapter in American military history. These post cards offer glimpses into a southern Illinoisan's experience in the first and only time American troops fought on Russian soil.

Making his rounds in tiny Unity, just north of Cairo in southern Illinois, in the 1940s and '50s, Postmaster William McKinley Planert was half a world and several decades away from an adventure that few remember. Planert was one of 8,000 troops in the American Expeditionary Force Siberia (AEFS), sent by President Woodrow Wilson

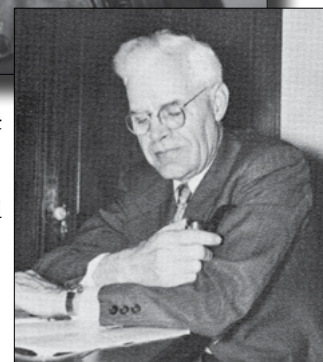
in the summer of 1918 to achieve several difficult objectives in the midst of a Russian civil war. The AEFS was ordered to rescue 40,000 Czech soldiers threatened by the Bolshevik army, protect military supplies—nearly

a billion dollars worth of guns and equipment—sent by the United States to the former Russian government, and stabilize government in the volatile revolutionary atmosphere. A year and a half later, the last troops left Vladivostok, having survived two of

Siberia's brutal winters and navigated a complicated course between competing Soviet, Cossack, and Japanese armies.



William M. Planert rose to the rank of sergeant during his time in Siberia, and later in life he was a tireless worker for southern Illinois' Bald Knob Cross.



Planert's daughter Louise Ogg, retired Cairo librarian and currently head docent of the Cairo Customs House Museum, recalls that her father rarely

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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/>

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SOUTHERN
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Message from the Dean



With every fall issue of this newsletter I feel it appropriate to update *Cornerstone* readers on the Library's progress over the past year. Each year presents its unique challenges, but this year has been especially daunting. Last year the Library gave up nearly \$1 million from our budget that we could not spend due to budget restrictions. This year, like other academic units on campus, we have submitted a plan to reduce our operational budget by four percent. To meet this reduction the Library gave up two full-time positions and an additional \$40,000 in salary. Those figures do not include other reductions that were necessary in other budget categories, such as equipment.

I am pleased to report, however, that our four percent reduction for this year was calculated on the basis of our operational budget only; the materials budget, which makes up about half our total budget, was spared and not reduced. This is a significant statement by the University on the importance of the information resources we provide to campus. Last year, while we could not expend nearly \$1M of our operational funds, our materials budget was increased by \$300,000. This was done specifically to ameliorate the impact of our serials cancellation project. Due to this increase, we were able to restore about one-third of the journals targeted for cancellation.

These are the very real and difficult challenges that we have met and managed. But the budget is not the story of Morris Library over the past year. A strong and healthy organization—and Morris Library IS strong and healthy—must not be defined by budget constraints. One of the fundamental goals of the renovation was to become a center of campus life in all its diversity: intellectual, cultural and social. We are achieving this goal. Let me offer some proof.

In the first nine months of this year there have been more than 113 events held in our key event spaces (Guyon Auditorium, Hall of Presidents, and the first floor rotunda). Morris Library hosted a Martin Luther King reception in January, the Big Muddy Film festival in February, the Cavani String Quartet in April, the Black Affairs Council Pre-commencement Ceremony in May and in June it was our pleasure to hold a small welcome reception of campus leadership for Dr. Cheng, our new Chancellor.

If the events don't convince you of our success, the gate counts will. Our gates keep a simple count of the number of people who enter and exit the building. I took a look at the number of people counted in one month, February, over the past three years. In February 2008, prior to the re-opening, just under 60,000 people entered and exited Morris Library; one year later, in 2009, in the same month, February, more than 112,000 people visited—almost double! When I compare February 2009 to February 2010, we went from 112,000 to more than 160,000—an increase of nearly 50%! If people vote with their feet, then the Library is winning.

Finally, allow me to share some plans we have for the coming year. First, we are engaged in a thorough update of our strategic plan which was written some six years ago. An important part of that effort will be LibQual+, a survey tool from the Association of Research Libraries. This well-regarded tool should give us some real insight into whether or not our services and

continued on page 7 . . .

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.



\$135 for *Book of Palms* by KARL FRIEDRICH PHILLIP VON MARTIUS. This volume is based on Martius' expedition to Brazil and Peru, sponsored by King Maximilian I of Bavaria, to investigate natural history and tribal Indians. From 1817 to 1820 he travelled over 1,400 miles throughout the Amazon Basin, the most species-rich palm region in the world, collecting and sketching specimens. Originally published between 1823–1853, this encyclopedic treasury contained the sum of human knowledge on the topic at the time, and included 240 exquisite chromolithographic illustrations, including landscape views of palm habitats and botanical dissections. Martius' folio is unusual in its inclusion of cross-sectioned diagrams, conveying the architecture of these mighty trees.



\$215 for *The Routledge Companion to Ethics* edited by JOHN SKORUPSKI. "[This] is a great resource for students interested in ethics and will also make a first-rate reference volume for philosophers working in ethics. It covers an impressive range of topics, going well beyond entries on standard normative ethical theories and metaethical approaches to normativity. The history of ethics is particularly well represented and this volume is sure to set a very high standard for future collections." —JULIA DRIVER, Washington University in St. Louis

\$295 for *Women in Shakespeare: A Dictionary* by ALISON FINDLAY. This title presents an A-Z of over 350 entries which explores the role of women within Shakespearean drama, how women were represented on the Shakespearean stage, and the role of women in Shakespeare's personal and professional lives. *Women in Shakespeare* examines in detail the language employed by Shakespeare in his representation of women in the full range of his poetry and plays and the implications these representations have for the position of women in Elizabethan and Jacobean society. It is an ideal guide to Shakespeare's women for all students and scholars of Shakespeare.

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.

\$1,065 for *Encyclopedia of Dietary Supplements*, Second edition. Edited by PAUL M. COATES. Situated as a scientific checkpoint for the many over-the-counter supplements carried in today's nutritional products marketplace, this definitive *Encyclopedia of Dietary Supplements* presents peer-reviewed, objective entries that rigorously review the most significant scientific research—funneling basic chemical, preclinical, and clinical data into a descriptive form universally useful to health care professionals, researchers, and educated, health-conscious consumers.

Library Affairs thanks donors who have purchased items from the previous list—

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The Adopt-a-Book Program appreciates your support.

\$145 for *Berkshire Encyclopedia of Sustainability, Volume 2: The Business of Sustainability*, edited by CHRIS LASZLO et al. "*The Business of Sustainability* would make an impressive stand-alone business reference. Some of the concepts addressed, e.g., 'triple bottom line,' 'peace through commerce,' and 'base of the pyramid,' though not new, are not widely known and deserve the extra prominence that this book confers. This edited volume features case studies, an offer to chat with the contributors and editors, a reader's guide, a good index, entries for further study, and substantial articles for an encyclopedia. — Choice



\$185 for *Ethnic Jewellery and Adornment* by TRUUS DAALDER. A sumptuously produced book with an informative text and 704 beautiful photographs of adornment from Aboriginal Australia to Africa. This volume presents an accessible but scholarly discussion of the regions and cultures which produce the objects shown, as well as a detailed description of the salient features of each ornament.

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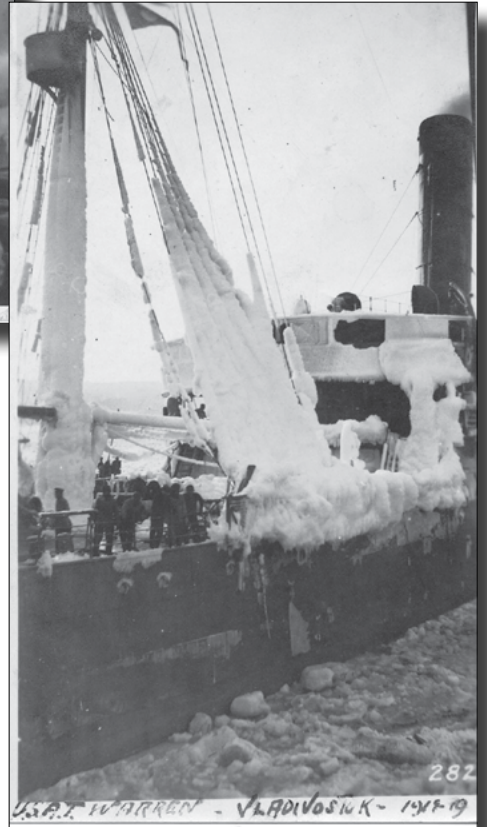
spoke of his time in Siberia, except to say that “It was cold.” Born in Anna in 1893, the son of a railway mail inspector, Planert grew up in Cairo and Chicago. On April 30, 1918, the day he was inducted into the army, the congregation at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Chicago, presented Planert with a leather toiletry pouch on which he later inscribed the dates and places of his time in the service. Assigned to Company L, 27th Infantry, Private Planert sailed from San Francisco on September 2 and landed in Vladivostok on October 1.

A year later, now Corporal Planert was stationed in Beresovka, near Verkhne-Udinsk, on the Trans-Siberian Railway. On September 26, 1919, Planert wrote to his family in Chicago:

“We are getting ready for winter here. This place is nothing but a big military camp . . . Barracks are one story log buildings plastered inside & partitioned inside. Not as good building as those we had last winter, but cozier (if such is possible in Siberia). There is of course much work to be done to get them in shape fit for American troops & every energy is directed toward that end so as to have it completed before winter sets in. We had a cold rain last night & this morning on one of the hills behind us was a cap of snow—still there tonight.”



The frigid conditions were harsh and hostile in Vladivostok harbor to ships like the United States Army Transport *Sherman* (above right) and the *Warren* (right).



“Greetings from Siberia” seems like an oxymoron, but it was nonetheless a popular post card.



The hat and coat of this grizzled Russian suggest he was a Siberian peasant.

Sargeant Planert left Siberia on December 13, stopping in Nagasaki, Japan, and Honolulu before returning to San Francisco on January 13, 1920. Discharged in March, he returned to live with his parents in Chicago, where he worked for a printing press. He met his wife to be, Edith Hodges, on a visit to Unity, and they were married in St. Louis in 1923. After a stint as an executive with the Boy Scouts, Planert settled in Unity in 1931. A friend and

contemporary of Wayman Presley, Planert was instrumental in getting Presley booked as a guest on the national television show, This Is Your Life, in 1955.

Planert served as executive secretary of the Bald Knob Cross Christian Association and wrote a booklet on the long struggle to build the cross. He died in June 1963 before the cross was dedicated.

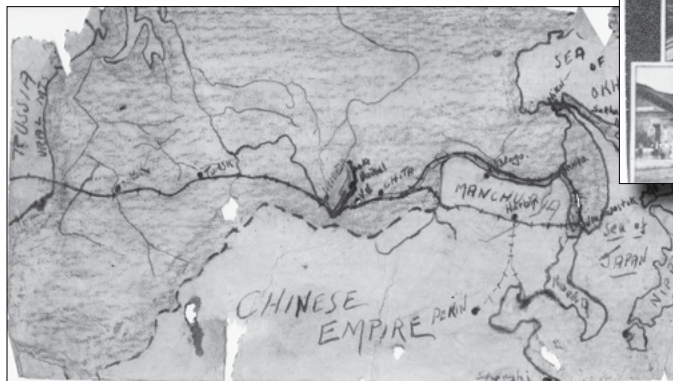


Vladivostok hosted a variety of foreign troops in the volatile period just after World War I.



The fire department in Vladivostok pauses outside a shop with a sign that translates as "Nagasaki Shop," reflecting the Japanese presence there.

Beresovka, his toiletry bag, a sewing kit, and several other items, to SCRC, where they add a unique dimension to a strong specialty in World War I manuscripts and photographs. 🇺🇸



During his military service, Planert collected several hundred images of the faraway places where he served and visited. These photographs and post cards depict city life in Vladivostok, Siberians in native costume, Japanese scenes, and battlefield sights. His daughter donated them, along with his letter from



William Planert's hand-drawn map of the Trans-Siberian Railway is consistent with this French post card.

The Library Is Seeking ... continued from page 3

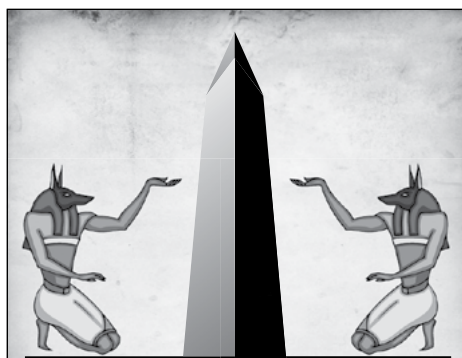
\$215 for *Encyclopedia of Nanoscience and Society* edited by DAVID GUSTON. Labeled either as the “next industrial revolution” or as just “hype,” nanoscience and nanotechnologies are controversial, touted by some as the likely engines of spectacular transformation of human societies and even human bodies, and by others as conceptually flawed.

Providing a guide to what these understandings and challenges are about, the *Encyclopedia of Nanoscience and Society* offers accessible descriptions of some of the key technical achievements of nanoscience along with its history and prospects. Rather than a technical primer, this encyclopedia instead focuses on the efforts of governments around the world to fund nanoscience research and to tap its potential for economic development as well as to assess how best to regular a new technology for the environmental, occupational, and consumer health and safety issues related to the field. Written by noted scholars and practitioners from around the globe, these two volumes offer nearly 500 entries describing the societal aspects of nanoscience and nanotechnology.



\$955 for *The Oxford International Encyclopedia of Legal History* edited by STANLEY N. KATZ. “Legal history is one of the oldest fields of scholarly inquiry. As such, it began as a study of religious texts for their legal authority. Katz leads an editorial team that identified eight areas with an extensive and recognized scholarly literature from ancient Greek and Roman law to modern European and US law. The encyclopedia includes more than 1,000 articles, each of which concludes with a selective bibliography. This is a truly exceptional and monumental encyclopedic undertaking. It also bears the quality academic hallmarks of the typical Oxford encyclopedia.” —*Choice*

\$375 for twelve hand-picked, high quality facsimile maps critical to American history and the Midwestern landscape, including three maps of Illinois in 1810, 1817, and 1849; a map of St. Louis in 1859; and a map of Gettysburg originally published in 1863.



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. The editions listed below have been sponsored. 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.

1938, JOE ANTIMURO

1950 & 1951, IMOGENE BECKEMEYER

1936, BARRY W. BIRNBAUM

1937, LOUIS FREITAG

1958, LOUIS & NORMA MILLER
in honor of
John & Verna McAteer

\$175 for fifteen maps of National Parks that would support researchers in tourism and recreational land use. Morris Library looks to upgrade the quality and quantity of maps of the many units of the National Park Service.

\$320 for *A Concise Encyclopedia of the United Nations*, edited by HELMUT VOLGER. Second revised edition. “This is an update to the 2004 edition, with articles contributed by a number of experts on the United Nations and international relations. Entries are either wholly updated or the original article is updated with a signed addendum, making the information current as of the end of 2008. Articles are very detailed and include copious references to other parts of the volume, indicated with an arrow. Most entries conclude with a bibliography of works useful for further research, many of which are extensive reviews of the literature on a particular topic in multiple languages. Entries range from overviews of the workings of the United Nations (including budget, membership rules, and organization) to more theoretical discussions of international law and lengthy articles on the system of international courts.” —*Choice*



\$420 for *Encyclopedia of American Immigration* edited by CARL L. BANKSTON III. “This three-volume work provides comprehensive information on the history of immigration in the US. The 525 well-written, easy-to-understand, alphabetically arranged entries range in length from 300 to 3,000 words. Each entry begins with a short paragraph indicating its significance to immigration. The entries include citations for further reading, and cross-references to assist readers in locating more information. The volumes are illustrated with 315 photos, maps, charts, and graphs, and 60 sidebars/tables. A standout feature is that every US state has an entry that is accompanied by a demographic table. The publication includes entries on people, events, and popular culture, e.g., films, books, organizations, movements, and laws related to immigration in the US. A variety of appendixes add relevant information such as a time line of US immigration history, biographical material on notable immigrants, and a filmography.” —*Choice*

Friends Dinner Raises \$5,000 in Support of the Library

The Friends of Morris Library convened for their annual dinner on September 25th in the Hall of Presidents and Chancellors. SIU President Glenn Poshard and SIUC Chancellor Rita Cheng were among the attendees. The

support of attendees and underwriters the event enriched the Friends' coffers by approximately \$5,000. The Friends have been diligent supporters of the Library for the past fifty years.

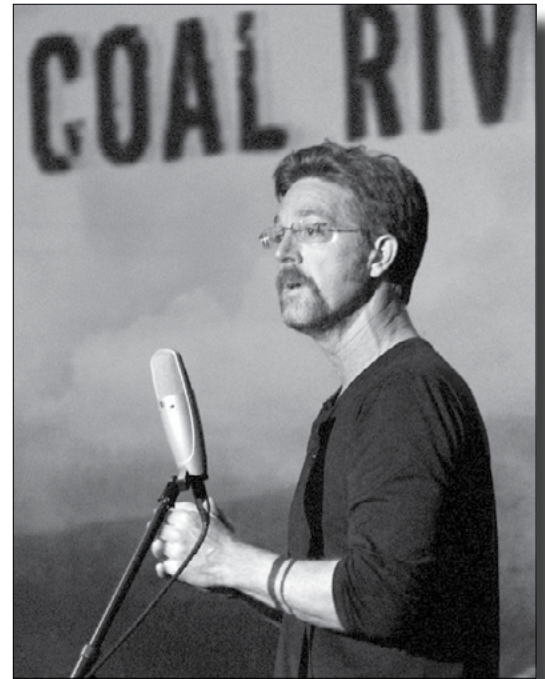
about southern Illinois with distinction. Though unable to attend the dinner, Biggers responded, "The Delta Award is a real tribute to the literary and historical legacy of southern Illinois, and I am honored to be part of the journey. My book is a 200-year-old family saga, looking at the impact of the southern Illinois coal industry on that great legacy—the land, the people, the cultures, our future." **GP**



Author Taylor Pensoneau shares a moment with President Glenn Poshard and Chancellor Rita Cheng at the Friends dinner.

evening's speaker, Illinois author Taylor Pensoneau, enthralled the crowd with tales of murder and mayhem perpetrated by Black Charlie Harris, a notorious southern Illinois gangster and subject of his book, *Dapper & Deadly*. With the

Jeff Biggers, author of *Reckoning at Eagle Creek, the Secret Legacy of Coal in the Heartland*, was the sole recipient of this year's Delta Award, given by the Friends to an individual or organization that has written, edited, or published



Delta recipient Jeff Biggers regards the award as "a real tribute to the literary and historical legacy of southern Illinois."

Message from the Dean *continued from page 2*

resources are meeting the needs of the campus and in what areas we need to improve.

Second, we will be working with campus faculty this year on a variety of initiatives in scholarly communication. We are working to engage the faculty in a conversation about the implications of a strategic change from print to digital resources. We have been facing this change for years and the impact on our resources, such as current serials, is clear and compelling. A number of recent changes in society and technology

indicate to me that this gradual transformation has coalesced and suggest a genuine re-thinking of our processes and procedures.

A donor wall has been established on the first floor across from the Browsing Room, and an appropriate quotation was required. Penned in the mid-1950s by the editor emeritus of the *Saturday Review*, Norman Cousins, long before a single journal was ever scanned or digitized, I think it represents a wonderful vision of a modern

twenty-first century library, "A library . . . should be the delivery room for the birth of ideas—a place where history comes to life."

It is not only a place where history should come to life, but it ought to be a place where a campus community comes to life. We are seeing this transformation in Morris Library, and I appreciate your support in helping us to achieve it.

DAVID CARLSON



Library Affairs

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Courtesy of SIU Press

The personal library of the late American philosopher John Dewey (1859–1952) has been catalogued and is accessible

through SIUCat on Morris Library's website. Go to www.lib.siu.edu, and enter "John Dewey Library" in quotes within the SIUCat search box. This collection includes the 1,700 works that Dewey used in his research and writing in his lifetime.

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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