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Southern Illinois University Carbondale

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CORNERSTONE

THE NEWSLETTER OF MORRIS LIBRARY • SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE



Japanese Woodblock Prints on Display

The Special Collections Research Center is hosting an exhibit of 120-year-old Japanese woodblock prints through August in the library's Hall of Presidents and Chancellors. Part of SCRC's Open

at the time both as war reports and as propaganda. Curators Christina Bleyer and Joseph Steinbock also explore the techniques of woodblock printing, and examine the seals and marks particular to artists and publishers of the prints.

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Utagawa Kokunimasa, "The Stunning Victory of the Imperial Japanese army while the Pyongyang fortress falls to them." The Battle of Pyongyang, Sept. 15, 1894, was the second major land battle of the Sino-Japanese War. Japanese attackers inflicted heavy losses on the defending Chinese forces and captured the city, which is the capital of modern-day North Korea. Woodblock print, Open Court Publishing Records, Special Collections Research Center.

Court Publishing Records collection, the prints mostly date from the First Sino-Japanese War of 1894-95, in which China and Japan fought primarily over control of Korea. Though brief, the war resulted in a significant shift of regional power as modernizing Japan asserted dominance over larger but weaker China. This exhibit, also available online, explains how prints were used

The woodblock prints in this exhibit are late examples of a genre called "ukiyo-e" that emerged and flourished in the Edo period (1603-1867) and persisted for several decades after the Meiji Restoration of 1868. Ukiyo-e developed into a collaborative medium that achieved efficiencies of production while maintaining hand-crafted quality. An artist designed the image, a carver

continued on page 10...

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Message from the Dean

As I leave Morris Library for new challenges at UNC-Charlotte, I find it incredibly difficult to say goodbye to the terrific staff and faculty here, to the Friends of Morris Library, and to the wonderful facilities and collections that serve our students, faculty, staff and community.

Everyone involved should be extremely proud of what we have achieved at Morris Library. I want to highlight some of what we have accomplished over the last three years.

Building: Led by Susan Tulis, we moved the rest of the books back from the McLafferty Road annex. We completed the sixth and seventh floors and opened a state-of-the-art math hub on campus. We added tech-friendly study modules to the first and second floors.

We have seen gate counts increase 92 percent since fiscal year (FY) 2009, when the library reopened. We recorded more than 1.8 million entrances for each of the last four years. We saw Delyte's grow from a small coffee stop to a popular campus food and beverage outlet.

Services: SalukiTech moved into the library and set up shop next to the Information Desk, providing a huge convenience for students with laptop and tablet problems. Math Central and Learning Support Services – including the Tutoring Center and Testing Services – occupy our newly renovated sixth and seventh floors. We modified the basement rotunda to accommodate the Center for Dewey Studies.

We offer 3D printing and new online resources such as OneSearch, EndNote Citation Management Software, Guide on the Side and expanded eBook options.

In recent years a number of academic libraries have seen a steady decline in reference questions asked. By contrast, the number of reference questions we answered increased 34 percent from FY 2011 to FY 2014. We answered 56,500 questions in FY 2014 alone. From instruction to interlibrary loan, our statistics are trending in the right direction.

Special Collections Research Center: SCRC is moving its catalog from one online database (Archon) to another (ArchivesSpace). SCRC has created digital exhibits and purchased digital storage space to preserve our growing online projects. The Digital Initiatives Task Force conducted an audit of our readiness for a digitization program and prioritized projects for digitization. SCRC staff have answered 3,400 questions since May 2012.

Systems: Rich Beach, Doug Simmons, Ron Van Meter and Cassie Wagner have tirelessly brought in and supported new media and programs, and they have maintained the public and staff computers throughout the building. Behind the scenes, this group implemented virtual servers and redundant backup of our servers to prevent loss of data in the case of a server crash or major outage; transitioned Records Management Docuware to a new platform; and migrated the library's custom reports to a new platform. Thanks to Wagner, we have a redesigned website, more LibGuides, a LibCalendar for booking study rooms, secure forms and new Web pages, such as "For the Community" and "For Library Staff."

Friends of Morris Library: Under the leadership first of Thyra Russell, and now Rob Jensen and Nancy Esling, the Friends are more active than ever. The board hosts an annual gala and provides funding for library special projects and for awards. They sponsored the Student Assistants Ten Year Reunion (2012), the Homecoming Rappelling event (2014) and the visit of retired CNN correspondent Walter Rodgers (2014). They conducted several successful book sales and keep the Honest Abe bookshelves stocked and thriving.



Dean Anne Cooper Moore

The Library Is Seeking ...

\$415 for “Comics through Time: A History of Icons, Idols, and Ideas,” edited by M. Keith Booker. The four-volume chronological set gives readers a sense of the evolution of comics over time within the larger contexts of American culture and history. Each volume addresses topics such as publishing, characters, imprints, genres, themes, titles, artists and writers. While special attention is paid to American comics, the entries also include coverage of British, Japanese and European comics that have influenced illustrated storytelling in the United States or are of special interest to American readers.



\$300 for “Damien Hirst: The Complete Spot Paintings, 1986-2011.” Damien Hirst (b. 1965) first came to public attention in 1988 when he conceived and curated “Freeze,” an exhibition of his own work and that of his contemporaries at Goldsmiths College, staged in a disused London warehouse. Hirst has since become widely recognized as one of the most influential artists of his generation. “The Complete Spot Paintings” is the first and most significant documentation of his iconographic spot paintings, and this comprehensive publication spans his career. Every spot painting Hirst has produced is included in this substantial publication, conceived at the time of Hirst’s 2012 exhibition of the same title held in 11 Gagosian Galleries, including New York, London, Paris, Los Angeles, Rome, Athens, Geneva and Hong Kong.



\$300 for “Franz Schubert: The Complete Songs,” by Graham Johnson. This three-volume boxed set is the definitive work on Schubert’s vocal music with piano. A richly illustrated encyclopedia, these substantial volumes contain more than 700 song commentaries with parallel text and translations (by Richard Wigmore), detailed annotations on the songs’

poetic sources and biographies of 120 poets, as well as general articles on accompaniment, tonality, transcriptions, singers and more. Graham Johnson is a celebrated accompanist and author, and the first pianist ever to record all of Schubert’s songs and part-songs. This sumptuous work is a must for performers, scholars and all lovers of Schubert lieder.



\$650 for “Art and Architecture of Ireland,” edited by Andrew Carpenter. Five handsome, deeply researched volumes provide an authoritative and fully illustrated account of the art and architecture of Ireland from the early Middle Ages to the end of the 20th century. Each volume has its own expert editor or editorial team and covers a specific area or chronological period. More than 250 scholars from around the world, who represent a broad range of disciplines, contributed texts that range from thematic and general essays to articles on techniques and historical developments, biographical entries, bibliographies, lists of artists, and comprehensive indexes. The volumes explore all aspects of Irish art and architecture, from high crosses to installation art, Georgian houses to illuminated manuscripts, watercolors and sculptures to photographs, oil paintings, video art and tapestries.



\$135 for “Buffalo Ballad: On the Trail of an American Icon.” Photographers Heidi and Hans-Jürgen Koch undertook a magical visual search for the spirit and myth of this American icon in the heart of bison country.



\$80 for “We The Children: 25 Years UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.” Poignant images from 45 of the world’s best photographers mark the 25th anniversary of the U.N. Convention

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SIU students and researchers appreciate your support of the Adopt-a-Book Program.

70 Years Ago: Celebrating VE Day on Campus

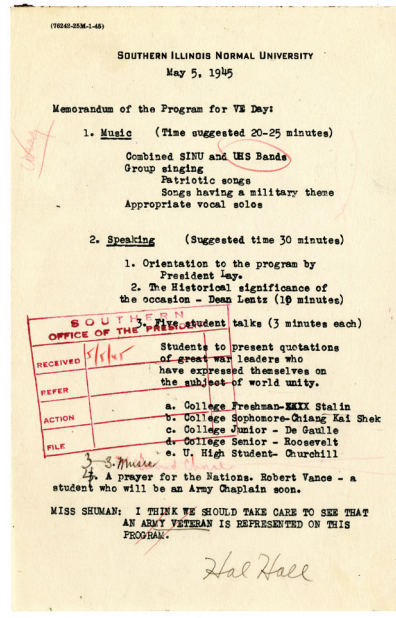
University Archivist Matt Gorzalski recently discovered a series of memos in the papers of the president's office for 1945. Prepared in the first week of May of that year, they document the university's plans to commemorate the imminent Allied victory in Europe. A committee of administrators including Dean of Men Eli G. Lentz and Dean of Women Lucy K. Woody met on May 3 to work out the details of a student assembly. On May 5, President Chester F. Lay issued a "Special Bulletin" to the entire campus. If Germany's surrender was announced on a school day between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., "a series of short bells" would be rung from the president's office, and students would be dismissed from classes and proceed at once to the auditorium. If the surrender announcement came after 2 p.m. or on the weekend, the assembly would be held at 10 a.m. the following day or Monday.

The assembly on Tuesday morning, May 8, followed the general outline of the memo shown here. The occasion was put in context by John W. Allen,



Chester F. Lay, SIU president, 1945-48. University Archives.

legendary historian of southern Illinois and director of the university museum. Allen, a World War I veteran, "recalled for the audience the reaction of the men at the front when they heard the news of Armistice Day in 1918. He said that the quietness of the moments when they



were gathered around their fire, the first few days, held more sacred atmosphere than any church he had ever been in. The men couldn't help thinking of home, and of those who would never again be there." (The Egyptian, May 11, 1945) Allen was followed by five students who presented the ideas and views of the so-called "Big Five": Winston Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Joseph Stalin, Charles de Gaulle and Chiang Kai-Shek. Stalin was discussed by J. R. Hart, identified by The Egyptian as a veteran of the North Africa campaign (1942-43). Music and prayer rounded out the program.

The president's office papers also include a statement issued to the Carbondale Free Press for its V-E Day edition, explaining that classes had been dismissed for the day "in order that faculty and students may have time to

meditate and readjust their thinking" after the surrender news. President Lay had suggested that each student "write a letter today to a friend in the European Theater of War thanking him for what he has done for us, and that after that has been done, to write immediately to a friend in the Pacific area telling him that our taking the day off is in no sense letting down the boys in the Pacific. Today is a time for meditation and consideration as to how the war can be ended completely and soon." The memos are filed by date in Box 1 of the Chester F. Lay Papers (RG 2-7) in the Special Collections Research Center.

Dean, continued from page 2

They started a new membership drive and reinstated the adopt-a-brick patio program.

Role on campus: We are clearly established as a center and hub of campus activity to rival the Student Center and the new Student Services Building. We spearheaded the adoption of the Open Access policy in the SIU system. On campus, we set up procedures for faculty to deposit peer-reviewed versions of their published articles into OpenSIUC, our institutional repository.

Personnel: Three units with terrific staff have joined Library Affairs in the last three years: Records Management, the Center for Dewey Studies and the SIU Press. Despite administrative changes and cuts amounting to 10 percent of the operating budget over the last three years, we have managed to fill many vacancies.

I am proud to have served an amazing library that has grown stronger and more visible over the last three years. Morris Library is poised for a brilliant future. I feel privileged to have participated in your growth. Keep up the terrific forward progress! I will miss you all. If you are ever in Charlotte, North Carolina, please stop in to see me. And keep in touch.

Clare Cooper Moore, Ph.D.

New Scheduling Software Makes Morris Library a Campus Events Hub

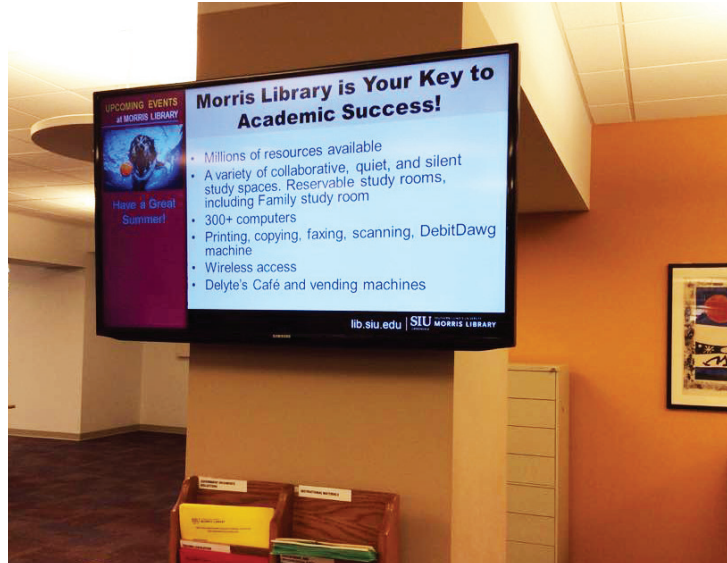
The opening of the sixth and seventh floors in January 2014 made Morris Library an instant campus leader in cutting-edge classroom technology. Now Morris Library has joined the rest of campus in installing Event Management Software (EMS) to schedule events and classes. With EMS, if a student asks at the Information Desk when an event is scheduled for the Student Center, the answer is a click away. This software also makes it simple to generate statistics and analysis about the use of classrooms and other venues in the library and across campus.

EMS also works in tandem with the 12 new digital display monitors mounted at main entrances and throughout the library. These displays not only let patrons know about special library events for the day, but also allow other campus units to advertise events they may have coming up in the library. Along with timely announcements, a steady loop of images and text keeps patrons informed about all of the resources and services that Morris Library offers.

The new technology will come in handy. Special-events space in Morris Library such as the First Floor Rotunda, Guyon Auditorium, and the Hall of Presidents and Chancellors

is increasingly popular with groups and colleges across campus. From graduate students' thesis and dissertation defenses to conferences such as the Fourth Annual Teaching and Learning with Technology Symposium, and yearly events such as the SIU Distinguished Alumni Awards, Morris Library has become a sought-after place to host university gatherings. EMS will help us to coordinate a wide range of events, make

the best use of our resources and get the word out to patrons and attendees. Congratulations to Rich Beach of Systems and Karen Wolf in Administration for getting the software and the hardware up and running.



Monitor by Delyte's on the first floor.

on the Rights of the Child. This wakeup call to respect the rights of the world's children was issued in cooperation with UNICEF and GEO.



\$100 for “Beverly Hills: The First 100 Years.” A comprehensive, sumptuously illustrated history of the legendary city and its houses, parks and gardens, from its founding to today. Famous for its movie stars and beautiful homes, lush gardens and glorious weather, Beverly Hills, California, has lived in our collective imagination as a paradise. This volume focuses on the homes, gardens, parks, clubs, estates and civic structures built to serve and house its storied residents. Author Robert S. Anderson, who also wrote and edited “The Beverly Hills Hotel and Bungalows: The First 100 Years,” is descended from the founding proprietors of the Beverly Hills Hotel.



\$180 for “On the Forests of Tropical Asia: Lest the Memory Fade,” by Peter S. Ashton. Thousands of years ago, Asia was filled with forests that connected ecosystems from the foot of the Himalayas to the shores of the Pacific. Today, more than half of these woodlands are gone, mostly due to the demands of commerce and industry. And while conservation efforts are underway, more parcels disappear every year. “On the Forests of Tropical Asia” is a timely record of current forests and a much-needed explanation of the role humans played in the devastation and redevelopment of these forests. Covering the entire tropical Asian region from Sind to New Guinea, the book opens with chapters on physical geography and geological history and then moves on to address forest and tree structure and dynamics, floristics, and symbiotic organisms, as well as genetics,

evolutionary history, species diversity and human impact. A final chapter covers policy and practice options for saving what remains. Hundreds of full-color illustrations serve as a lasting testimony to the diverse forests.



\$250 for 1852 letter from H. K. S. O’Melveny to state representative-elect Pascal P. Enos concerning the route of the Illinois Central Railroad. ALS (facsimile), three pages, Waterloo, Illinois, Nov. 19, 1852. Southern Illinois lawyer Harvey Kilpatrick Stuart O’Melveny (1823-1893) was a Circuit Court judge and a land speculator before he moved to California and became a civic leader in Los Angeles. In this letter, published as a circular to newly elected legislators, O’Melveny asked that they adhere to the plan to establish Centralia as the junction of Illinois Central lines. Speaking for investors along the proposed route, O’Melveny argued that the railroad’s charter and land grants should not be subject to the whims of each new Legislature.



\$175 for “Oxford Handbook of Roman Epigraphy,” edited by Christer Bruun. Epigraphy, or the study of inscriptions, is critical for anyone seeking to understand the Roman world. The “Oxford Handbook of Roman Epigraphy” comprises 35 chapters, written by senior and rising scholars in Roman history, classics and epigraphy, that cover everything from typography to the importance of inscriptions for understanding Roman public life; slavery; the roles and lives of women; the military; and life in the provinces. Scholars will find this publication a critical tool for expanding their knowledge of the Roman world.

\$145 for “The Correspondence of Charles Darwin: Volume 21: 1873,” edited by Frederick Burkhardt.

Notes and appendixes put Darwin’s fascinating and wide-ranging letters in context, making them accessible to scholars and general readers. Darwin depended on correspondence to collect data from all over the world and to discuss his emerging ideas with scientific colleagues, many of whom he never met in person. This volume covers 1873, the year in which Darwin received responses to his work on human and animal expression. Also in 1873, Darwin continued his work on carnivorous plants and plant movement, finding unexpected similarities between the plant and animal kingdoms; raised a subscription for his friend Thomas Henry Huxley; and decided to employ a scientific secretary for the first time: his son Francis. This information will enhance the previous volumes in the library’s holdings.



\$75 for “Frank Lloyd Wright: The Rooms: Interiors and Decorative Arts,” by Margo Stipe. Wright was an early proponent of “total design.” Unsatisfied with what was available in designing a given space or home, he invented what was needed, developing a unique language of architectural detail and styling that extended to tables; bookcases; easy chairs; sofas; cabinets; rugs; murals; stonework; stained-glass “light screens” that served as windows, doors, and room partitions; and lighting. This approach was manifested distinctly in each of his residential projects, including the Oak Park Home and Studio; the Darwin D. Martin House with its abundance of art glass, including Wright’s famous “Tree of Life” and “Wisteria” designs; Hollyhock House, the mysterious Aztec-like home and arts complex built on a hill in Los Angeles; the Dana-Thomas House, with its luminous “butterfly” transom glass; and the fabled living room at Fallingwater.

Recent Exhibits Highlight Art and Poetry

This past winter the library hosted two exhibits that showcased the artistic vision of an SIU Carbondale student, a library staff member and a former photography professor. B. Rael Ali, a senior in the School of Art and Design, mounted his “Expressions of Freedom” in the first-floor rotunda. This exhibit included 16 pieces ranging from charcoal and pastel sketches to acrylic and wood mixed-media paintings. Ali described his work this way: “I use dancing figures as creative vessels to express the



“The Light That Shatters Darkness” in the Hall of Presidents and Chancellors paired the award-winning poetry of Senior Library Specialist David Bond with the evocative mining photographs of the late C. William “Doc” Horrell. Horrell helped establish SIU Carbondale’s Photographic Services and taught in the Department of Cinema and Photography. His photographs documenting the region’s mining history are held by the library’s Special Collections Research Center. Bond worked for more than 17 years as third-shift warehouse manager above an



historical culture of African people. The African-American dancing figures in my artwork are not only representations of contemporary culture, they are also representations of their extended history and culture. Through the dancing figure, symbolism, fashion, patterns and surreal environments, my artwork speaks about the identity of the African-American in the past and present to create a discussion about the future.” A reception was held Feb. 25 in Guyon Auditorium.

underground coal mine. He has an MFA in creative writing from SIU Carbondale and has published in numerous literary journals. His poem “Coal Town, 1926” evokes the physical

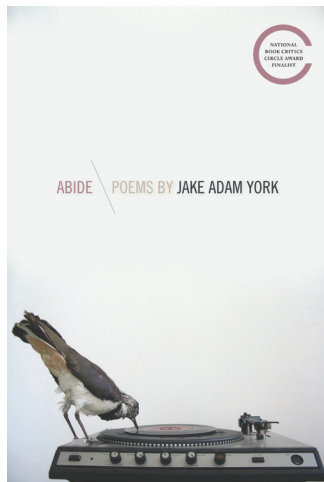
legacy of mining in southern Illinois: “In a spill of uncut pitch we live, floating ash from the alps of slag the wet moon loops above as an omen we cannot read. Here, the cornsnow ricks dingy drifts and a man grovels for ten-hour turns in the space of a tomb. Here, a swamplash of carbon defines us, blesses us with its dark rainbow; its oily grit flavors us like stew.”



New from Southern Illinois University Press

Jake Adam York named a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award

The Washington Post says of "Abide": "The exquisite writing in this posthumous collection subtly upends readers' experience of time and reality. . . . This is a lovely, haunting book about the power of remembrance from a poet who left us too soon."



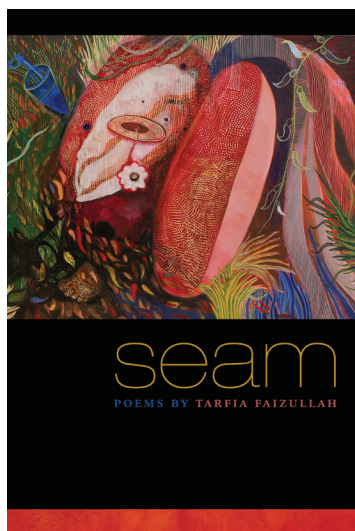
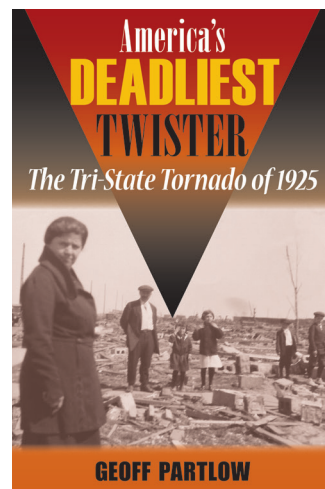
The Illinois State Historical Society honors SIU Press authors during annual awards

"America's Deadliest Twister: The Tri-State Tornado of 1925", by Geoff Partlow

Award: Certificate of Excellence

"This book follows the trail of the 1925 tornado in southern Illinois and uses interviews, newspaper accounts and some secondary sources. It is very readable and full of moving anecdotal stories.

Partlow does a serviceable job placing this Old Testament-like natural disaster in the context of southern Illinois' history of vice (bootlegging, labor unrest, etc.), and it was a nice surprise to see time spent on the aftermath of the story, with discussions of meteorology and technology. This is a very solid effort."

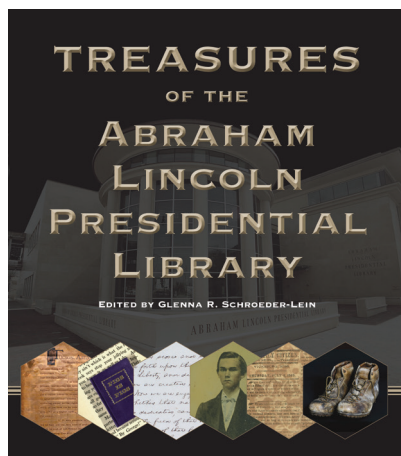
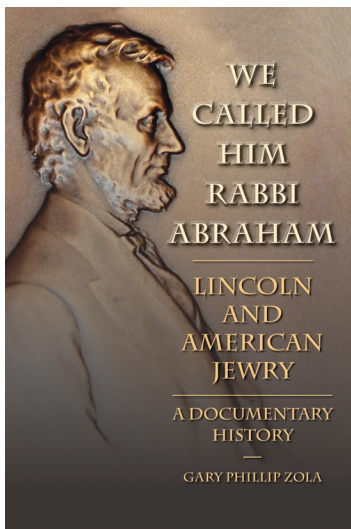


Tarfia Faizullah wins GCLA New Writers Award

The Great Lakes Colleges Association awarded "Seam" by Tarfia Faizullah the GCLA New Writers Award. The judges said: "Tarfia Faizullah's 'Seam' shimmers with exigent discovery."

Gary Phillip Zola named a finalist for National Jewish Book Award

The Jewish Book Council selected "We Called Him Rabbi Abraham: Lincoln and American Jewry, a Documentary History" as a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award in two categories: history and scholarship. Carol Poll of the Jewish Book Council says, "This book is fascinating. It paints an intriguing picture of President Lincoln and Jewish life in the mid-19th century."



"Treasures of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library", by Glenna R. Schroeder-Lein

Award: Superior Achievement

"This beautiful, treasure-filled book is a celebration of the 125th anniversary of the Abraham Lincoln

Presidential Library. It not only showcases the famed collection of Lincoln artifacts the library has acquired over the years, but also reveals the documents, maps, photographs and significant effects that tell the larger Illinois story. Although nothing beats a tour of this world-class library, this book will certainly whet your appetite for the treasures that await you in Springfield."

continued from page 8

“Knock at the Door of Opportunity: Black Migration to Chicago, 1900-1919”, by Christopher Robert Reed

Award: Superior Achievement

“A well-written book discussing the transition years of black Chicago, from the old settlers to the start of the Great Migration. A must-read for any researcher of this era, emphasizing agency, fluidity and responsiveness in African-American housing, politics, business, religion and protest in Chicago. The book covers a very significant but underreported part of Illinois history.”

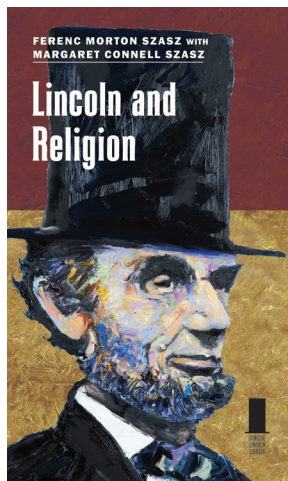
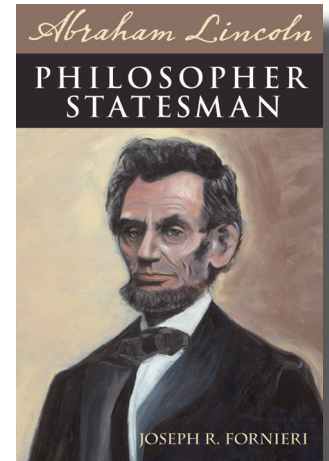


perspectives on the diversity of American society, civil religion and Lincoln’s religion in the pre-White House years.”

“Abraham Lincoln: Philosopher Statesman”, by Joseph R. Forniери

Award: Superior Achievement

“Forniери contends that Lincoln was a ‘Philosopher Statesman’ in whom political thought and action were united. His purpose is to reveal Lincoln’s political genius in terms of the traditional moral vision as defined by philosophical thinkers such as Saint Thomas Aquinas. Truly a book from which scholars can learn, but that general readers can enjoy.”



“Lincoln and Religion”, by Ferenc Morton Szasz with Margaret Connell Szasz

Award: Superior Achievement

“A short, concise summary of Lincoln’s religious background and beliefs. The author argues convincingly that Lincoln’s religion was an evolving belief with antecedents in the frontier Baptist world. Like the ‘Gettysburg Address,’ this book will be known for its brevity and succinctness,

yet also for its quality. This book is a most rewarding effort for the scholar, buff, dabbler, layperson and student, offering fresh

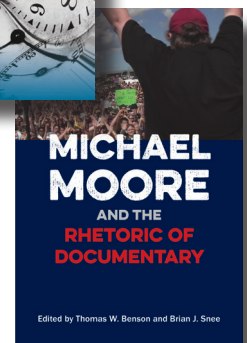
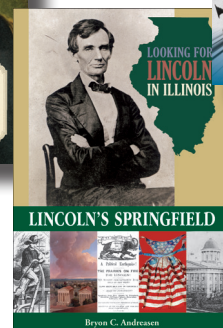
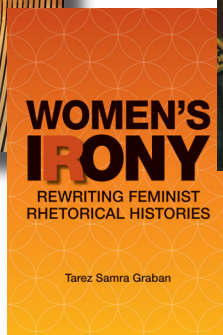
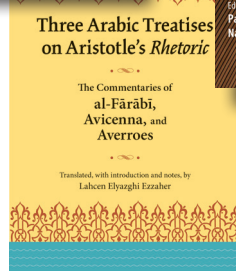
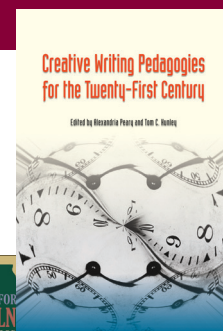
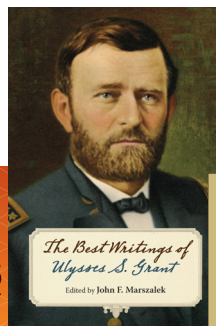
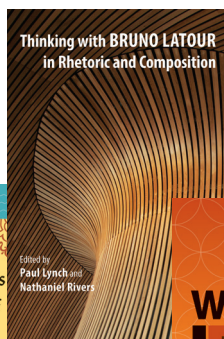
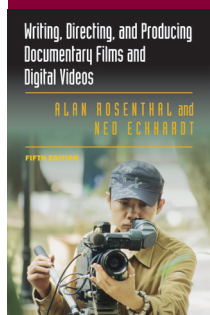
New catalogs available

The fall 2015 catalog is now available. It is posted at www.issuu.com/siupress, along with our seasonal catalog and a regional catalog. To request a print copy, email Bridget Brown at bcbrown@siu.edu.

History sale

To receive up to 50 percent off select SIU Press history titles, visit the “Special Offers” section at www.siu.press.com. SIU alumni, faculty and students receive 20 percent off all of SIU Press books, whether hardcover, paperback or e-book. To order online at www.siu.press.com, enter the discount code “SIU20” on the checkout page. Or order by phone at 800/621-2736 and mention the code to the customer service representative.

New books from SIU Press



continued from cover

rendered it on a wood block, a printer inked and pressed the block onto handmade paper, and all was coordinated and financed by the publisher, who promoted and distributed the prints. This small-scale assembly line allowed artists to respond quickly to popular demand and depict scenes from current events and contemporary styles.

Many of the prints are the work of Utagawa Kokunimasa (1874-1944), a prolific artist active during the Meiji, Taishō and Shōwa periods. Besides his war prints, Kokunimasa is known for his depictions of a disastrous tsunami in 1896. The son of woodblock artist



Kobayashi Kiyochika, "The Imperial Japanese Navy battles the Chinese in the Yellow Sea." This print depicts the Battle of the Yalu River, Sept. 17, 1894, in the Yellow Sea off the mouth of the Yalu River. The largest naval engagement of the Sino-Japanese War, this battle resulted in a decisive Japanese victory. Woodblock print, Open Court Publishing Records, Special Collections Research Center.

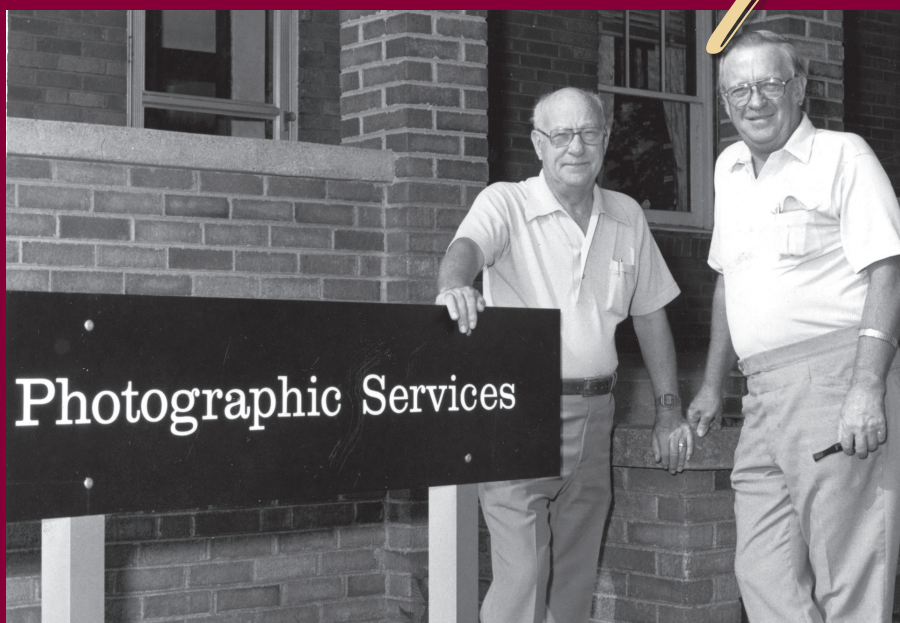
Utagawa Kunisada III (also known as Baido Hosai), Kokunimasa preserved the ukiyo-e traditions even as printmaking styles changed during the different periods of his career. Kokunimasa was known for his use of bright colors and had an instinct for tailoring his work to popular subjects. He sold many prints to meet the demand for images depicting

the Sino-Japanese war and the Russo-Japanese war.

Another contributor is Kobayashi Kiyochika (1847-1915), an important ukiyo-e master who spanned the Edo and Meiji eras. Kiyochika was influenced by his father, a government official involved in westernization under the Meiji Restoration. Kiyochika used the techniques of ukiyo-e

printing to create modern, Western scenes in the old style. He created many prints of the Sino-Japanese war and collaborated with the captionist Honekawa Dojin in a propaganda project called "Nihon banzai hyakusen hyakushō" ("Long live Japan: 100 victories, 100 laughs").

Vintage Image Mystery



Can you identify these men?

Many readers recognized last issue's Vintage Image as East Front Street in Cobden, looking north. Susan Steck of Cobden was the first to answer correctly, followed by Judy Travelstead, Marian George, Leslie Berry, Lisa Hollabaugh, Fred Keller, Lynn Geske and Alethea England. Thanks to all who participated.

Send answers to alisc@lib.siu.edu

First correct answer will be credited in the next Cornerstone!

Kenneth W. Duckett and the Shoe Box Letters

Fifty years ago this spring, Ralph E. McCoy, director of libraries, announced the appointment of Kenneth W. Duckett as university archivist and manuscript curator. Duckett joined Morris Library from the Ohio Historical Society, where he had been manuscript curator. McCoy touted the hire as part of the library's commitment to collecting manuscripts related to history, "comparable to that in literature, where we have assembled an impressive collection of letters, manuscripts and editions." (Daily Egyptian, May 5, 1965.)

McCoy did not mention that Duckett had left the Ohio Historical Society under something of a cloud. Two years earlier, as manuscript curator, he had come into possession of a box of letters written by President Warren G. Harding to his mistress, Carrie Phillips. Written in the decade before Harding's election in 1920, the letters were passionate and scandalous. Both were married. Harding died in office in 1923, and Phillips kept the letters in a shoebox discovered by her lawyer after her death in 1960. In his self-published 2003 memoir, "The Shoe Box Letters," Duckett recounts how he was approached by a Harding biographer who had seen the letters. The story of his efforts to save the letters from being destroyed by the Harding family,

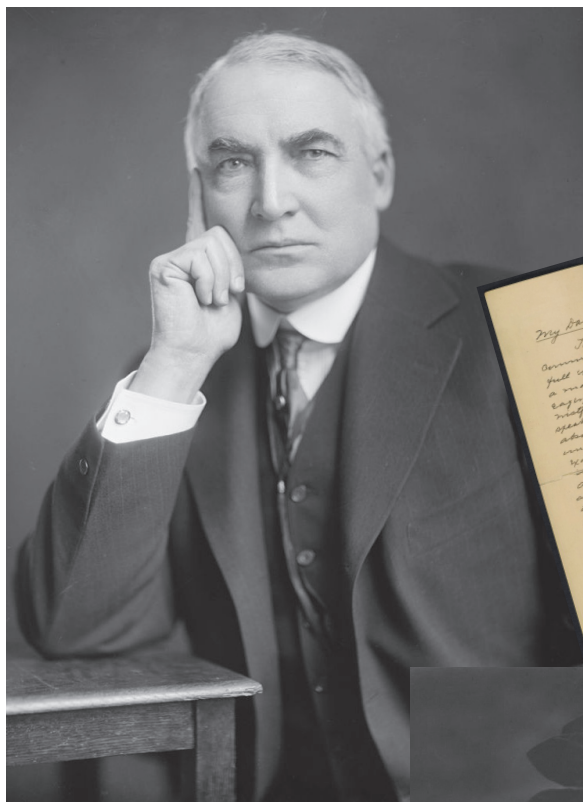
including surreptitious microfilm sessions and a trip to interview another surviving mistress, is a mixture of whimsy and suspense. Out of favor at Ohio Historical and facing a lawsuit over the letters, Duckett explored the

for me. Finally in late October I was invited to Southern Illinois for an interview, which went well, but when I saw Carbondale, then a shabby Southern town, I though[t] it near the end of the world." ("The Shoe Box Letters," pages 104-105; copy in Special Collections Research Center.)

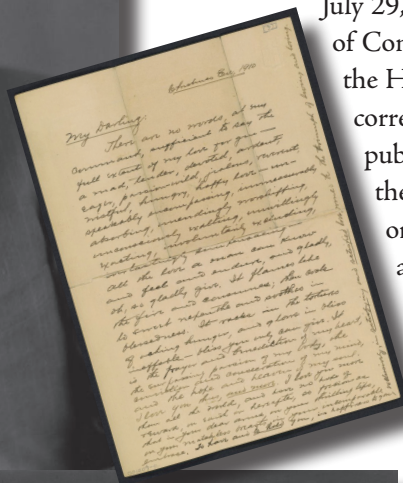
Shabby or not, Carbondale was Duckett's home until 1979, when he moved to the University of Oregon. On

July 29, 2014, the Library of Congress opened the Harding-Phillips correspondence to the public, 50 years to the day after it was ordered sealed by an Ohio judge.

Duckett died July 12, 2014, at the age of 90, just days before the letters he helped to save finally saw the light of day. A subsequent feature story in The Southern Illinoian (Aug. 17, 2014) includes reminiscences of Duckett by some who knew him during his years at SIU Carbondale.



President Warren G. Harding, Library of Congress.



Carrie Fulton Phillips, Library of Congress.

job market in the fall of 1964. "Although I'd had a few feelers about employment, only Southern Illinois University seemed feasible, but it had been months since I'd heard from the head librarian, who was trying to get a position established



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