Brockmann Diaries Make Wonderful Addition to Special Collections

UA Libraries has acquired the diaries of Charles Raven Brockmann, advertising manager for the H.W. Wilson publishing company for much of the Great Depression and later the long-time assistant director of the Mecklenburg County Public Library, headquartered in Charlotte, NC.

Brockmann (1889-1970) was a committed diarist from his youth until just days before his death. With only a few gaps, the diaries chronicle his daily life through the greater part of the twentieth century. The diaries, acquired for UA Libraries by Dean Louis Pitschmann, will be kept in Hoole Special Collections Library.

The Brockmann Diaries came to the attention of Dean Pitschmann through an ongoing research project being conducted by Dr. Jeff Weddle, an associate professor in UA’s School of Library and Information Studies. Weddle is researching an H.W. Wilson outreach program, begun in 1929 for the purpose of sending a specially designed truck, laden with Wilson publications, on an epic, three-year tour of the United States.

The idea was to bring these volumes to librarians and book store workers who were unable to attend national conventions where they might otherwise examine them. Brockmann helped design the truck, deemed “The Bookmobile,” though that term was not yet in vogue, and served as its captain during the first year of its long trek. The diaries provide insight into the day-to-day business of Brockmann’s year on the road and offer an intimate account of the middle-class life of this librarian, family man and sometime adventurer during the first seven decades of the previous century.

It is Brockmann commenting on a Bookmobile stop at the public library in Hagerstown, Maryland: “There we visited Miss Mary Titcomb, Librarian, Washington County Free Library and examined an original photograph of the first book wagon to be used in county library service in this country, a horse drawn vehicle of unique design.” – May 18, 1929.

Under the direction of Miss Mary Titcomb, that library put the first American book wagon on the road in 1905, thus initiating bookmobile service in the U.S.

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Jeff Weddle, Ph.D., associate professor
School of Library and Information Studies
Message From the Dean

In recent years this space has increasingly been devoted to such 21st-century library issues as technology-driven user services, the acquisition of historical collections in digital format, the digitization of unique materials in our Special Collections, and the roles the Libraries’ faculty and staff play in the burgeoning field of digital humanities across campus. Elsewhere, the news media report daily on the growing ubiquity of e-books and Kindles as if the demise of paper-based publications were at hand.

No one would deny that technology is rapidly changing how we read or even define a “book,” but e-books and Kindles have not replaced books as we have known them any more than television replaced the radio. So it is with much of our paper-based written record. Letters, diaries, the papers of important individuals and institutions as well as books continue to play a key role in higher education and continue to define a research library’s reputation for quality.

This issue of Library Horizons describes various examples of how the University Libraries remains committed to paper-based resources central to the research and teaching programs of the campus. Professor Jef Weddle’s cover story on the Brockmann diaries and the article about the Libraries’ support of the Alabama Center for the Book, as well as recent collaborations with the Miniature Book Society are illustrative of three quite different initiatives taken by the Libraries to promote important paper-based resources.

Other examples include the recent acquisition of a World War II morale-building poster featuring Alabama boxer Joe Lewis; 19th-century British and American documents relating to U.S. claims for compensation for damages caused by British warships converted to Confederate ships during the Civil War; several hundred unpublished letters written by servicemen to loved ones during World War II; and a piece of political campaign ephemera in the form of a songbook written in support of Abraham Lincoln’s re-election in 1865. Equally impressive are several pamphlets printed by Benjamin Franklin, one of which is possibly the first abolitionist tract published in the United States.

The acquisition of these and similar documents and publications central to the University’s programs would not have been possible were it not for the great generosity of our donors. Although not always identified by donor’s name, many important books, papers, manuscripts, and artifacts in our collections bear witness to the many benefactors who through annual gifts, bequests, and/or occasional donations have enriched the Libraries’ collections for current and future generations of scholars. In appreciation of their support, the names of donors during the past year are given special recognition on the concluding pages of this issue of Library Horizons.
Miniature Book Exhibit Delighted the Young and Old

One of the Libraries’ most popular exhibits, The Miniature Book Society’s national traveling exhibit, was on display in the Pearce Foyer in the Amelia Gayle Gorgas Library Feb. 15 - April 15.

The exhibit, sponsored by the Alabama Center for the Book, featured 53 books in the traveling exhibit and another 32 books from the W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library’s Book Arts Collection and the A. S. Williams III Americana Collection.

“Miniature books cover the entire spectrum of subjects; however, they are generally printed in much smaller press runs than regular books, typically 100 to 300,” Jim Brogan, coordinator of the Miniature Book Society’s traveling exhibit, said in an email.

“The MBS has had a traveling exhibit for about 20 years,” Brogan said. “The current exhibit is just one year old. Typically it moves around the country all year long, about two months in each exhibit location, then it is displayed at the annual MBS Conclave (in the summer), is refitted with new books and then goes on its tour for the next year.”

Timothy Winkler, a UA student from the School of Library and Information Studies Book Arts Program, has a book in this year’s traveling collection. Winkler’s book “Jumble” is a letterpress book printed with polymer plates and linocuts.

Miniature books have been around for centuries. “The earliest miniature books were created as miniature cuneiform tablets 2000 B.C.,” Brogan said in the email. In the 1800s, American settlers valued the small books because they could pack several of them into tight spaces when traveling.

The generally accepted rule of size for one of these tiny treasures is that it be no more than 3 inches in height, width or thickness. But the Library of Congress determined a miniature book to be one that is smaller than 4 inches in height. In any case, the little books are so small they are often measured in millimeters.

Brogan said that most collectors of the undersized books are private citizens, but collections can also be found at universities or other institutions, both public and private.

The value of the books is hard to set, as each could be considered a work of art. Brogan said the cost for most of the books would fall between $25 and $300 each. He estimated that fewer than 1 percent of the miniature books would fetch more than $1,000.

The exhibit is now on display at the University of South Alabama Libraries and will move to the Gadsden Public Library in Gadsden, Alabama before leaving the state the end of June.

Donna Adcock, director, Public Relations
Margaret Clevenger
For the past two years the Alabama Center for the Book has supported the annual “To Kill a Mockingbird” Essay Contest for high school students.

The winners were recognized with a luncheon and awards ceremony Friday, Jan. 27. Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and UA faculty member Rick Bragg was the guest speaker.

The essay contest began in 2001 to recognize author Harper Lee’s induction into the Alabama Academy of Honor.

Contest submissions were accepted from public, private and home-schooled high school students.

Each participating school chooses a winning entry, and a monetary prize is given to each of the winners. Participants were required to write a 500-750 word essay about how the book speaks to readers in today’s society.

The Alabama Center for the Book sponsored a second annual meeting of over eighty book artists, librarians, curators, archivists, museum administrators and collectors in March in Gorgas Library. The topic of the day-long meeting was “Alabama Special Collections and Archives for the 21st Century.” Individuals representing institutions and private businesses from across the state and southeast shared their thoughts on defining and redefining collecting, compared notes on physical and virtual exhibitions, and discussed opportunities and options for special collections over the next two to five years.

Speakers included 2009 MacArthur Fellow Timothy Barrett, University of Iowa; renowned book artist Tim Ely, Colfax, Washington; Kenneth Gaddy, director of the Paul W. Bryant Museum, Tuscaloosa, Alabama; Bill and Vicky Stewart, Vamp & Tramp, Booksellers, Birmingham, Alabama; and Dr. John Cole, director of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. Steve Miller, and Dr. Robert Riter, professors in the School of Library and Information Studies served as moderators of a panel discussion.

Louis A. Pitschmann, dean of University Libraries, and Heidi Julien, director of the School of Library & Information Studies, both co-sponsors of the program, welcomed the guests.

The Alabama winners of the Letters About Literature program were announced at an awards ceremony April 7, in Gorgas Library. Kerry Madden, children’s author, was the guest speaker.

Six hundred students from across the state in grades 4-12 entered in the national reading and writing program for young readers. Students were challenged to write a letter to their favorite author to explain how the author’s work had changed them or their view of the world. Sixty-four students advanced to the final round of judging.

The 2012 Alabama winners included:
Level 1: First Place, Caleb Clarke, Spanish Fort Middle School; Second Place, Hannah Soloff, The Montgomery Academy; Third Place, Francie Hill, The Montgomery Academy; Honorable Mention, Julia Coccaro, Spanish Fort Middle School; Level 2: First Place, Chenna Christofer, Tuscaloosa Academy; Second Place, Rupa Palanki, Phillips Preparatory School; Third Place, Mario Madrigal, Oxford Middle School; and Level 3: First Place Claudia Mitchell, Randolph School; Second Place, Sara Jane Kachelman, Florence High School; and Third Place, Claire Oldfather, Providence Classical School.

First place winners received a $50 gift card from Target, national sponsor of the program, and all winners received cash prizes from the Alabama Center for the Book.

See “Center” on page 11
Honorary Writer-in-Residence with UA ties brings literary arts experience to ACFTB

Through a partnership arrangement with the Alabama Writers’ Forum, a statewide literary arts support non-profit housed in Montgomery, poet and UA MFA alumna (’77) Jeanie Thompson has served as Honorary Writer-in-Residence at the Alabama Center for the Book during the spring 2012 semester. Thompson is founding executive director of the Forum.

According to UA Libraries Dean Louis Pitschmann, Jeanie's knowledge of the literary landscape of Alabama and her willingness to share a wealth of connections and ideas made the arrangement a good fit for the Alabama Center for the Book. “Jeanie offered to help raise awareness of the Alabama Center for the Book through the networks of the Alabama Writers’ Forum,” Pitschmann said. “Her passion for community arts programming initiatives and for promoting Alabama writers and writing has helped our staff develop and implement marketing strategies and programs for the ACFTB. There is a natural liaison between the University of Alabama’s Center for the Book and the state’s premier literary arts support organization.”

The Alabama Writers’ Forum is a partnership program of the Alabama State Council on the Arts and produces a variety of literary arts programs, recognizes young writers, and awards the Harper Lee Award for Alabama’s Distinguished Writer of the Year.

“Assisting the staff of the ACFTB as it clarifies its mission to the community of book arts specialists and others is a logical extension of the Forum’s outreach,” Thompson said. “I hope we can find more ways to work together in the future. This feels like just the beginning.”

Jeanie Thompson, executive director
Alabama Writers’ Forum

News from the Faculty and Staff

Welcome New Faculty

Kayla Burns was appointed metadata librarian for Cataloging & Metadata Services in Gorgas Library on January 3, 2012. She holds a BA in English and history from Michigan State University and a MLIS from the University of South Carolina. Burns previously served as a digital collections assistant with the University of South Carolina’s Digital Collections department.

Sara Whitver was appointed first year experience librarian for Gorgas Information Services on January 30, 2012. Whitver holds a BA in English from the University of Tennessee and a MLIS from the University of Alabama. She previously served as a reference librarian at the Tuscaloosa Public Library.

Amanda N. Price was appointed electronic resources and digital integration librarian in the Electronic Resources Department in Gorgas Library on January 17, 2012. Price holds a MLIS degree from the University of Alabama. She previously worked as the head of Serials for Mississippi State University Libraries.

Nathan Humpal was appointed metadata librarian in the Cataloging & Metadata Services in Gorgas Library on April 2, 2012. Humpal holds a BA in English from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point and a MLIS from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. He previously served as catalog and metadata librarian at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.
Awards, Honors, Recognitions, Presentations, and Publications

**AWARDED**

Marcia Barrett, cataloging librarian, Rare Books and Special Collections, was awarded a 2011 Conference Scholarship from the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), Rare Books and Manuscripts Section.

Jody DeRidder, head, Digital Services, was selected as one of 24 applicants to be trained as a trainer in digital preservation at the Library of Congress and was awarded the 2011 Outstanding Professional Publications Award by the Alabama Library Association's College, University, and Special Libraries Division.

Nancy Fawley, head, Gorgas Information Services, was named ACRL Member of the Week.

Jill Grogg, electronic resources coordinator, Gorgas Library, was presented the Alumni Innovators Award from the School of Information Sciences, University of Tennessee.

Tom Wilson, associate dean for Information Technology, received the Alabama Library Association’s Distinguished Service Award for 2012. He received his award for making digital preservation more accessible to small- and medium-sized libraries in the state of Alabama though the Alabama Digital Preservation Network (ADPNet).

**HONOURED**

Nancy Fawley, head, Gorgas Information Services, was accepted to the Triangle Research Libraries Network (TRLN) Management Academy: The Business of Libraries, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, October 24-28, 2011.

Melissa Fortson Green, librarian, Gorgas Information Services, was selected to participate in the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Immersion Program, Teacher Track, for summer 2012.

Josh Sahib, librarian, Gorgas Information Services, was accepted into the Minnesota Institute for Early Career Librarians from Traditionally Underrepresented Groups.

Angela Wright, human resources officer, University Libraries, was elected secretary of the Human Resources Section of the Library Leadership and Management Association Division of the American Library Association.

**PRESENTATIONS**


- “Exhibits in Archives and Special Collections.” Drucker Institute, Claremont College. Claremont, California. May 27, 2011.


**PUBLICATIONS**


**Jill Grogg**, electronic resources librarian, was promoted to professor. (2012)

**Jil Grogg**, electronic resources librarian, was promoted to professor. (2012)

**Mildred Jackson**, associate dean for Research and Instruction, was promoted to professor. (2011)

**Mangala Krishnamurthy**, reference librarian, Rogers Library for Science and Engineering, was promoted to associate professor. (2011)

**Michael Pearce**, reference librarian, Gorgas Library, was granted tenure and promoted to associate professor. (2012)

**Benita Strnad**, curriculum materials collection librarian, McLure Education Library, was promoted to associate professor. (2011)

**Tom Wilson**, associate dean for Library Technology, was granted tenure and promoted to professor. (2012)

**TENURE AND PROMOTIONS**
Gifts Enrich University Libraries

We are deeply grateful to donors at every level, all of whom make it possible for the University Libraries to enhance the services that students, faculty, and staff of the University of Alabama enjoy every day.

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See “Gifts” on page 9

Cullen Murphy, editor at large for Vanity Fair spoke about his latest book, God's Jury: The Inquisition and the Making of the Modern World in February. The lecture was co-sponsored by University Libraries, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Alabama Center for the Book. Murphy is best known for his work at The Atlantic Monthly, where he worked for more than two decades as managing editor. For 25 years he wrote the comic strip Prince Valiant, which was drawn by his father, the illustrator John Cullen Murphy.
“Gifts” continued from page 8

$100 - $249
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John M. Perry
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Gayle Baker
Rosemarie Bishop
Jimmie E. Blansett
Jannis Legg Brakefield
F. Russell Bryant
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Yvonne Shelton Crumpler
Linda Page Cummings
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William Edward Edmonston Jr
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Martha Maples Gardner
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Marshall Seymour and
Susan S. Ginsburg
Wade H. Hall
Jan Herlinger
Arthur F. Howington
Martha Hunt Huie
Ralph Loveless
Cynthia Karen Markushewski
William Horace McWhorter
Shujia Mei
Jerry Clyde Oldshue
Charles B. and
Sharon R. Osburn
Elizabeth Bolton Patton
John M. Perry
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See “Gifts” on page 11
As popular history goes, few stories are as dramatic and endlessly fascinating as the sinking of the Titanic. Julie Hedgepeth Williams spoke in Gorgas Library last March about her latest book, A Rare Titanic Family, The Caldwells’ Story of Survival. Williams grew up hearing the story of the Titanic from her great-uncle, Albert Caldwell, who survived the tragic 1912 shipwreck along with his wife and baby. The lecture was co-sponsored by University Libraries, the Alabama Center for the Book, and the Tolbert Lecture Series. April 15, 2012 marked the 100th anniversary of the sinking.
Donald Wayne DeJarnette  
Wanda Joy Elkourie  
Janice Franks  
Karen Hollingsworth Gardiner  
George B. and Jean F. Gordon  
Kelly Vernon and Murlene Grider  
Gail S. Hasson  
Beth Holley  
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Samuel A. and  
  Patricia Boyd Rumore  
Elise Ayers Sanguinetti  
Farley Moody Snow  
Sydney Sparkes  
Myles and Lorraine Standish  
William Larry Sullivan  
Ralph M. Tanner  
Jaclyn Arlene Tarkington  
Harriet Cabell Walker  
Juanita Goodman Watson  
John Clark and  
  Annette J. Watters  
J. Don Weathers  
Ann Michele Widmeyer  
Robert G. Wilson  
Mathew Winston

*Deceased

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James Hill McLemore

GIFTS IN KIND

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Joanna Biermann  
Patrick Cather  
Elizabeth White Cleino  
John W. Crowley  
Margaret Dalton  
Billingsley J. Gardiner  
Harold Wayne Greenhaw  
Wade H. Hall  
Bertram Hayes  
Aileen Kilgore Henderson  
Benjamin Jacob Hollars  
Martha Hunt Huie  
Mildred Jackson  
Bonnie Cook Jones  
David C. Kopaska-Merkel  
Jessica Lacher-Feldman  
Susanne LaRosa  
Bruce Mitchell  
Anne Nolen Myers  
Elizabeth Mayo Nicholson  
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Pilot Club of Tuscaloosa  
Louis A. Pitschmann  
Mary Elsie Pow  
Joan Ratcliffe  
Richard D. Saad  
Harold Selesky  
Myles and Lorraine Standish  
E. G. Swem III  
Ann Wall Thomas  
Susan Tolbert  
Vamp & Tramp Booksellers  
James H. Walburn

The first place winners will advance to the national competition where the national winners will receive a $500 Target gift card and secure a $10,000 LAL Reading Promotion Grant in his/her name for a community or school library. National winners will be announced in May.

Total entries received from all states and on all levels in this year’s contest were 59,000 of which just fewer than 4,000 advanced to the state judging.

Donna Adcock, director, Public Relations
University Libraries Celebrated One Millionth Student Visitor

University Libraries celebrated the one millionth student visitor to the libraries since August 1, 2011 on March 1. Nicholas Dedeaux, a freshman from New Orleans, was surprised as he walked through the Capstone entrance in Gorgas Library. Susan Tolbert, chair of the Library Leadership Board and Nancy Fawley, head of Gorgas Information Services, awarded Dedeaux a gift bag from the Libraries including a $100 gift certificate to the SUPe-Store.

“Not only do we have more students on campus, students are coming more often to the libraries,” stated Dr. Louis A. Pitschmann, Dean of Libraries.

“Since 2002, visits to University Libraries are up 70%, an increase that greatly exceeds the increase in enrollment.” Visits to the Gorgas Library alone are up over 116%.

The Libraries continue to provide traditional collections and services that are still needed while simultaneously providing 21st century services: online resources and technology driven spaces. Students are coming to the libraries to use computers with the latest productivity and academic software programs and to take advantage of group and individual study spaces.

Since 2003, University Libraries has moved from 97th to 56th among the top 115 private and public university libraries in the United States and Canada which qualify for membership in the Association of Research Libraries.