

Autumn signals approach of the time to renew Friends memberships and your support of the University Libraries. If you are not a Friend already, you are cordially invited to become part of a group founded on the idea that the University Libraries are the heart as well as the crossroads of intellectual life, reflecting the aspirations of a university whose campus is the Commonwealth.



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Class of '45 Makes Gift to University Libraries

The Class of '45 recently presented a giant-sized check for \$142,000 to a delighted Dean of University Libraries Eileen Hitchingham. Dr. J.B. Jones, class gift chair, presented the check representing gifts and pledges at their 50th reunion activities held during Homecoming, October 15. The gift project remains open until December 31, 1995, and multi-year commitments continue to be made.

The class earmarked part of the gift to renovate Newman Library lobby, and, currently, \$93,751.72 has been committed. In addition, Dr. Robert B. Fetter stepped forward to create a trust fund valued at fifty thousand dollars designated for the acquisition of library materials. According

to Dean Hitchingham, "Renovation funds will be used to revitalize the entry to make it more inviting and helpful to users. The Dr. Robert B. Fetter Trust for Acquisitions will help us to meet the challenge of keeping up in a changing world. This generous gift from the Class of '45 is a significant one—one we hope will set a precedent."

The library is extremely grateful for all who participated in the giving and celebration of this gift: the evening's emcee, George Allen, Jr.; class president, Dr. Ralph McCue; class gift chair, Dr. J.B. Jones; Development liaison, Marty O'Neill; and all the members of the Class of '45.



Dean Hitchingham celebrates gift with Dr. Paul Torgersen, university president, and Dr. J.B. Jones, class gift chair.

The University Libraries

The University Libraries began in 1872 with the existence of the college which was to become Virginia Tech. Composed of Newman Library and its four branches—Art and Architecture, Geology, Veterinary Medicine, and the Northern Virginia Graduate Center—University Libraries houses vast resources both traditional and high-tech.



Friends of the University Libraries

The Friends of the University Libraries was founded in 1994 as a support and advocacy group for the University Libraries. Its purpose is to publicize the libraries' resources, promote their use, and encourage giving to maintain the libraries' excellence.

For more information about the Friends please contact Friends of the University Libraries, P.O. Box 90001, Blacksburg, VA 24062-9001, (540) 231-3427, or use e mail (friends@vt.edu).



Editor, Margaret F. Shuler
Executive Secretary, Friends

Layout Editor, Elizabeth Ackermann
Special Collections Department

Technical Assistance, Jenny Akers
University Printing Services

Photographs: Rick Griffiths, Linda Southard, T.O. Williams

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From the Dean of the University Libraries



Eileen E. Hitchingham

A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to attend a student forum sponsored by our Roanoke Valley Graduate Center (RVGC), in downtown Roanoke. The guests were recent graduates or students enrolled in masters level or certification programs offered at the center. They spoke to the necessity of devising programs that fit their time schedules and their employers' expectations. Many were professionals—a city planner, a human resources officer for a major company, a medical educator, an attorney/engineer, and an assistant principal. All knew the value of information and wanted convenient access and ample resources for their programs. Most indicated a desire for information about the Internet and how it could be applied to their needs.

Listening to these students, I felt that I was observing a significant part of the future for the University Libraries. Increasingly, we will need to recognize that many of our faculty and students will not necessarily know the library as a place in Blacksburg, but will need all of our traditional services—reference, instruction, document delivery—“there” instead of “here.” Even in Blacksburg, many of our users will be “there” in their dorms, apartments, and offices, rather than “here” in Newman or the branches.

As part of our move to the future, we are directing a significant portion of our staff resources to enhancing library services. We will be using focus sessions and telephone surveys of our users to learn more about changing needs. We want to know what you consider important and how you think we can improve current services. What are your expectations of the University Libraries? Are they being met? What do you like or dislike? If you are contacted as part of the learning program, I hope you will take a little time to share your thoughts with us. Your assistance can help us to provide the library services that best fit all our evolving futures.

Libraryfriends, the publication of the University Libraries and the Friends of the University Libraries, seeks to promote the programs and interests of the University Libraries, to chronicle activities of the libraries and the Friends, and to record the generosity of their supporters. Please direct comments and suggestions to Margaret Shuler, Executive Secretary, Friends of the University Libraries, P.O. Box 90001, Blacksburg, VA 24062-9001, call (540) 231-3427, or use e mail (friends@vt.edu).

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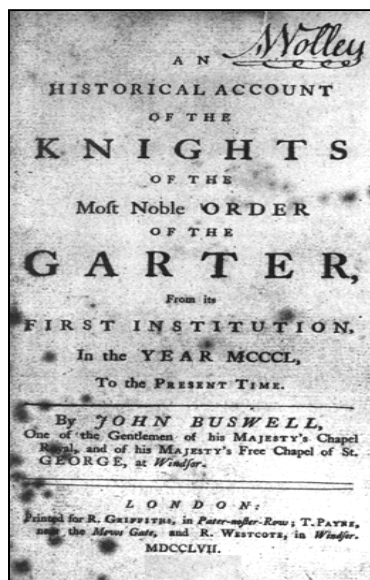
Thank you, Class of '45

George A. Allen, Jr.
 Parker D. Archibald
 Claude C. Arthur
 Frank H. Boehling
 Robert W. Bundy
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Title page of a rare book published in 1757, from the Harry Temple Heraldry Collection.

In Special Collections we are frequently asked, "What makes a book *rare*?" This question has no quick, easy answer. We must differentiate between books that may be appealing to us or have sentimental value and those considered rare by an objective collector. There are no hard and

You have a *rare* book?

fast rules. Instead, there are some indications of worth that should be considered:

- * Any book published before 1501, and English books printed before 1641 could be important. Look for books published before 1820 in America, before 1800 in Europe, before 1850 west of the Mississippi, and before 1860 in California.
- * A small initial printing may add to a book's value, especially if the number of surviving volumes can be determined.
- * Editions published with special bindings or papers and those with well-known illustrators or engravers may be connoisseur editions.
- * The reputation of a book's publisher, illustrator, or author may affect its value.
- * A book may be worth more if it is a numbered edition or has the autograph of the author or illustrator.
- * Books printed by small or exclusive presses sometimes are more valuable than books printed in large runs.
- * The condition of any book is extremely important in determining value. Books with loose spines or missing pages will likely

be less valuable than those in good condition.

- * Documents written or signed by figures recognized as important in their fields may have value to collectors. The writings of an unknown person may become important when they pertain to noteworthy social or historical events.
- * Annotation of a book by a well-known person may add to its value.
- * In the end, whether a book is rare depends on how scarce it is. Whether a scarce book is valuable depends on market demands.

In Special Collections, we turn to book experts for appraisals. Those who deal in antiquarian, rare books are able to make objective judgements about their value. If you are wondering about some of your own old books, we have a list of book dealers, search services, and appraisers published by The Book House, Williamsburg, Virginia, that we would be happy to share with you. For a copy, please write Special Collections, P.O. Box 90001, Blacksburg, VA 24062-9001, or call (540)231-6308.

Joyce Nester

Letter from a Friend

The Friends of the University Libraries, begun by volunteers scarcely more than two years ago, is poised now to become a significant organization that will have substantial impact on the quality of the university.

We have had a number of worthwhile, well-attended, and generally delightful programs. We have raised some money for the libraries. We have focussed attention on some of the libraries' needs, and we have pointed out some of the libraries' terrific accomplishments and services.

Perhaps more important, we now have a sizeable group of *Friends*, including alumni, faculty, students, staff, and researchers from throughout Virginia, the country, and even abroad. We'd like a lot more, of course, and we think we'll get them.

Wherever educated people are, you will find people who love libraries, who understand their importance to our society and, above all, to educational institutions. They know that the library is the heart of the university. They know that the library is deeply and intrinsically involved with all that goes on in the university—teaching, learning, research, extension, archiving—in every discipline of study; in every college; every department, laboratory, and classroom. Still, that's not all. The library is also involved in quiet study when so much learning actually occurs, in discussions among students and faculty that stimulate the mind, even in socializing, where friendships that sometimes last a lifetime are begun and nurtured.

Many good universities—it seems just about all of them, in fact—have had a "Friends of the Library" organization for years and are stronger as a result. We're a little late in organizing one, but we're moving right along. Soon we expect to have a regular schedule

Continued on p. 5.

Friends Honor Gift of Robert E. Marshak Papers

The second annual Friends Fall Festivities, a reception and luncheon in honor of the Robert E. Marshak family in appreciation of the gift of the Marshak Papers to the University Libraries, was held September 9 at Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center.

Dr. Ann M. Rothstein and Dr. Stephen Marshak, daughter and son of the late Dr. Marshak and Ruth G. Marshak, were special guests (the Friends noted with regret that Ruth Marshak was unable to attend because of recent surgery). The event brought together a distinguished assembly of approximately ninety Friends, neighbors, physicists,

and University Distinguished Professors to express gratitude for the gift, to acknowledge its significance, and, in so doing, to pay tribute to the man.

Featured speakers were George Collins, University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Physics, and Luke Mo,

Professor of Physics, who spoke about their friend and colleague and the importance of his research and his influence as a mentor and educator. Master of Ceremonies for the event was Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr., Friends Chair. Dean Eileen Hitchingham

spoke on behalf of the University Libraries calling the Marshak Papers a "generous and remarkable gift . . . a complex collection which significantly enriches our research capabilities."

Senior Vice President and Provost Peggy Meszaros presented the *Ut Prosim* award for the the university adding, "There cannot be a more fundamental core to our being than our library." Selected items

from the Marshak Papers, including letters from Einstein and Oppenheimer, numerous photographs, and conference publications were on exhibition from the Special Collections Department for the occasion and remained on display in Newman Library through November.

"Lives of achievement are never extinguished, and future scholars with an interest in sharing Robert Marshak's front-row view of this century will find the Newman Library collection a treasure."

Robert Freis



Provost Peggy Meszaros with Ann Rothstein and Stephen Marshak, accepting the *Ut Prosim* award on behalf of their mother Ruth G. Marshak.

The Marshak Collection

The following selection, indicating the scope and contents of the collection, is excerpted from the September 8, 1995, Roanoke Times article by Robert Freis, entitled "Papers of a Pioneer."

Robert E. Marshak stood at Ground Zero during some of the mid-20th century's most profound events. He served as an influential member of the scientific dream team that developed the atom bomb—then spent the rest of his life working to keep this frightful genie in the bottle. He narrowly avoided the tar of a McCarthy-era blacklist, stigmatized for promoting a global scientific community. He led one of America's leading urban universities, City College of New York, during turbulent times of student unrest.

This son of immigrants, an affable, brilliant workaholic who counted world-renowned scientists as intimate friends,



Robert Marshak, Robert Bacher, and Robert Oppenheimer at the Sixth Rochester Conference on High Energy Nuclear Physics, 1955.

Marshak spent his last academic years serenely teaching physics at Virginia Tech. His untimely death in 1993 did not end his influence. He left behind a significant body of work, including research, papers, speeches, articles, correspondence, and photographs. This legacy now rests in the hands of the Special Collections department at Virginia Tech's Newman Library—all 61 cubic feet of it.

We have some great volunteers!

Members of the service sorority Chi Delta Alpha are completing their second semester of volunteer activities at Newman Library. At press time more than 50 young women have worked over 280 hours performing a wide range of duties. The student volunteers have been working in End Processing, the Media Center, and Special Collections.

This happy association began in the 1995 spring semester when Lana Frilles, a

student employee in End Processing and Chi Delta Alpha member, approached the department of Special Collections with an offer of volunteer help. During that first semester, 38 volunteers worked a total of 114 hours in Special Collections.

The staff of Newman Library would like to extend thanks to these wonderful volunteers for their good work and the valuable contribution they are making to the university community.

New Stop on the Information Highway:

BRITANNICA ONLINE

The complete text and many of the figures and illustrations of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* are now available at <http://vatech.lib.vt.edu>, the University Libraries homepage address. Choose Reference Services to link to *BRITANNICA ONLINE* and enter your search. Or use URL: <http://www.eb.com>, and select "Search BRITANNICA ONLINE (subscribers only)." Authorized users (subscribers) include members of the Virginia Tech community.

Our access to *BRITANNICA ONLINE* is supported by Commonwealth funding for the Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA) project. VIVA was established to create a network of shared electronic resources for students and faculty in Virginia's public colleges and universities and to facilitate cooperation among its members.

Letter... continued

of activities of the kind we've already begun: lectures, book signings, social events, and special programs.

There are lots and lots of people who love libraries. We think many of them will join us as they learn of our organization and its benefits to them as well as to the library.

If you are not yet a member, we hope you will join us, and there is a form elsewhere in this newsletter that tells how to do it. Whether or not you join now, we think you'll hear more and more about us in the years ahead!

Lon Savage
Co-Chair, Friends

Welcome *friends*

Cynthia Bertelsen
Mr. and Mrs. Vinod Chachra
Mr. and Mrs. Dean Carter
Chian-Yeun Chang
Wilma M. Favrao
Marshall W. Fishwick
Michael W. Hight
Rengin Holt
M.S. Malik
Mr. and Mrs. Donald A. Mason, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. George Middleton, Jr.
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Dr. and Mrs. Laird L. Rush
Kristine Stilwell
Alvin P. Schmitt, III
Fawn Valentine
Mr. and Mrs. Wirt H. Wills
Mr. and Mrs. John D. Wilson

Class of '45 (p. 3) and their spouses

Highlights of Preservation Week Activities

Original posters, students clad in T-shirts a la David Letterman's Top Ten List, an exhibition in Newman lobby, and demonstrations of book-mending and other preservation techniques educated library goers about protecting the University Libraries' book and other media collections. A video film series, held each day at noon, featured a bring-a-friend-and-bring-a-lunch format; and guest speaker, Dr. Len Hatfield of the English department, gave a talk entitled "Webbing the Past Future: the Virginia Tech Online Speculative Fiction Project."

The week's activities were planned by the University Libraries' Preservation Committee, Lowell Ashley, John Stemmer, Chris Peters, Rosemary Bowden, Mary Lucado, Caryl Gray, Tamara Kennelly, Donna Abel, Laura Smith, Diane Kauffman, and Lane Rasmussen. The activities presented some serious ideas and statistics, reflecting concerns at Virginia Tech and other institutions across the United States facing similar challenges. Loss, theft, or damage of library materials is inconvenient and frustrating; it is also expensive, not only in terms of real money spent, but also in time wasted by users (students, researchers, and browsers) and library staff. Increasingly, as libraries offer more electronic resources, vandalism and theft of computer terminals and other technical equipment present a test of security which is, perhaps, the costliest of all preservation challenges.



High-tech Preservation: Webbing the Past Future

The use of digitization as a means of preserving materials was explored by Dr. Len Hatfield in his lecture for the University Libraries 1995 Preservation Week: "Webbing the Past Future: The Virginia Tech Online Speculative Fiction Project." Dr. Hatfield, Associate Professor of English and Information Director for Faculty Development at Virginia Tech, said the Virginia Tech Speculative Fiction Project (VTSF) aims to make available to the Internet public domain materials relating to the study of the fantastic in literature and art. The project has goals in three areas: preservation, education, and research.

In its initial phase, the VTSF project is focusing on digitizing pulp magazine materials from the William J. Heron Collection of Speculative Fiction, housed in the University Libraries Special Collections. The collection contains over 5,000 issues of 200 different publications dating from 1926 to 1987. It is one of the largest English language collections of speculative fiction magazines.

In 1994, the libraries acquired the Heron Science Fiction Paperback Book Collection, which contains 11,900 volumes dating from 1939 (with the origin of mass-market science fiction paperbacks) to 1987. With roughly 8,000 different titles, the Heron collection contains over 95 percent of the American science fiction paperbacks published during these years.

Because of copyright restrictions, the VTSF at present is digitizing materials from the Heron Collection already in the public domain, that is, those materials which were published prior to 1966 and have not had their copyright renewed. Since the amount of public domain material in the Heron collection increases with each year's passing, Dr. Hatfield said the project hopes to gradually add materials to the on-line offerings from more recent periods.

Most of the materials in the Heron Collection were printed on inexpensive, acid-based pulp papers and are too fragile to be made physically available to the public. The VTSF project will digitize both text and graphics of the serials and then seal the originals to protect them from light, air, and additional handling. As paper recovery techniques become more effective at retrieving and stabilizing acid-based

materials, Dr. Hatfield said that eventually it may be possible to stop and even reverse the deterioration of the actual materials.

To further the goals of education and research, the digital texts and graphics will be converted into files tagged with Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) and made accessible to scholars using a wide variety of hardware and software platforms. Dr. Hatfield said that an "archive stops having the same kind of 'thereness' when the things we hold become available on the World Wide Web" (WWW); networked hypermedia databases such as the VTSF may be accessed from around the world. Hatfield noted that the WWW provides hypertextual organization, ease of search and retrieval through a graphical interface, and wide access to wide varieties of information. Search and retrieval capabilities allow one to search quickly through a large archive, making the archived information more amenable in some ways to scholarly work than it is in its original physical form.

The VTSF project hopes to become a growing collaborative project in which other interested scholars will join the effort to build hypertextual links among the many originals in the archive itself as well as to add collateral materials (text, graphics, sound, and video clips), and to provide links to other relevant materials on the WWW. Thus, the archive will be of value not only to scholars of the fantastic, but also to cultural studies generally as the cultural expression in these materials are explored. Students will study changes in the kinds and themes of the stories as popular literary forms and also explore the cultural attitudes in the letters, columns, editorials, advertisements, and graphic designs of the serials. Dr. Hatfield said the VTSF has lots of functions. It is a "place not only to watch the obvious but also the unconscious tics of culture." The archive also offers potential for teaching and learning as users will be able to view, read, search, and retrieve materials in the VTSF project archive independently, or as part of their class work. Working with mirror sites (to provide protection from accidental errors), students will be able to use the archive for exploration and research as well as participate in its development. Those

Webbing... cont'd

whose work actually gets on the WWW version of VTSF will be credited for their work.

The VTSF project was designed and developed by Dr. Hatfield. Volunteer contributors thus far have included Rania Lisas, an MA in English and monitor in Williams Hall Computer Integrated Classroom; Timur Snoke, undergraduate major in Technology Education at Virginia Tech and lab foreman at the Williams Hall Computer Integrated Classroom; and Marc Zaldivar, Instructor in English. The developers are working in cooperation with the Special Collections department. At present, working part-time, volunteer members of the VTSF Project development team have made several issues of *Air Wonder Stories*, *Cosmic Fiction Stories*, and *Marvel Science Stories* available on the WWW.

The VTSF site may be viewed at "<http://athena.english.vt.edu/vtsfpilot/sf-project.html>." Additional volunteers on the project are always welcome and interested folks should contact Dr. Hatfield at Len.Hatfield@vt.edu.

*Tamara Kennelly
University Archivist*

University Libraries Honor Retirees

The University Libraries recently added the names of Alex Baer, Doris Baker, Luisa Brooks, Myra Hereford, Yvonne Roach, and Ethel Shrader to the Recognition Plaque in the lobby of Newman Library. "These six employees have given the University Libraries a total of 128 years of service," master of ceremonies Don Kenney, Associate Dean of Administrative Services, told the audience gathered in their honor.

Vicki Kok, Veterinary College Librarian, introduced the guest speaker for the afternoon, Dr. Peter Wallenstein. Associate Professor of History Wallenstein spoke about the development of civil rights and entertained guests with accounts of how historical research leads from library resources out into the world, bringing stories and people to life. Following the program, Dean Hitchingham invited everyone to a reception hosted by the

Recognition Committee, which included Wanda Brown, Joyce Nester, Don Kenney, Vicki Kok, and Lane Rasmussen.



Wallenstein and Kok greet guests following program.

A Note of Thanks

We wish to thank friends of the University Libraries for their gifts of books, manuscripts, photographs, and other library materials. These donors include:

Virginia Bondurant

Daniel Bedinger Lucas Papers

James B. Campbell

Large collection of books on geography

Dean Carter

Preston Frazer painting

Daughters of the American Revolution, Allegheny Chapter

DAR, Allegheny Chapter records

Lucy Ferrari

Rare books from the villa at Lugano

Fred Foldvary

Large collection of books on economics

Anne H. Friend

University memorabilia, including V.P.I. buttons, dance cards, booklets

Leroy D. Hammond

Historical source materials about early faculty of VAMC

Chester F. Phillips

Archival memorabilia, including class rings, loving cup, hat pin

M. Rosaria Piomelli

M. Rosaria Piomelli Papers to the IAWA (International Archive of Women in Architecture)

James I. Robertson, Jr.

Microfilm of Index to Compiled Confederate Military Records

Thomas M. Starling

1930's memorabilia, including telegram to editor of the Virginia Tech

Jane Talbot

Veterinary medicine books from the collection of Richard B. Talbot

Margaret Tilghman

Large collection of books of English literature and the classics

Rebecca Wood Watkin

Rebecca Wood Watkin Papers to the IAWA

Margaret Worley

Literature and architecture books from the collection of Charles S. Worley, Jr.

Dr. and Mrs. Laird L. Rush

*Black walnut china press
in memory of
son John Steven
and
and*

Dr. and Mrs. Charles C. Rush

Yes, I want to be a Friend!

As a Friend, your yearly donation of twenty-five dollars or more entitles you to privileges that include use of the varied resources and services of the University Libraries, receipt of *Library Friends*, invitations to special Friends events, and association with others whose wish is to support the "heart of the university." To celebrate this first Friends membership drive, your contribution will entitle you to Friends privileges through June 1977.

FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

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Enclosed is my corporate matching gift form.

Please send me information about including University Libraries in my estate plan.

Contributions are tax-deductible as allowable by law

Annual Friends Membership Fee \$ 25.00

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TOTAL COMMITMENT \$ _____

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Please charge equal payments in the following months as circled:

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FJ

Thank you for becoming a member of Friends of the University Libraries.

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