Reaching Our 3 Millionth Volume Year

As the University of Rochester Libraries pass a significant milestone this spring—the acquisition of the 3 millionth volume—we take a look back at the development of the Libraries and their collections.

When the first Library at the University of Rochester was established as a single room in the United States Hotel in 1850, and the first book—Principles of the Mechanics of Machinery and Engineering—was purchased, who could have predicted that by the spring of 1999 the collections would have grown to 3 million volumes in support of a major research university?

Despite a slow and often difficult start as the young institution struggled to survive, the quality and character of the collections have steadily developed along with the University. In 1861, when the University moved to the Prince Street Campus, the Library had grown to 10,000 volumes and was placed in a larger room in the newly built Anderson Hall.

By 1877, thanks to the generosity of Rochester businessman and University Trustee Hiram Sibley, the still-young University was able to build an impressive library building in the form of Sibley Hall to house a 20,000-volume collection.

As the University matured and came into its own as a true university in the early part of the 20th century, the collections would be dramatically transformed, in particular, by the establishment of Libraries at the School of Medicine and Dentistry, the Eastman School of Music, and the Memorial Art Gallery.

The year 1930 witnessed what was probably the most significant event in the development of Rochester’s Libraries with the completion of the imposing Rush Rhees Library on the new River Campus. Completion of that building and the entire new campus was made possible through the largess of University benefactor George Eastman and many other community and alumni donors. By the early ’30s there were close to 200,000 volumes in the overall collections. This number would grow to 500,000 books by the end of the 1940s.

In 1966, the Libraries’ collections reached the 1 millionth volume level and this important occasion was commemorated by the donation of a special volume—Roman Antiquities by Dionysius of Halicarnassus—given in memory of Dr. Hiram Olson (Class of 1905) by his family and friends.

Continued growth in the collections as the decade of the 1960s progressed necessitated construction of the major addition to the back of Rush Rhees Library that was completed in 1970.

The year 1972 marked another key date in the overall transformation to a major university library system with the dedication of the Chester F. Carlson Science and Engineering Library, named for the inventor of xerography, in the much-needed new Hutchison Hall complex built to house the University’s sizable and prominent scientific community.

A decade later, in 1982, the 2 millionth volume was acquired—The Works of Sir Thomas More, Knyght through a gift by Mari O. Wells ’50 in memory of her parents.

The 1980s and 1990s witnessed the addition of special resources to Rush Rhees Library: the Computer Library and Resources Center; the Rossell Hope Robbins Medieval Library, and the Koller-Collins Graduate English Center, as well as the Multimedia Center. In 1997 we saw the implementation of the new Voyager system, one of the first Web-based online catalogs at a major University.

In April of 1999, the University’s Libraries formally reach another milestone when the 3 millionth volume is added to the collections. The Libraries take great pride in their 149-year history of steady development and approach the University’s upcoming Sesquicentennial in 2000 with great enthusiasm.
‘3 Millionth’ Commemorative Volumes

The Libraries have chosen to commemorate this important milestone by publishing as the 3 millionth volume the college journal kept in the early 1950s by the late author John Gardner, whose life and brilliant career were cut tragically short by his death in a motorcycle accident in 1982. In 1987, the University’s Libraries were fortunate to be able to purchase the complete literary archive of this major American author, who grew up in western New York.

Gardner’s college journal, which he titled Lies! Lies! Lies! to remind himself that his opinions were provisional, has resided in the archive in Rush Rhees Library for the past decade. Based on its unique nature and charm, the journal has from its original purchase been deemed an item worthy of publication. Because it includes a number of adroit cartoons reflecting yet another of Gardner’s talents, and because he wrote in an attractive, legible hand, the published book reproduces the entire journal in facsimile, followed by a printed transcript.

Publication of this volume represents a partnership between the Libraries and BOA Editions of Rochester, the nation’s foremost not-for-profit publisher of books of poetry. The journal’s introduction was written by Thomas Gavin, professor emeritus of English at the University and noted author of Kingkill and Breathing Water, who was once a student of Gardner’s at the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference. The first publication of a work by Gardner in the journal format (and the first facsimile edition of anything by him), Lies! Lies! Lies! is also the first commercial title to be published by the Libraries.

The 3 millionth volume to be added to the collections is being presented to the Libraries by the University of Rochester Press, which has just celebrated the publication of its first 100 titles. The Press is providing the first copy of the newly published book, Carl W. Peters: American Scene Painter from Rochester to Rockport, as part of the 3 millionth volume celebration. Written by Richard H. Love, the book chronicles the work and career of the Rochester-born Peters, recognized as a pioneer American scene painter and regionalist.

A commemorative 3 million-second volume in recognition of the University’s outstanding optics program is being presented to the Libraries by Provost Emeritus Brian Thompson: a copy of Interferogram Analysis for Optical Testing by Daniel Malacara, Manuel Servin, and Zacarias Malacara. This work is Volume 61 in the Optical Engineering Series published by Marcel Dekker and edited by Professor Thompson, who served as director of the University’s Institute of Optics for many years. Daniel Malacara received his Ph.D. from the Institute in 1965 and was the first holder of the Kingslake Professorship in Optical Engineering Science at the University. Graham Garrett, executive vice president of Marcel Dekker, arranged for the copy to be donated to the Libraries.

If you are interested in owning your own special “3 millionth volume” copy of the Gardner journal, write to the University of Rochester Libraries, 236 Rush Rhees Library, P.O. Box 270055, Rochester, NY 14627-0055. The book is available in three formats: a paperback at $12.50, hard cover at $22.50, and a limited edition at $35. For information about the Peters volume, contact the University of Rochester Press at P.O. Box 41026, Rochester, NY 14604-4126.
Adding the 3 millionth volume to our collection is an impressive milestone for a major research library system such as ours. In fact, achieving this marker places Rochester in the company of the top 50 research libraries in North America, based on collection size, and certainly should serve as a source of pride for everyone associated with the history of our Libraries.

As our community becomes more aware of this impending milestone, I have been asked, with greater frequency than usual, if the Libraries will ever celebrate the acquisition of their 4 millionth volume. What these questioners usually are asking is, Will the paper format of the book survive the increasing use of computers and electronic publishing formats? I always answer this question, when refashioned as I suggest, with a resounding “yes.” Yes, the paper format will survive.

It is my firmly held conviction that the book in paper format is not about to become extinct. The book is a convenient format for the transmission of knowledge, a format that has served us well for centuries, a format that scholars, serious readers, and even students find most convenient for learning. While the book will certainly continue to compete with other formats for the transmission of information, the advent of the paperless society and bookless library is not in sight because both readers and writers do not, at least at this point, wish well this evolution in publishing.

However, there is another take on the question of whether or not there will be a 4 millionth volume in our Libraries. These questioners are aware that over a recent 10-year period, for example, the cost of books and journals that research libraries purchase has inflated by 62 percent and 169 percent, respectively. These questioners wonder if the Libraries will be able to purchase our way to a 4 millionth volume.

To this take on the question I am not prepared to offer such a quick and affirmational response. However, I am prepared to comment on the consequences of this economic reality.

As library material costs go up, our ability to fully support the research and academic programs of the University is challenged. What we find happening is that money once allocated to the purchase of books must be reallocated to the maintenance of an essential collection of research journals. (For example, in the academic year 1996–97 the Libraries added 7,000 fewer volumes than in 1986–87.) As a consequence, since there are fewer dollars left to spend on books, our book collection is becoming narrower in scope, focused on the research interests of the faculty and the graduate students. Very few dollars are left to purchase volumes that support general knowledge and undergraduate interests.

The question remains, Will the libraries have enough financial resources to purchase its way to the 4 millionth volume? I hope so and believe that book endowments and gifts for collections will be required to make this future possible. On these subjects, I have recently been engaged in some important decisions with both President Thomas H. Jackson and members of the Libraries’ Advisory Committee.

At its most recent meeting in December, the Advisory Committee spent a good deal of time discussing the topic of support for the growth of Library collections. President Jackson aided us in our discussion by sharing some useful data on library endowments that he had collected for comparator institutions. Despite Rochester’s overall endowment, valued in excess of $1 billion, just over $11 million of this portfolio has been earmarked by donors for the support of Library collections. That is approximately $3,250 per undergraduate student. The average library endowment per student for the comparator institutions identified by President Jackson was $7,760 per undergraduate.

This means that for Rochester to bring itself up to the comparator average, a Library endowment of approximately $28 million is needed. The income from such an endowment would return purchasing power to the Library’s collection budgets and afford the Library the opportunity to maintain the quality of collections that alumni remember as supporting their academic and research endeavors. I can promise you, I will continue to work with the Libraries’ Advisory Committee and our development office on strategies to bring this opportunity to fruition.

All in all, Rochester has much to be optimistic about and much to celebrate as it reflects upon its collections at this historic juncture. We must, however, continue to work hard to ensure that the caliber of collections that have served the diverse interests of this academic community are available to future generations of scholars and readers.
Fall Book Fair Weekend Kicks Off 3 Millionth Volume Year

Last fall’s Friends of the Libraries’ Annual Book Fair served as a festive and profitable inauguration of the 3 millionth volume academic year. The evening before Saturday’s fair, a special Patrons’ and Exhibitors’ Buffet Supper was held in the Great Hall of Rush Rhees Library with approximately 150 in attendance. A wonderful exhibit, “Rarities and Curiosities from the University’s Collections,” prepared by Special Projects Librarian Melissa Mead, was on display in the Rare Books and Special Collections Department during the patrons’ gala.

Patrons’ Event and the Book Fair were huge successes, netting more than $20,000 for the benefit of the Libraries—a record for any Friends’ Book Fair. Both events were underwritten by the Antiquarian Booksellers’ Association of America/Middle Atlantic Chapter and the University of Rochester Press/Boydell & Brewer. Special thanks go to Dan De Simone, president of the regional chapter of the ABAA, and to John Westerberg, ABAA board member and owner of Yankee Peddler Books, for their help in securing the generous grant from their organization.

In addition to the revival of a pre-fair Patrons’ Event, the 1998 Book Fair featured a number of new activities and collaborations with a variety of community groups. Many members of the Bibliophile Society of Rochester participated as special supporters of both events, and the Friends were delighted to be able to join forces with another local group with similar interests to its own. Also, the fair for the first time featured several recent works by faculty authors in a display prepared by Thomas Prins, owner of The Scholar’s Choice, a nationally known company based in Rochester specializing in arranging exhibits of publications for academic conferences.

In recognition of the fair as well as the Writers & Books Fall Festival of Reading and the annual conference of the Black Storytelling League of Rochester, all held on the same day, the city of Rochester declared Saturday, September 26, as “Books and Reading Day in Rochester.”

Friends of the Libraries, Book Fair exhibitors, and volunteers enjoy their buffet supper in the Great Hall of Rush Rhees Library while celebrating the launching of the Libraries’ three millionth volume year. The event was underwritten through generous support from the Middle Atlantic Chapter of the Antiquarian Booksellers’ Association of America, the University of Rochester Press/Boydell & Brewer, and nearly 70 other individual patrons.

Curiosities from the University’s Collections,” prepared by Special Projects Librarian Melissa Mead, was on display in the Rare Books and Special Collections Department during the patrons’ gala.

Serving as the honorary chair of the 1998 Book Fair and Patron’s Event, was Mari O. Wells ’50, member of the Libraries’ Advisory Committee and a past president of the Friends. General chair of the Book Fair was Hal Kanthor, Medical School Class of 1966, a longtime member of the Friends and dedicated book collector.

Thanks to the hard work of Mari, Hal, and nearly 70 other volunteers, both the Bibilioverse Society members Edith and Norman Lank enjoy the pre-dinner viewing of the special three millionth volume commemorative “Rarities and Curiosities from the University’s Collections” exhibit.
A Holiday Sampler of Readings

The Annual Holiday Reading sponsored by the Friends of the Libraries was held on Thursday evening, December 10, in the Welles-Brown Room. This year’s event, called “A Holiday Sampler: Readings, Music, and Other Tidings of Good Cheer,” featured presenters who were encouraged to select their readings from the vast array of collections found in the University’s Libraries.

Readers and other performers for this very eclectic evening included poet and collector William Heyen, vocalist and hammered-dulcimer player Mitzie Collins, University Student Association President Skye Morey, and Susan B. Anthony University Center Director Nan Johnson, as well as a string quartet from the University of Rochester Symphony Orchestra.

Well over 100 members of both the campus and Greater Rochester communities turned out for this traditional offering by the Friends of the Libraries. Since the event’s inception, it has grown considerably in its attendance and its appeal, and the Friends are delighted to be able to offer this activity. If you have ideas for future holiday readings, please contact the Friends’ office at 275-4461.

Friends of the Libraries Seek to Expand Beyond Rochester Area

Building on a highly successful 27-year history, the Friends of the University of Rochester Libraries are now hoping to expand beyond their traditional regional base. Since the Friends were established in 1972, the group has consisted largely of local alumni, faculty, and community members interested in supporting the University’s Libraries. The Friends’ local membership hopes that more people around the country who have an interest in ensuring an outstanding library system at the University of Rochester will become Friends of the Libraries.

Gifts will help purchase books and needed materials for the Libraries’ collections as well as help initiate new projects. Members of the Friends who live outside of the Greater Rochester area may direct their gifts to the four principal libraries in the University of Rochester system: the River Campus Libraries, the Sibley Music Library at the Eastman School of Music, the Edward G. Miner Library at the Medical Center, or the Charlotte Whitney Allen Library at the Memorial Art Gallery.

If you value the excellence of the Libraries at the University of Rochester and want to help, please join the Friends by completing and returning the form provided.

Become a Friend of the University of Rochester Libraries

Yes, I/we want to ensure the excellence of the Libraries at the University of Rochester by becoming a Friend of the Libraries. Enclosed is a check, payable to the University of Rochester Libraries/Friends, in the amount of:

- $1,000 Gilchrist Society
- $500 Benefactor
- $250 Sustainer
- $100 Patron
- $50 Sponsor

Name __________________________________________________________________________
Address _________________________________________________________________
City ______________________________ State/Zip ___________________________

My employer matches gifts to higher education and I have enclosed the appropriate form provided by my company.

Please direct my gift in support of the following part(s) of the University’s library system:

- River Campus Libraries (includes Rush Rhees Library, Carlson Science & Engineering Library, Laboratory for Laser Energetics Library, Physics/Optics/Astronomy Library)
- Sibley Music Library at the Eastman School of Music
- Edward G. Miner Library at the Medical Center
- Charlotte Whitney Allen Library at the Memorial Art Gallery

This form should be returned to the Libraries’ Development Office, 236 Rush Rhees Library, University of Rochester, P.O. Box 270055, Rochester, NY 14627-0055.
Edward G. Miner Library
Established in 1923 to support the new School of Medicine and Dentistry, the Library in 1952 was named for Edward G. Miner, who took an active role in the creation of the medical library. Mr. Miner, a Rochester industrialist and one-time chair of both the Board of Trustees and the University library committee, donated many volumes to the Library’s collections.

In 1987, a major expansion and enhancement of the Miner Library was completed. Prominent among the changes made in the renovation was the incorporation into the Library of the beautiful former Lobby of the old Strong Memorial Hospital.

Today, Miner Library’s print collections number more than 230,000 volumes of journals, books, theses, and government documents in medicine and nursing. The History of Medicine Section of the Miner Library possesses one of the nation’s finest collections of primary and secondary sources in the field of medical history. Rare book holdings at the Miner Library consist of some 15,000 titles in all fields of medicine published between the late 15th century and 1939.

Julia Sollenberger became the director of the Miner Library in the latter part of 1998 after serving as deputy and assistant director for many years. She and her staff are now actively involved in helping Medical Center educators, clinicians, and students to master new information competencies required of today’s health care professionals. To learn more about the Miner Library, visit its Web site at www.urmc.rochester.edu/miner/.

Sibley Music Library
Founded in 1904 by Hiram Watson Sibley (1845–1932) as a private music collection open to “all music lovers of Rochester,” the Sibley Music Library is one of the most significant assets of the Eastman School of Music. Its holdings, which today comprise the largest privately held collection of academic music resources in the Western world, support the performance, classroom, and research needs of Eastman faculty and students, Rochester musicians, and a broad range of the American and international community of musical scholars, performers, and enthusiasts.

In 1989, the Sibley Library relocated to its present 45,000-square-foot space in the new Eastman Place facility across Gibbs Street from the School. Today there are some 400,000 volumes of music and music literature in all formats fully catalogued, another 200,000 volumes briefly catalogued, with about 5,000 items added to the collections annually. The Ruth T. Watanabe Special Collections, named for Sibley’s librarian emerita, houses an extensive array of rare books, manuscripts and papers related to music, as well as the archives of the Eastman School.

The Library is lead today by Mary Wallace Davidson who, along with her staff, is working to provide collections and services which will support the Eastman Initiatives, a series of co-curricular and extra-curricular programs that give students skills, in-the-field experiences, and understanding of issues facing the presentation and teaching of music today. To learn more about the Sibley Music Library, visit its Web site at http://sibley.esm.rochester.edu/.

Charlotte Whitney Allen Library
Founded in 1913 as a research library to support gallery programs, and named for lifetime board member and gallery benefactor Charlotte Whitney Allen in 1979, the Allen Library’s collections today contain 29,000 volumes relating to art history; architectural history; techniques of painting and printmaking; museum management and exhibition techniques; auction catalogs and indexes to auction sales; videos; CD-ROMs; and slide sets. The Allen Library subscribes to over 60 current art periodicals and has extensive historical art periodical holdings.

Starting in 1999, as a National Gallery of Art affiliate lender, the Allen Library makes available NGA videos, slide sets, and kits for loan to library borrowers. The Allen Library also includes under its auspices the Memorial Art Gallery archives (with extensive information on gallery history and the history of Rochester-area artists and arts organizations) and the gallery’s in-house slide library (containing over 58,000 slides).

The Library is open to the public for research purposes. Gallery members and University of Rochester students, faculty, and staff may borrow books. Lu Harper serves as the part-time librarian for the Allen Library, assisted by Visual Resources Coordinator Susan Nurse. For more information, visit the Library’s Web site at www.rochester.edu/MAG/artlib.htm.
Longtime Friends of the Libraries

Three great Friends of the Libraries were reunited at the retirement party for longtime University Archivist Karl Kabelac held in the Welles-Brown Room of Rush Rhees Library this past summer. Pictured in the photo with Karl are Ruth Van Deusen (left) and Margaret Andrews.

Mrs. Van Deusen’s husband, Glyndon Van Deusen, was a professor of history at Rochester for many years. He was well known as the author of the definitive 1967 biography of William Henry Seward, whose papers are housed in the University’s Department of Rare Books and Special Collections.

Mrs. Andrews served as the founding head of the original Local History and Archives Department and was employed by the Libraries for more than 41 years until her retirement in 1970. Just one of her many contributions to the library system was the processing and cataloging of the Seward papers when they were bequeathed to the University by the Seward family of Auburn, New York.

Library ‘Scare Fair’ a Big Success

In observance of last fall’s Halloween, the River Campus Libraries welcomed students, staff, and faculty to a “Scare Fair” in Rush Rhees Library. The event included tours of the Rush Rhees stacks and tower escorted by the Library’s celebrated ghost, “Pete Noscosia”; performances of an abridged Macbeth by members of the Drama House; character readings by phrenologist Guilherme FraCornel; a collection of “scary stories” narrated by a member of the Genesee Story Tellers; a “masked faculty contest”; and spooky music performed by the Midnight Ramblers, a campus a capella group.

The Rush Rhees Library was transformed into Oz with the entire cast of characters from the Wizard to Dorothy, courtesy of the interlibrary loan staff, and attendees gathered in the Great Hall (decked out like the Munsters’ dining room) for refreshments.

The enthusiastic reception by both students and staff ensures the “Scare Fair” will be an annual Library event.
A beautiful late-afternoon Holiday Tea on December 10 in Rush Rhees Library’s elegant Cominsky Reading Room paid tribute to members of the newly created Gilchrist Society. Special recognition at the event was given to the first group of Kendrick Fellows—17 in all—in honor of total giving to the Libraries exceeding $100,000. Names of the charter members of these special groups of most generous donors to the Libraries were announced in the Fall 1998 issue of Bookmark.

Each Gilchrist Society member inducted into the charter group of Kendrick Fellows was presented with a silver medallion paperweight by Dean Ronald Dow. In his introductory remarks, he noted the deep gratitude of the Libraries for the fellows’ generosity: “The Gilchrist Society and its Kendrick Fellows honor those whose devotion to the University of Rochester’s Libraries is most visible through consistently generous monetary support. I am delighted that we now have a way to recognize a very special group of Library friends.”

The featured speaker at the Gilchrist Tea was Assistant Professor of Religion and Classics Rebecca Resinski, who spoke on the “Classical Influences in the Design of Rush Rhees Library.” Even though she joined the Rochester faculty only last August, Professor Resinski in her short time here has developed a keen interest in the centerpiece structure on the University’s River Campus. Her discussion of the mythological and classical influences of many of the design elements in the building enthralled members of the Gilchrist Society. Because of their appeal and interest, her remarks are excerpted on the opposite page, along with various photos from throughout Rush Rhees Library illustrating her presentation.

A special exhibit on library history was prepared by University Archivist Amy Barnum for members of the Gilchrist Society and the Kendrick Fellows at the Holiday Tea. The commanding portrait of Asahel Kendrick, the first University librarian (from 1853 to 1869) for whom the Kendrick Fellows are named, served as an overall backdrop for the event. In addition, a number of other pieces of library history were on display. Notable in the display was the original library catalog maintained by Kendrick.
Excerpts from Professor Rebecca Resinski’s Talk to the Gilchrist Society

Since I’m new at Rochester, I can’t claim to be an expert in University or Library history, but, as a classicist coming to the campus for the first time, I was immediately struck by the number of classical echoes reverberating in the Library building. My aim in this talk is to share with you how aspects of Rush Rhees Library resonate for me.

Starting at the front lobby’s right-hand side, we have eight reliefs showing the kinds of technology historically used for recording and transmitting words, such as papyrus and chiseling. Over the door is the head of Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom, who was also a warrior goddess, hence the helmet.

On the left side of the lobby, we have another eight medallions; these give us the Muses, the divine patrons of the arts. The placement of the Muses at the front of the Library is apt: Poets would invoke the Muses at the beginnings of their poems for inspiration, and here we get their inspiration as we pass through the entranceway. Over the door on the left side we find the head of Mnemosyne, or Memory, the mother of the Muses.

The door on the left side of the lobby leads to the Welles-Brown Room. Over the fireplace, is a Latin quote from Cicero, “In secundis voluptas, in adversis perfugium.” (“In favorable time a pleasure, in adverse times a refuge.”) Cicero’s quote refers to the great joy he took from books during the last years of his life when he knew his life was in danger during the Roman power struggle following the assassination of Julius Caesar.

The staircases to the second floor are decorated with printers’ seals chosen by Librarian Donald Gilchrist at the time of the Library’s construction in the late 1920s. These seals date from the early days of printing, when each publishing house had its own distinctive emblem. I am particularly interested in the seal belonging to the Aldine press, which was active in Venice throughout the 1500s, and which was important for the number of classical texts it printed. Its emblem was a dolphin and an anchor, and this might be a visual depiction of a favorite saying of the Roman emperor Augustus: “Festina lente” or “Make haste slowly.” The dolphin is haste, the anchor is slowness—all things should be done with a kind of patient urgency.

At the top of the stairs we find two statues. The first is a statue of Industry, whom we can identify by her wheel as well as the gears and tools surrounding her. Facing Industry is Athena, the goddess of wisdom. This statue is based on a very particular ancient prototype: the statue of Athena housed in the Parthenon on the Athenian acropolis during the 5th century BCE. The original statue, made of gold and ivory and standing 38 feet tall, was built at the height of Athenian political and cultural pre-eminence—the age of the Athenian empire, Greek drama, and Socratic philosophy.

I love coming into the Great Hall because walking into it feels like walking into a Greek vase painting. Vases in antiquity would have been red and orange clay with black paint, and the black designs on the wood here create a very similar effect. The painted vines along the doors are modeled on Greek designs. There are also two rondos with paintings done in Greek vase style. The first shows Apollo—Greek god of music, light, medicine, and poetry—with a youth holding flutes and a dignified woman playing the harp. On the other side of the room we have a similar scene: a presiding divinity, a youth, and a woman. The divinity this time is Athena and the woman is conferring a laurel wreath on the youth. I think we should understand the youths in these pictures as students and the women as representations of the alma mater—“respected mother”—the University itself.

The walls of the Messinger Periodical Reading Room display medallions of great thinkers, and between two of them we find inscribed a quote from Seneca, a Roman Stoic philosopher. Stoics believed that the entire universe made Logos manifest—Logos being Greek for “word”—or anything that is said—but also for rationality, reasoning, and the rational principle. Logos is everywhere in the Stoic cosmos; indeed, the universe is Word writ large and inherently makes sense. I like to think of the Library as a miniature of the Stoic universe because it is one grand collection of all sorts of Logos.

Rebecca Resinski
Photos by Rebecca Resinski and Chris Campolo

One of the two rondos in the Great Hall done in the style of a Greek vase, which features Athena, the goddess of wisdom as a presiding divinity, while a woman representing alma mater or “respected mother” — the University itself — confers a laurel wreath on a youth symbolizing students of the University.
The “Rush Rhees Renaissance” was announced in the Fall 1998 Bookmark. Since then, the multiyear plan to renovate most of the interior spaces of Rush Rhees has made much progress.

Many of our readers received a special announcement issue of Bookmark in February telling them of a gift of approximately $500,000 from Trustee Roger B. Friedlander ’56 to renovate the Welles-Brown Room and the main lobby of Rush Rhees Library. In recognition of his generous support, the entranceway will be named the Roger B. Friedlander Lobby of Rush Rhees Library. Work on this project will begin at the end of the spring semester, with completion planned for late summer.

A prominent member of the Rochester business community, Friedlander received his undergraduate degree in business administration and now serves as a member of the University’s board of trustees. In 1970, he founded Spectrum Office Products with his business partner, Henry Epstein, a 1980 graduate of the Simon School (MBA). The company quickly grew into one of the largest office-supply businesses in the Northeast. They sold the company to Staples Inc. in 1994.

The restoration of the Welles-Brown Room calls for replacement of the furnishings; installation of new lighting and electrical work as well as a sound amplification system; improved back lighting for the stained-glass window; and restaining the walls. The room will be redone in subtle hues of Rochester blue and gold to invoke a sense of the University’s history and traditions.

Renovations to the main lobby will remove the turnstile barriers and install a state-of-the-art security system, along with cleaning the brass chandelier and stone walls, and improving wall display cases. Grill work replicating that on the front doors of the building is expected to be installed at the first set of classical Doric columns in the lobby. A new etched-glass display inscribed with the seal of the University and signage designating the area as the Roger B. Friedlander Lobby will be mounted at the second set of columns.

Another project associated with the “Renaissance” that will be undertaken this summer is the construction of the new Hyam Plutzik Library for Contemporary Writing and the Jarold Ramsey Study. Gifts in excess of $300,000 have been received from a variety of sources to establish this new literary resource and to expand the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. Housed in the new Library will be the William and Hannelore Heyen Collection of Poetry and Prose acquired by the University last spring through generous gifts from alumni and friends.

Also, the Library’s Chair Campaign which was kicked off last year, has raised nearly $100,000. These gifts have enabled the Library to purchase a first batch of 200 custom-made Rush Rhees Library Chairs created by Chicago furniture designer Joseph Agati. These distinctive (and comfortable) chairs were manufactured at the Fancher Chair Factory in upstate Falconer, New York, the oldest continually operating chair maker in the nation. Approximately 130 “named” endowed chairs have been purchased with special plaques affixed to their backs.
The Libraries and the University English department’s Plutzik Memorial Reading Series collaborated to sponsor a “Literary Evening at the National Arts Club” in New York City on the evening of October 13.

Featured as a reader was Pulitzer Prize–winning poet Galway Kinnell, who received a master’s degree from the University in 1949. Kinnell, who wrote his thesis at Rochester on the poet Hart Crane, is the Erich Maria Remarque Professor of Creative Writing at New York University and recently published *Imperfect Thirst*, his 12th collection of poems. Joining Kinnell as a reader was Kate Light, a 1980 graduate of the Eastman School of Music, who won the 1997 Nicholas Roerich Prize for her first published book of poetry, *The Laws of Falling Bodies*.

Nearly 150 New York City–area alumni and friends, including several members of the Plutzik family, turned out for the readings and preceding reception. O. Aldon James, Jr., president of the National Arts Club, welcomed the audience and expressed the hope that the Plutzik Series reading could become an annual event in New York City. The series, founded in 1962 in memory of the late Professor of English Hyam Plutzik, now is considered one of America’s oldest and most prestigious literary reading programs. For many years, the series was directed by Jarold Ramsey, professor emeritus of English, who also spoke and read some of his own poetry at the event. Currently serving as a director of the series is poet Barbara Jordan, a member of the English department faculty, who read selections from the works of Hyam Plutzik.

The 1998–99 season marks a special occasion for the series, with the construction this year of the Hyam Plutzik Library for Contemporary Writing and the Jarold Ramsey Study in Rush Rhees Library. Housed in the Library will be the 10,000-plus volume William and Hannelore Heyen Collection of Poetry and Prose, which was recently acquired by the University. This new center will provide a focus for a variety of creative writing activities, as well as access to a major literary archive for students, faculty, and researchers. Completion is expected in early September.
Remembering Rochester’s Collections

You can help celebrate the University’s Three Millionth Volume milestone, support Rochester’s collections, AND also remember a special person, event, or achievement by providing a gift directed toward the purchase of books for the Libraries.

Each gift in the amount of $50 will be used toward the purchase of a book and will also have a bookplate with wording of your choice affixed to the inside cover. The bookplate will indicate that your gift was given as a special Three Millionth Volume Celebration commemoration.

- $50 (1 bookplate)
- $250 (5 bookplates)
- $100 (2 bookplates)
- $500 (10 bookplates)

Name of donor ______________________________________________________________________________
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