

Bridging the Centuries

The Fenn College Library always focused on the needs of the Fenn students, helping them in their efforts to complete their college education. The first home of the Fenn Library was in the Medical Building, one of three former residences used by the school on the south side of Prospect Avenue, just east of the Central YMCA. In 1939 the Library, along with most of the college operations, moved into the more modern quarters of the newly acquired Fenn Tower. For twenty years the Library served the needs of Fenn students from the Fenn Tower Library on the third floor.

In September 1959, using a walkway constructed on three stories of free-standing scaffolding across East 24th Street, the library collection and operations were moved to a more spacious area, complete with its own art gallery, on the third floor of the newly remodeled Stilwell Hall. Since 1971, the Cleveland State University Library has been located on the first five floors of Rhodes Tower and has recently been updated.

Tour the University Library

Have you been in to see us lately? Take an opportunity to view Walter Leedy's postcard exhibit, "Greetings From Cleveland," which will be on display in the Library's Special Collections through April 1. Another way to learn about the Library's most recent activities is to schedule an individual or a group tour of the Library by contacting Billie Reinhart at (216) 687-2475 or take a virtual tour of the Library at <http://www.ulib.csuohio.edu/tour/index.shtml>.

Cleveland Postcard Exhibit "Greetings From Cleveland"

Walter Leedy's astounding collection of Cleveland postcards titled "Greetings from Cleveland" will be on display at Cleveland State University Library in Special Collections on the third floor through April 1, 2001.

Hours for the exhibit are
Monday - Friday
9:30 a.m. - Noon
and
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Special Saturday hours for
viewing the exhibit are
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
on March 24 and March 31.

For more information
please call (216) 687-6998.

Fenn Online

While visiting the Library's web site, take a nostalgic look at Fenn College on the web. In recognition of the many contributions of Fenn College and its graduates to the Greater Cleveland community, the University Archives has created a Fenn College web site on the Internet at <http://web.ulib.csuohio.edu/fenn>. The site combines text and images from the Fenn College Bulletin along with photographs from the Archives to create an idea of what an early Fenn College web site might have looked like had the Internet existed in the early 1960s.

Contact Us

Whether visiting us online or in person we encourage you to let us know of your interest in our activities. If you want to know more about any of the projects described in this newsletter, call us at (216) 687-2475 or send an email to develop@staff.ulib.csuohio.edu.



The Fenn Tower Library, 3rd floor



The Reference Area, located on the first floor of the University Library in Rhodes Tower

North American Railway Foundation Awards Grant

The North American Railway Foundation has awarded William C. Barrow, Special Collections Librarian, and Cleveland State University a \$70,000 grant to pursue two projects to preserve the rich history of the railroads in Cleveland.

The first project will enable the Library to acquire 1,400 photographic negatives of the Nickel Plate Railroad during the 1920s. These will be housed in the Special Collections railroad collection along with thousands of other railroad prints and negatives.

In addition, a project archivist will be hired to process the Library's vast collection of archival material about the Newburgh & South Shore Railroad and to create a database of the entire collection, which will be made available on the Internet.

Cleveland Cliffs Preserves Great Lakes History

The Cleveland Cliffs Foundation continues as a major benefactor of the Library's special collections programs. Since the mid 1990s, Cleveland Cliffs has made significant contributions to an endowment to increase the Library's collection in Great Lakes industrial history. Established in 1989 by John Horton, the endowment now exceeds \$75,000. Several facets of the endowment's mission, such as the focus on Great Lakes history and modern lake shipping activity, align closely with Cleveland Cliffs' influence in Cleveland and the entire Great Lakes region.

Cleveland Cliffs has been the sole supporter of the three-year project to create the Great Lakes Industrial History Center at Cleveland State University. The Center is an online gateway to regional industrial history at <http://web.ulib.csuohio.edu/SpecColl/glihc>. Some of the topics include the Cuyahoga River, the Ohio and Erie Canals, and the Steamer William G. Mather. The online Center is one way to preserve historic photographs. Another very important aspect of the Center is to make the treasures housed in the Library available to students and the community.

Through these projects, Cleveland Cliffs, a leader in the early industrial development of Cleveland, is playing a major role in preserving the industrial history of Cleveland.



The Gift of Gerald Adams

With the recent death of Mr. Gerald A. Adams, the Cleveland State University Library has lost a great friend and supporter. The donor of the Library's collection of construction records for the Cleveland Union Terminal (CUT), Mr. Adams passed away at his home the weekend before Thanksgiving. No other single gift has contributed more to Special Collections as a local railroad history repository than his donation of hundreds of boxes of CUT office files, thousands of rolled drawings, and hundreds of black and white photographs, chronicling the construction of the Terminal Tower project in the 1920s.

Mr. Adams first came to the Library's attention when Dr. Walter Leedy, Cleveland State University Professor of Art, convinced him to donate his monumental CUT Collection to the University Library. The CUT was a company owned by the Van Sweringens that developed the Terminal Tower complex on Public Square in the 1920s. The CUT records had been in storage for a half-century when a friend alerted Mr. Adams to their imminent destruction.

Unable to acquire the records directly, Mr. Adams instead purchased the CUT file cabinets and "all their contents," taking ownership of some 400 boxes of construction office files, 1,000 rolled drawings and hundreds of photographs chronicling the building of the Tower, the union passenger station, Higbee's Department Store, and the surrounding complex of office buildings.

With the support of a major grant from the John P. Murphy Foundation, Mr. Adams' gift became one of the cornerstones of University Library's Special Collections and has helped attract other significant CUT holdings from Mr. Robert Linsey and the Greater Cleveland Rapid Transit Authority. Mr. Adams bequeathed the Library his sizeable railroad history collections, including books, blueprints and photographs, and his personal slide collection. His good works in support of local railroad history and Special Collections will live on in our memories and those of his many friends in the railroading community.

Library Donors

Thank you to these individuals and corporations who have generously donated to the University Library.

President's Club (\$5,000 or more)

Cleveland Cliffs
John Horton
Allan King Sloan
Sarah Ruth Watson Estate

University Club (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

DLZ Ohio, Inc.

Tower Club (\$500 - \$999)

American Society of Civil
Engineers, Cleveland Section
Burgess & Niple
Bruce E. Wilburn

Director's Club (\$250 - \$499)

Maison Française de Cleveland
M. Thomas Moore
Ben J. Shouse

Viking Club (\$100 - \$249)

John Gabel & Louise Mooney
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Glenda Thornton

From the University Library Director

We are pleased to debut our new publication, *Bits, Bytes, & Books*, formerly known as *Bits & Bytes*. In addition to a new name, our publication has a new focus—that of informing the Cleveland community about our mission, our community activities, and our needs. *Bits, Bytes, & Books* also gives us an opportunity to show our appreciation to our supporters.

In this, our premier issue, we have focused on Cleveland's infrastructure and those who have helped create it—Fenn College graduates. The Library's Special Collections has chosen to preserve records and images of the work of engineers, architects, and many others who have shaped Cleveland into an exceptional city. The efforts of individuals such as Gerald Adams, Robert Linsey, and John Horton, the support of Cleveland Cliffs and the North American Railway Foundation, and the interest of the Cleveland community have helped the Library achieve this goal. The Library's Special Collections has received both unique collections of materials and financial support to preserve and make these materials available for generations to come.

Through the collective efforts of individuals, businesses, and organizations, the University Library has been able to preserve the past, keeping it alive and fresh through our physical collections and our award-winning Special Collections home page, which you can visit at <http://web.ulib.csuohio.edu/SpecColl/>. However, we have barely begun to collect, organize, and provide access to the wealth of materials that represent Cleveland's heritage. In other words, although we have made a good beginning, we are still a young organization and we need community resources and financial support to continue our efforts.

Your contribution can help us build our endowment for the purchase of materials for the collection, to support our preservation and digitization efforts, or a specialized project such as: 1) purchasing rare/unique materials for Special Collections, 2) purchasing furnishing/equipment for Special Collections, e. g. display cases, scanning equipment, etc., 3) preserving our collection of Cleveland area Plat Books, 4) a special project that you help develop with us, or 5) funding student assistantships.

We encourage you to help us build upon the foundation we have laid to expand its usefulness to all.

University Library Projects

Library donors can provide funding for various projects including

- Digitizing instructional resources
- Building the endowment for materials in Great Lakes Industrial History
- Funding an electronic classroom or lab
- Purchasing additional furnishings and equipment for Special Collections
- Preserving Cleveland area Plat books

Support the University Library

Help us preserve the unique history of Cleveland.

Mail this form with your donation to:

Cleveland State University Foundation, Cleveland State University,
Mather Mansion, Room 204, 2605 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-2403

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ Work Phone () _____

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Amount of Gift \$ _____

My contribution should support: General Library Endowment

Special Project _____

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Please charge my VISA MasterCard

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- Securities

For information about additional ways you can support the University Library, or to discuss special projects that you would like to develop with us please call (216) 687-2475 or send an email to Barbara Florjancic at b.florjancic@csuohio.edu or to Carol Zsulya at c.zsulya@csuohio.edu.

7th Historic Bridges Conference

September 19-22, 2001

Under the Sponsorship of the Wilbur J. and Sara Ruth Watson Bridge Book Collection at Cleveland State University Library

Throughout the United States, aging bridges increase the challenge of maintaining highways. Typically, agencies have demanded massive infusions of public funds for a wholesale replacement of these structures. Next fall in Cleveland, Ohio, a group of civil engineers and historians will meet to discuss a different approach to the problem.

Under the sponsorship of the Wilbur J. and Sara Ruth Watson Bridge Book Collection at Cleveland State University Library, an historic bridges conference will convene on September 19-22, 2001, at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel. Coinciding with the one hundredth anniversary of the Center Street Swing Bridge in Cleveland, it will be the seventh in an ongoing series begun in 1985 that have brought together the sometimes-divergent views of highway engineers and historic preservationists.

The three and one-half day program will begin with a half-day workshop on Wednesday on the special techniques for repairing metal truss bridges. Held at the Lincoln Electric Company World Headquarters in Euclid, the sessions will begin with an overview of welding fundamentals on historic bridges and discussions of the metal bridge preservation techniques utilized in Calhoun County,



Michigan. Following these will be demonstrations and hands-on learning of riveting, heat straightening, brazing, welding, and cutting processes for the restoration of historic metals.

The conference will reconvene at the Hotel on Thursday, beginning two days of formal paper presentations by engineers and historians that highlight the history, maintenance and preservation of movable bridges, unusual truss bridges, and French and ancient Chinese structures. The keynote speaker on Friday evening will be renowned technological historian **Henry Petroski** of Duke University, author of *Engineers of Dreams: Great Bridge Builders and the Spanning of America*. Saturday will feature tours of important historic bridges in Cleveland and the surrounding area.

For more information, contact William C. Barrow at the Cleveland State University Library, 1860 E. 22nd St., Cleveland, OH 44114, (216) 687-6998, or visit the conference website at <http://web.ulib.csuohio.edu/7hbc/>.

Cleveland State University

Bits, Bytes, & Books

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