



LIBRARY

A Newsletter of the
Oberlin College Library

PERSPECTIVES

NUMBER SEVENTEEN

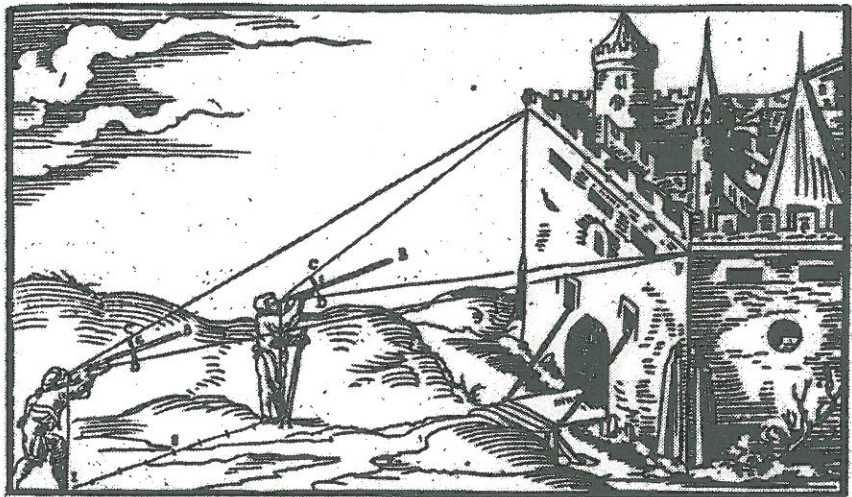
SEPTEMBER 1997

Anthony Grafton: Renaissance Master

Anthony Grafton, Dodge Professor of History at Princeton University, will deliver the Harold Jantz Memorial Lecture on Saturday afternoon, November 1, and he will also be the featured speaker at the Friends of the Library annual dinner that evening.

Professor Grafton is an extraordinarily gifted and engaging Renaissance scholar who speaks and writes for both scholarly and general audiences. He is also the author of important works illustrating library and printing history in broad cultural context. He was the guest curator of the acclaimed 1993 Library of Congress exhibition on the Vatican Library and he edited the accompanying exhibition catalog: *Rome Reborn: The Vatican Library and Renaissance Culture*. He curated the 1992 New York Public Library exhibition documenting the impact of the discovery of the Americas on European culture. His companion volume to that exhibition, *New Worlds, Ancient Texts: The Power of Transition and the Shock of Discovery* (Harvard University Press, 1992) won the 1993 Los Angeles Times Prize for History.

Professor Grafton's many publications include *From Humanism to the Humanities* (Harvard, 1986), *The Transmission of Culture in Early Modern Europe* (Pennsylvania, 1990), *Defenders of the Text: The Traditions of Humanism in an Age of Science, 1450-1800* (Harvard, 1991), *The Foundations*



Woodcut illustration from Johannes Petreius' first German edition of Vitruvius' *De Architectura* (Nuremberg, 1547)

of *Early Modern Europe, 1460-1559* (W.W. Norton, 1994), and *Joseph Scaliger: A Study in the History of Classical Scholarship* (2 vols., Oxford, 1983, 1993). His most recent book, *The Tragic Origins of the German Footnote*, appeared originally in a German edition in 1995 and will be published in English by Harvard University Press in 1997.

In addition to his voluminous scholarly writings, Professor Grafton regularly writes reviews and essays for such general-interest periodicals and newspapers as the *New Republic*, the *New York Review of Books*, the *New York Times*, and the *Times Literary Supplement*. A frequent lecturer and speaker, he is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including Guggenheim, Danforth,

Fulbright-Hays, NSF, and NEH fellowships.

Professor Grafton's Jantz Lecture will focus on how Johannes Petreius, an important German Renaissance printer, built a scholarly and literary audience for his publications. Petreius printed works in numerous subject areas, including scientific fields, music, literature, law, and theology. He issued the first edition of Copernicus as well as the first German edition of Vitruvius' *De Architectura* (see illustration). Professor Grafton's talk following the Friends of the Library dinner will provide an overview of how historians study the history of reading. Both the lecture and the talk will be illustrated with slides.

—continued on p. 7

Friends of the Library Update

1996-97 was one of the most successful years yet for the Friends of the Oberlin College Library.

The Friends received \$23,848 in membership contributions and matching gifts during the year and helped to encourage more than \$235,000 in total giving to the library.

At the end of the 1996-97 year, the Friends had 851 current members, including 414 who made regular membership contributions to the Friends account, 155 who made gifts to other library funds, 58 who contributed gifts-in-kind, 200 student members, 21 life members, and 3 honorary members.

The Friends made a number of major purchases for the library collections, totaling \$15,000 in value. These included titles needed to develop collections in new curricular areas (Asian American Studies, Native American Studies, and South Asian Studies), major reference works, and primary source materials. The Friends also underwrote a significant portion of the cost of preserving the *Oberlin News-Tribune* on microfilm.

Recent Gifts

The Library has received several fine gift collections in recent months.

The estate of Hans William Rodemann '40 has donated a collection of several hundred volumes, primarily in the fields of African, Middle Eastern, American, and Canadian history. The gift of this collection was facilitated by his daughter, Patricia Rodemann.

James Whitaker '60 has given the library over 130 volumes in the field of American history. This collection consists primarily of materials relating to Native Americans.

Friends of the Oberlin College Library Fall 1997 Programs

Friday, September 26

10:00 a.m. - noon

Library Used Book Sale: Friends of the Library Pre-Sale.

(Book sale continues until 9 p.m. Friday and 9:00 a.m. - noon Saturday)

Saturday, November 1

1:30 p.m. Friends Council and Membership Meeting

4:00 p.m. Harold Jantz Memorial Lecture, "Creating a Community of Readers in Renaissance Germany: Johannes Petreius," Professor Anthony Grafton

5:45 p.m. Annual Reception and Dinner

8:00 p.m. Featured Speaker: Professor Anthony Grafton
Slide talk: "How to Study the History of Reading"

Wednesday, December 3

4:30 p.m. Faculty Book Talk by Stephen Crowley, Assistant Professor of Politics, *Hot Coal, Cold Steel: Russian and Ukrainian Workers from the End of the Soviet Union to the Post-Communist Transformations* (University of Michigan Press, 1997)

Programs sponsored by the Friends included Margaret Atwood's address to a capacity crowd following the Friends annual dinner in February, Nicholas Basbanes' talk about book collecting following the annual Council

and Membership meeting in November, and a number of book talks by Oberlin authors, including Professors Norman Care, Marc Blecher, Thomas Sherman, and Dewey Ganzel as well as Friends member Nathan Haverstock.

Adam Rudolf '76 has arranged for the donation of a collection of materials relating to George Washington that was owned by his grandfather, Oscar H. Steiner.

The Library Program of the Foundation for Advanced Information and Research in Japan has again awarded the library a significant number of current Japanese language publications.

The library also gratefully acknowledges the following monetary gifts:

Myron Szold '56 has established an endowed book fund in honor of Kenneth Roose, Professor

of Economics at Oberlin from 1950-1961. Income from this fund will be used to purchase books in the field of economics, primarily economic theory.

The late Norbert Jaworowski and his wife Dorothy Jaworowski have made a generous gift to the library. Major gifts have also been received from Lloyd Frank '47, Bruce Regal '78 and Teresa Brown '78, and Richard and Geraldine Meyer '42.

The estate of former College Librarian Eileen Thornton has established a discretionary endowment for the library.

Ganzel Talk Available on Homepage

Emeritus Professor of English Dewey Ganzel delivered an entertaining talk about the meaning—and limitations—of words and language at the Friends of the Library program for Commencement/ Reunion Weekend.

The text of his talk, which is entitled "Word, Words, Words," is now available on the Friends of the Library Homepage:

<http://www.oberlin.edu/~library/friends/friends.html>.

Complimentary paper copies of the talk may also be requested from the Friends of the Library, Oberlin College Library, Mudd Center, 148 West College Street, Oberlin OH 44074.

Search PCI Web for Older Journal Literature

Last spring the Library acquired a campus site-license for *PCI: Periodical Contents Index*, an extensive retrospective journal index that is accessible through the World Wide Web. Known by its shorter name *PCI Web*, the index provides bibliographic access to over 1,800 journals in all major social sciences and humanities fields. Coverage is continually expanding and will eventually grow to 3,500 titles.

Since each journal is indexed retrospectively to its first issue, *PCI Web* is an exceptionally valuable source for locating articles in older journals. A general search on the word "Oberlin," for example, retrieved almost 300 related cita-

tions, many dating from the nineteenth century.

Articles in *PCI Web* may be retrieved by words or phrases in their titles, by author, and by journal title. Searches may also be limited by language (the index covers journals in all major European languages), general subject, and date.

PCI Web promises to be the single most comprehensive electronic source for accessing retrospective journal literature. It is accessible under "Databases and Indexes" in the "Research Resources" section of the library portion of Oberlin Online, or directly at:

<http://pci.chadwyck.com/>

Reference Department Welcomes New Member

The Library is pleased to welcome Lisa Stillwell as a new member of the Main Library Reference Department.

Lisa graduated from Oberlin in 1991, with a degree in Latin American Studies, and attended the University of Michigan where she received her Master of Information and Library Studies in 1996. While at Michigan Lisa did reference and instruction work at the Shapiro Undergraduate Library and she worked in the cataloging and circulation departments in the Law Library.

At Oberlin Lisa was a student assistant in the Library's Serials and Monographic Cataloging Departments. In her senior year she



Lisa Stillwell

was named a Keyes Metcalf Student Assistant, an award given to the library's outstanding student workers. Lisa is here for a year in a leave replacement position.

Periodical Search Now Available on OBIS

Have you ever searched OBIS for a common periodical (like *Time*, *Nature*, or *Scientific American*) only to find yourself lost among the numerous catalog records of publications that are related in some way?

A new feature of OBIS makes searching for such titles much more direct and efficient. By using the "Format Search Selection" option from the OBIS main menu it's now possible to limit search results to periodicals only.

This feature, which is available in both the terminal and web version of OBIS, allows the user to zero in quickly on a desired periodical title. It is also useful for identifying which periodicals the Library owns in particular subject areas.

Ex Libris: A Look at Library Bookplates

The outward and visible mark of citizenship of a book-lover is his book-plate... To have a book-plate gives a collector great serenity and self confidence. We have labored in a far more conscientious spirit since we had ours than we did before.

Edmund William Gosse,
Gossip in a Library

The history of modern bookplates, or "ex libris" (a Latin phrase meaning "from the books of"), extends back over 500 years, the earliest example being a German plate from around 1470. Bookplates in early times were used to identify the ownership of a book, and often included reinforcing messages to would-be book thieves as well, such as this example from an early monastic plate: "Ho there! take me back to my master," or the somewhat gentler "But go ye rather to

them that sell and buy for yourselves."

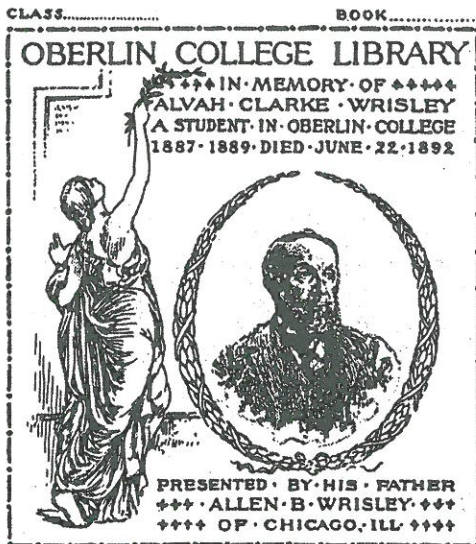
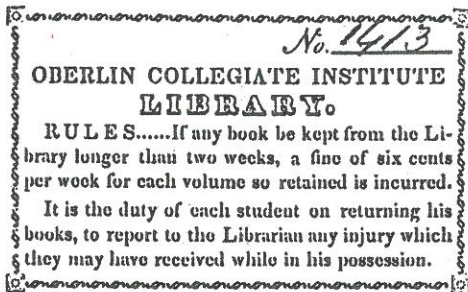
Bookplates come in many shapes and forms, and are executed in a wide array of media: traditionally plates were made using woodcut, engraving, etching or lithography, and in contemporary times the use of computer-generated graphics has joined these as a popular method of design and production.

The earliest use of bookplates by the Oberlin College Library dates prior to 1850, when the College was known as the Oberlin Collegiate Institute. Many of our nineteenth-century bookplates were used to advertise the rules and regulations of the Library, as well as to mark books as being the property of the College.

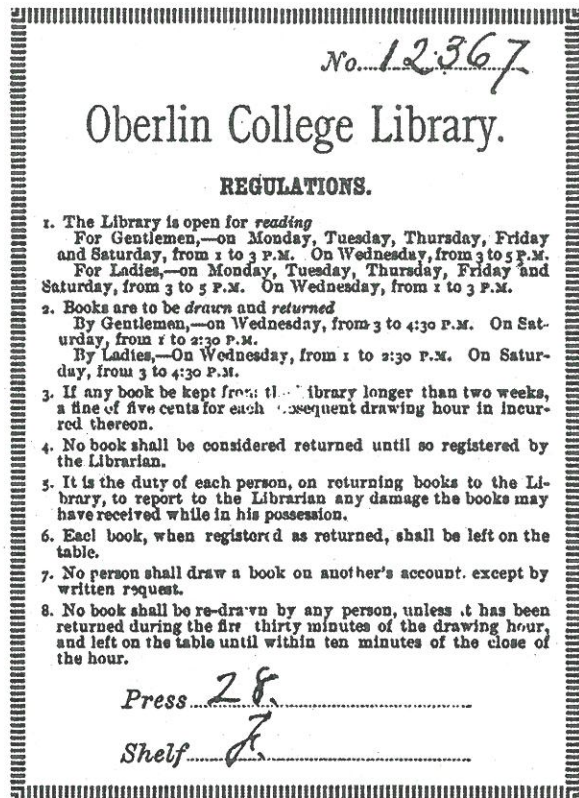
The Library has designed and used hundreds of bookplates throughout its history, and cur-

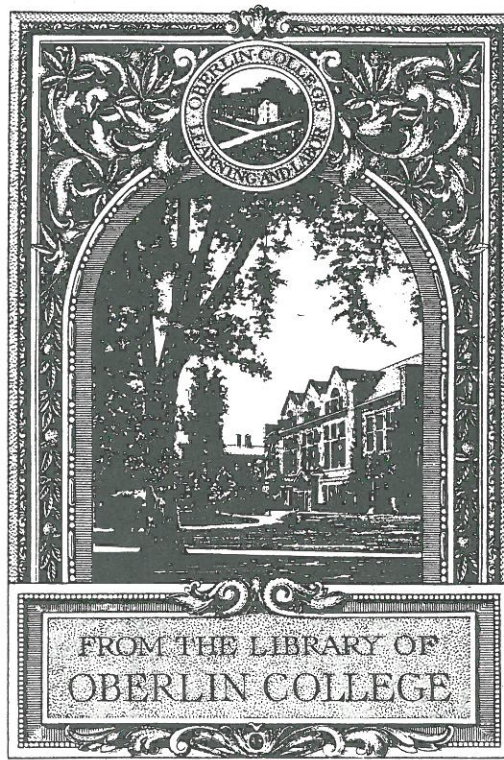
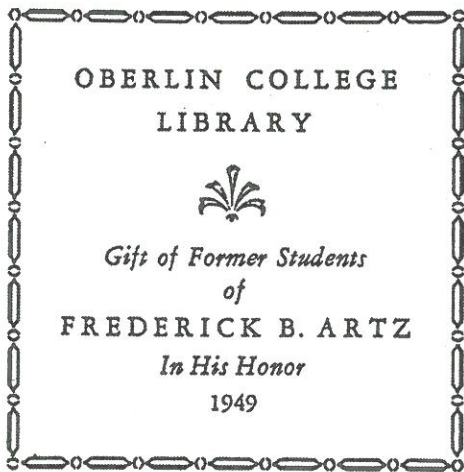
rently has dozens of bookplates in active use. A primary purpose of our contemporary bookplates is to acknowledge the generosity of donors and to commemorate individuals. The Library designs specialized bookplates for endowed funds and major gift collections. In the words of Eric Carpenter, the Collection Development Librarian, bookplates not only acknowledge the gifts and donations made by individuals, but "serve an educational purpose as well, that of drawing the attention of current students to the long history of beneficence of Oberlin's alumni, faculty, and friends."

The examples shown were selected from historical plates, as well as those currently in use, in order to give an idea of the range and breadth of the Oberlin College Library's bookplates.

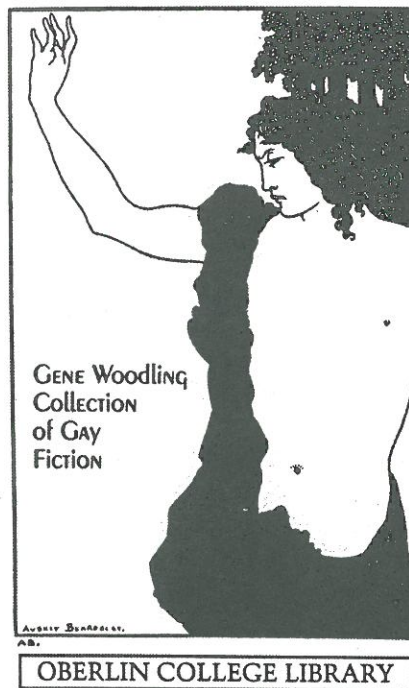
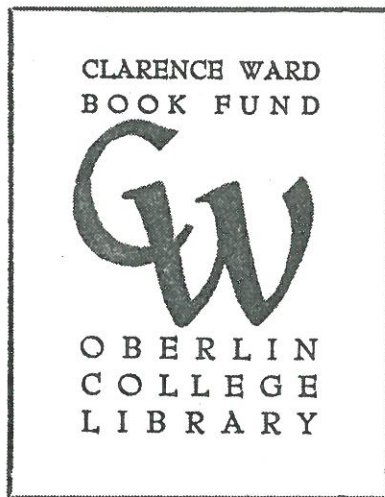
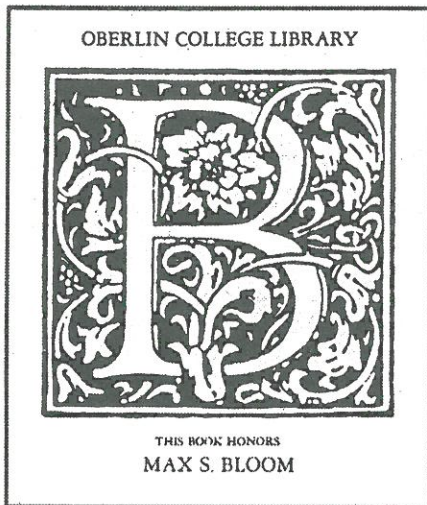
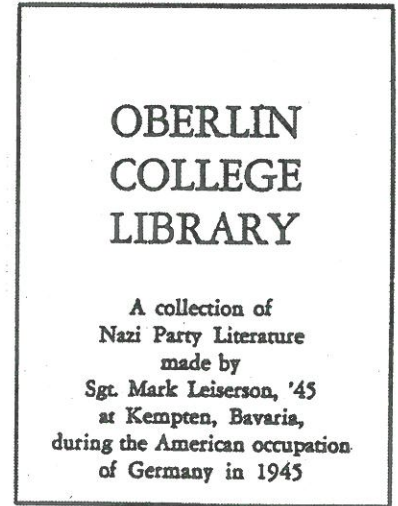


ACCESSION NO.....





Bought with the income of the Relief L. Holbrook Fund



OBERLIN COLLEGE LIBRARY



Oberlin College Author

Congressional Research Is Easier with *CIS Congressional Compass*

Congressional Compass, a new World Wide Web-based service that provides comprehensive information about the U.S. Congress, is now available at Oberlin.

Produced by the Congressional Information Service, a commercial publisher known for the quality and accuracy of its reference works on Congress, *Congressional Compass* provides access to more than twenty-five years of congressional information, including the full-texts of many publications as well as facts and figures on almost any

topic of current interest.

The service makes it very easy to locate biographical information on any member of Congress, current information about bills, laws; and regulations (including full legislative histories), congressional hearings and reports, voting records of individual members of Congress, floor speeches, and campaign finance data. An "Inside Washington" section contains full-text articles from the *National Journal* (a periodical that features in-depth studies of federal

policies issues) and the *Congressional Digest* (which summarizes current Congressional news each day).

Congressional Compass promises to make congressional research far simpler than it's been up to now. The database is easy to use, even for the uninitiated, and is available campus wide under "Databases and Indexes" in the "Research Resources on the Internet" section of the library's Web pages or directly at:

<http://web.lexis-nexis.com/cis>

Literature Online, Full-Text and Ready to Search

Say there's a poem you read years ago which affected you deeply, and you want to quote from it now; the only difficulty is that you remember neither the title, nor the author, but merely a couple of lines from somewhere within the poem: "When bumble-bees in solemn flight/Have passed beyond the sun."

You probably took a quick look through the poetry textbooks left over from your college days, perhaps recited the lines to some of your more literary friends, and may even have called your local library, only to be told that nothing could be found in the standard sources, which index the titles, first lines, and last lines of poems.

Your answer would have been delivered in a matter of seconds had you simply searched the *American Poetry Database*, one of six full-text web based databases published by Chadwyck-Healey, Inc., and now available campus-wide at Oberlin through our membership in OhioLINK. (The answer, by the way, is a poem called "With a Flower" by Emily Dickinson, the first stanza of which reads: When roses cease to bloom, dear,/ And violets are done,/When bumble-

bees in solemn flight/Have passed beyond the sun.)

The following are brief descriptions of the available databases:

- ***American Poetry Database*** has the text of over 40,000 poems by more than two hundred American poets from the seventeenth to the early twentieth century. It includes the text of over 1,200 poetry collections listed in Jacob Blanck's *Bibliography of American Literature*.
- ***Bible in English*** contains the full text of twenty different versions of the English Bible from the tenth to the twentieth century, including twelve full Bibles, five New Testament texts, two versions of the Gospels, and William Tyndale's translations of the Pentateuch, Jonah, and the New Testament
- ***Database of African-American Poetry*** includes the full text of almost 3,000 poems written by African-American poets between 1760 and 1900.
- ***Editions and Adaptations of Shakespeare*** contains eleven major editions from the First Folio of 1623 to the Cambridge edition of 1863-6, twenty-eight separate contemporary printings of individual

plays, poems, and related works. In addition it contains more than one hundred adaptations, sequels and burlesques from the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

- ***Eighteenth Century Fiction*** contains the complete text of ninety-six works of prose fiction written in the British Isles between 1700 and 1780. The database incorporates all major eighteenth-century British novels, including works by Defoe, Fielding, Goldsmith, Johnson, Richardson, Swift and many others.

- ***English Prose Drama*** consists of over 1,800 plays from four hundred authors and covers the period from the Renaissance to the end of the nineteenth century. It contains works acted on or intended for the stage, which are either wholly or predominantly in prose. It also covers masques, entertainments and certain closet dramas, and includes both original works and adaptations and translations.

Each of these databases is accessible to Oberlin Campus Network users through the Web version of OBIS at:

<http://obis.oberlin.edu>
(just search the database titles).

FirstSearch Now Available on the World Wide Web

FirstSearch databases may now be searched in a World Wide Web version that is accessible through the campus network from any Web browser, such as Netscape or Microsoft Explorer.

FirstSearch is an extensive and powerful electronic information system which includes over forty databases in a wide variety of disciplines (see *Library Perspectives*, February 1993).

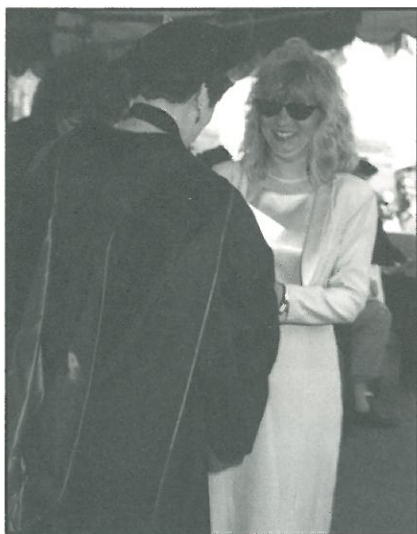
The system, which is intended for direct searching by students, faculty, and staff, offers a Basic Search option for novices and an

Advanced Search option for researchers who desire greater flexibility and more sophisticated search capabilities.

The Web version allows users to pick indexes from drop-down menus, use Boolean operators, combine searches from multiple indexes, and limit search results by date and year.

To access the Web version of FirstSearch, follow the links from "Databases and Indexes" in the "Research Resources on the Internet" section of the Library portion of Oberlin Online.

Peggi Ignagni Is New Oberlin Alumna



President Dye presents diploma to Peggi Ignagni

Congratulations to Peggi Ignagni, Main Library Circulation Desk Supervisor, who graduated with a B.A. degree from Oberlin last May.

Peggi did more than one half of the coursework required for graduation over a nine-year period by relying on Oberlin's tuition remission program, which entitles full-time employees to take one course each semester at no cost.

Peggi had an Associate's Degree and 46 hours of college credit when she came to Oberlin in 1988 as an Administrative Assistant in the Career Development Office. She took a course every semester while working in that job and in subsequent positions in the Interlibrary Loan Department (1990-91) and the Circulation Department (1991-).

Peggi's degree is in French, but her colleagues in the library (who saw her succeed as a student while also excelling in a demanding library job) know that she actually completed a double major in Time Management and Perseverance.

Library Perspectives, a newsletter for users and Friends of the Oberlin College Library, is issued two times a year. Printed from an endowed fund established by Benjamin A. and Emiko Custer. Editors: Ray English and Jessica Grim.

OCLC Union List of Periodicals

A new OCLC Union List of Periodicals is now available through FirstSearch. This union list contains library holdings for over seven million journal titles. It's especially valuable for determining if a particular library owns a specific issue of a journal.

The limiting features of the union list database allow a user to tailor search results in a variety of ways, such as finding periodicals in a particular subject area that are held by libraries in a specific city. For example, a search for "philosophy - periodicals" that is limited to "Cleveland" lists philosophy journals held in virtually all Cleveland libraries.

This database should be particularly useful to faculty and students who are planning to visit particular libraries when they go on research trips.

Anthony Grafton ...from p. 1

An exhibition of original and facsimile copies of works published by Johannes Petreius and of early printed books that illustrate the history of reading will be on display in the library from October 27 through December 5.

The Harold Jantz Memorial Lecture is shared on an annual rotating basis by the Library, the German Department, and the Allen Memorial Art Museum. The lecture honors Harold Jantz '29, who was a distinguished scholar of German and comparative literature as well as a noted book and art collector. The lecture this year is being hosted by the German Department and held in conjunction with the fall Friends of the Library weekend.

JOIN US. BE A FRIEND.

The **Friends of the Oberlin College Library** provide significant support for special acquisitions and programs that help the library fulfill its fundamental role in the academic life of the college.

Members receive the *Library Perspectives* newsletter (published two times a year), invitations to Friends programs, and other privileges. Most of all, Friends have the satisfaction of supporting Oberlin's outstanding library.

Annual membership categories: \$1 Student

\$25 Friend

\$30 Couple

\$50 Associate

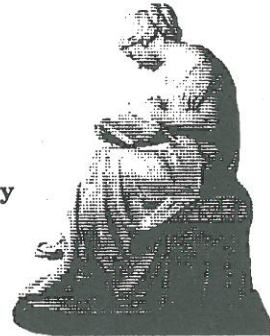
\$100 Sponsor

\$500 Patron

\$1000 Benefactor

Please return this coupon with your membership contribution to:

Friends of the Oberlin College Library
Mudd Center, Oberlin, OH 44074



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Library Perspectives

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