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The George Mason University Libraries

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<http://library.gmu.edu/libinfo/fulltext.html>



Message from the University Librarian

Welcome to another issue of *FullText* — the University Libraries' publication for our benefactors and friends. As with past issues, it is our hope that the content of these pages will provide you with a strong sense of the University Libraries' accomplishments and activities.

The recent twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall was a celebration of humanity's unceasing quest for freedom. For almost three decades, a generation of East Germans remained true to this quest by struggling to preserve their intellectual and moral freedoms while living under totalitarian rule. By necessity, much of their creative struggle was sly, subtle, and shrewd. Two notable recent acquisitions document both the oppression and the creative spirit of the people living in East Germany at that time: a significant collection of photographic images documenting the Berlin Wall from its construction to its fall; and a large and rare East German collection of posters about art, film, dance, music, theater and politics.

The East German posters collection, especially, has already received national attention. Recently, the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) awarded the University Libraries' Special Collections & Archives with a grant to assist with the processing, cataloging, preserving, and making the posters accessible to scholars.

While structures such as the Berlin Wall are built to constrain people and their ingenuity, others are created to promote the growth of knowledge and human potential. The University Libraries' development of award-winning, discipline-based research

portals are designed to increase the transfer of knowledge across the Mason academic community. The research portals strengthen the University Libraries collaboration with the academic departments by permitting our librarians to move beyond the library walls to "virtually" share a common research space with their faculty counterparts, serving the needs of advanced undergraduates, graduate students, and, of course, Mason's faculty across the schools and colleges of the university.

A lively discussion of Abraham Lincoln took place between Susan Swain, executive vice president of C-SPAN and Richard Norton Smith, a nationally recognized expert on the American presidency and a scholar-in-residence at Mason. The University Libraries were honored to sponsor and host this successful event during the 2009 Fall for the Book festival.

Finally, we want to recognize, celebrate, and express our deep appreciation to our donors. We are pleased to announce two new endowments: the Kurt Andrew Dodd American History Endowment; and the University Libraries Endowment for Excellence, a challenge endowment. I also want to direct your attention to the Honor Roll of Donors which recognizes our benefactors during last fiscal year. As we enter into a new decade, the support of our friends will become increasingly more critical in helping us realize Mason's vision of academic excellence. On behalf of the University Libraries and George Mason University, I would like to thank you for your continued support.

Best regards,

John G. Zenelis

Abraham Lincoln: The President & the Man

While interviewing historians on C-SPAN, and its show BookTV, Susan Swain realized that Abraham Lincoln was a more complex individual and president than previous historical accounts had described. In an attempt to provide a fuller, more in-depth portrait of Lincoln and his legacy, Swain, president and co-chief operating officer of C-SPAN, and Brian Lamb, founder and CEO of C-SPAN, published *Abraham Lincoln: Great American Historians on Our Sixteenth President*, a collection of stories, essays, and transcribed interviews from leading historians who focus on Lincoln and his presidency.

On September 22, 2009, Swain and Richard Norton Smith, a leading Lincoln historian and scholar-in-residence at

Mason, spoke at a University Libraries-sponsored lecture as part of the Fall for the Book festival. They discussed many of the essays and interviews in the book that brought to light a more nuanced and multidimensional picture of Lincoln within the context of his times, his life, and his policies.



What's New at the University Libraries?

The University Libraries was selected as a 2009 Campus Technology Innovator for developing online research portals that combine scholarly content, databases, blog postings, and web resources to support the research needs of students and faculty. Campus Technology Innovator awards are given each year to higher education institutions that deploy “extraordinary campus technology solutions to campus challenges.” The University Libraries’ award is one of eleven from a field of 349 nominations.

Wally Grotophorst, associate university librarian and head of Digital Programs and Systems office, was the lead developer of the research portal system. Ten portals are open for research—bioinformatics, biodefense, bioengineering, neuroscience, global research and education, early American history, earth observing and space research, health and strategic communication, industrial/organizational psychology, and nursing administration—with more being developed.

Portals foster closer cooperation and better integration of librarians with academic departments and programs through shared research space that is not confined within library walls. “Research portals embody a paradigm shift for librarians in academic and research settings,” John Zenelis, university librarian, says. “We are moving from helping with research to materially improving researcher productivity.”

In 2004, President Alan Merten appointed a Library Planning Task Force to map out the University Libraries’ role and functions in 2010 and beyond. The new portals directly respond to task force recommendations by providing librarians with the capabilities to serve students and faculty who are just as likely to travel to a library virtually as they are to walk across any of Mason’s campuses.

For more information about this award visit:

http://campustechnology.com/articles/2009/07/22/campus-technology-innovators-awards-2009.aspx?sc_lang=en

To visit a research portal:

<http://library.gmu.edu/portals.html>

People

- **Sarah Sheehan**, College of Health and Human Services liaison librarian, achieved certification as a senior member of the Medical Library Association’s Academy of Health Information Professionals.
- **Jordan Patty**, Special Collections and Archives processing archivist and librarian, was awarded the Merl E. Reed Fellowship in Southern Labor History by the Georgia State University Library for his project, “Public Transit, Ownership, and Labor in the United States, 1935–1975.”
- **Nathan Putnam**, cataloging and metadata services librarian, has been selected to participate in the American Library Association’s Emerging Leaders program for 2009-2010.
- **Jennifer Barnes Bowie**, assistant professor of government and politics, Department of Public and International Affairs, has been named the 2009–2010 Fenwick Fellow for her project, “Explaining Decision Making on the United States Courts of Appeals: Do Circuit Courts of Appeals Judges Fear Reversal from their *Circuit En Banc*?”

Grants

- **The Nippon Foundation** has awarded the University Libraries 100 monographic titles that explore various aspects of contemporary Japan. The University Libraries was among 150 libraries in the United States that received such an award.
- **The GDR Poster Archive** was awarded a \$76,800 grant, one of 14 proposals funded by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR).

Images Say More Than Words Ever Could

Rebecca Forrest & Robert Vay



The image on the cover of this issue is of 19-year-old Hans Conrad Schumann, a soldier in the East German Bereitschaftspolizei, and the barbed wire fence that was guarded as the first phase of the Berlin Wall. Conrad was guarding the uncompleted Wall on the third day of construction, August 15, 1961. While on guard duty, Conrad was beckoned by people on the west side of Berlin shouting “Komm rüber!”

Their cries to “come over” persuaded him to jump over the barbed wire fence. He was quickly driven away by a West Berlin police car that had been nearby. For more than 28 years, until November 9, 1989, the Berlin Wall stood as an ugly symbol of human isolation and cruelty, as about 100 persons were killed by East German security forces while trying to cross the Wall into West Berlin. The photo of Conrad’s defection was a symbol of resistance against the East German government and the Berlin Wall.

To see more photos please visit SC&A on-line at <http://sca.gmu.edu/> and click on the Facebook icon at the bottom or call 703-993-2220 to make an appointment to see some of the collection in person.

The Berlin Wall did not just divide a country, it also divided families. A child, separated from his parents when the first phase of the Wall construction was carried out in the early morning hours of August 13, 1961, is helped over the barbed wire by a soldier. The soldier’s hesitant look is understandable as orders were to let no one in and no one out. History did not record this soldier’s name or his fate.



Photo by Ziegfried Rischar that was submitted for a contest in 1984 called “Overcoming the Wall by Painting the Wall,” hosted by the Haus am Checkpoint Charlie (House at Checkpoint Charlie) museum.



A West German girl looks through a large hole in the Berlin Wall at a guard in East Berlin.



By 1989 the Berlin Wall itself was crumbling. Despite its dilapidated state, the Wall still stood as a physical and symbolic division of the German people until the citizens of both East and West Berlin began tearing it down on November 9, 1989.

When is Opening Night?

By Rebecca Forrest & Melissa McAfee

Did you know that theater posters in East Germany did not list the dates that performances would run?

The reason was that there was no guarantee that the play, opera, or other performance would be approved by government censors in time for opening night. To work around this bureaucratic red tape, theaters simply left the dates off the posters and pushed opening night back or, when necessary, canceled performances altogether.

This is just one insight that archivists in the George Mason University Libraries Special Collections and Archives (SC&A) have learned from the new collection of rare East German posters. The collection includes approximately 7,300 art, dance, film, theater, and political posters dating from 1950 to 1989 from cultural, social, and political organizations in the former Deutsche Demokratische Republik (DDR).

Through the integration of images and words, these posters reveal the censored and hidden worlds of the East German playwright, film director, artist, and subversive politician. In addition, the collection is a major resource for the study of the works of four major East German graphic artists: Bolker Ph Iler, Manfred Butzman, Wolfgang Janisch, and Hubert Riedel.

In conveying popular cultural and political messages under the DDR, the posters broaden the relatively narrow vantage point of official politics. They lend a more complete and nuanced picture of the historical moment because they speak to the popular experiences of those who lived through it and attempted to resist it through art and cultural production.

Comparable collections of this size and depth are unique and not widely available in North American research libraries. The uniqueness of this collection was recently recognized by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) when it awarded SC&A a \$76,800 grant that will support research into this collection.

We look forward to showing you some of this collection. Appointments are requested and can be made by calling 703-993-2220. To see more posters please visit SC&A's webpage at <http://sca.gmu.edu/> and click on the Facebook icon at the bottom.



Poster for the film *Die Entscheidung des Dr. Ahrendt* (Dr. Ahrendt's Decision, 1960). The film is about a struggling factory owned by Dr. Ahrendt and the solidarity of the workers who are united in the goal of making the factory a success.



Poster for Germany's oldest political party, Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands (SPD). In 1946 the SPD was forced to merge with the German Communist Party. The SPD did not reemerge independently in East Germany until after the fall of the Wall.



Poster announcing Dresden Music Days, 1955. This was a precursor to the annual Dresden Music Festival, which was founded in 1978.



▲ Poster for the film *Drei vom Varieté* (Three from the Cabaret) (1954). Director Karl Neumann also made American films, most notably *The Fly* (1958), which became a cult classic.



▲ Vote with your head! – Poster for the United Left (Vereinigte Linke), an East German political party founded just weeks before the fall of the Berlin Wall. The United Left disbanded shortly after Reunification.



▲ Poster for an exhibition of graphic arts. Many graphic artists designed posters for a variety of reasons and organizations; some also branched out into other media. For example, in the group of graphic artists listed on this poster, Rudolf Grütner has designed stamps, and Volker Pfäfer has designed theaters sets since 1965.



◀ A warhead does not think (1983) This poster was created in participation with the Staatlicher Kunsthandel der DDR (National Art Trade of the DDR). The artist, Rainer Schwalme, has been a cartoonist for the satirical publication *Eulenspiegel* since 1985. Founded in 1946, *Eulenspiegel* was the largest of only a handful of satirical periodicals published in the repressive climate of East Germany. It is still in publication.



- ▲ The radiant victor This poster, by Norbert Wientzkowski and H.D. Kuhn, was created in participation with a poster project run by the Staatlicher Kunsthandel der DDR (National Art Trade of the DDR) and is.



- ▲ Solidarity in art. This poster announces an exhibition of art from Cuba in December 1976 and January 1977. Political solidarity had a far reach in East Germany and was even evident in art exhibits.



- ▲ “Und der Haifisch der hat Zähne”—lyrics from Bertold Brecht’s 1928 *The Threepenny Opera* (Die Dreigroschenoper). The song is about a character, Macheath, who is a cad, a thief, and a murderer. Sanitized English versions of this song, called Mack the Knife or The Ballad of Mack the Knife (Die Moritat von Mackie Messer), have been performed by Louis Armstrong, Bobby Darin, and Frank Sinatra, among others.



- ◀ Poster for the Independent Women's Federation, Unabhängigen Frauenverband (UFV). Founded in December 1989, the federation united all women's groups in East Germany in an attempt to have a role in political and social restructuring. This proved difficult and the UFV disbanded in 1998.



- ▲ Poster announcing an exhibition by artist Willi Sitte in late 1979. Sitte was the head of the Verband Bildender Künstler der DDR, an association for artists and craftsmen in East Germany.



- ▲ Poster announcing a sporting competition for children and youth in the summer of 1987. These competitions served a two-fold purpose. They encouraged physical activity and were a platform to scout sport talent to compete in future events.

Remembering Kurt



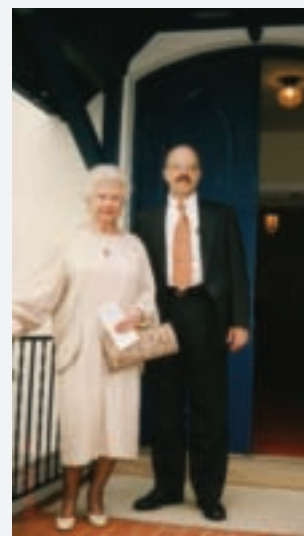
It can be difficult to get children to sit still. When Kurt Dodd and his brother, Jack, were younger, their mother, Rosemary, would read to them to keep them still when the family sat for a portrait. Of all the books she read, Kurt loved most the ones about history. On vacations, his father, Roy, would make sure to include stops at historical sites.

Kurt received his master's degree in American history from Mason in 1997 and was a staff member of the Appropriations Committee for the U.S. House of Representatives. Bill Young, former chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said Kurt was a voracious reader and a student of history. According to Representative Young, if Kurt's co-workers expressed an interest in a subject, he would often give them a book from his personal collection.

Upon Kurt's passing, his mother established the Kurt Andrew Dodd Endowed Scholarship in History to honor his memory and recognize his passion for American history and higher education. This graduate scholarship benefits full-time graduate students pursuing a degree in history.

Rosemary felt that she could do more to remember Kurt and in 2009 established the Kurt Andrew Dodd American History Endowment for the Libraries. In doing so, she broadened the legacy of her son and his impact on the students and faculty of Mason. The endowment will enable the University Libraries to acquire books and other scholarly resources in the area of American history, with an emphasis on historical scholarship. We think Kurt would be proud.

If you or someone you know would like to honor a family member or loved one by supporting the George Mason University Libraries, please contact Kathleen Kehoe at 703-993-8740 or at kkehoe@gmu.edu.



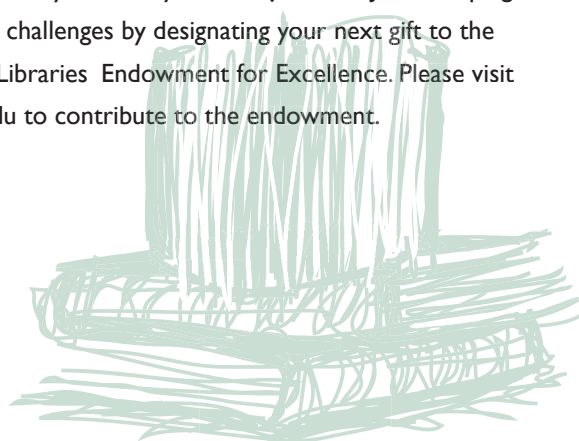
Kurt Dodd with mother, Rosemary.

Are You Up for the "Challenge"?

Jim Hayes, MBA '93, has made a significant financial contribution to seed the creation of the University Libraries Endowment for Excellence to provide operational support for the University Libraries and to acquire scholarly research materials including books, journals, and other similar library resources in both digital and multimedia formats.

Jim hopes his gift will serve as a catalyst for increasing contributions to the University Libraries. Donor support is especially critical now as the state-allocated budget for the University Libraries is steadily decreasing. Yet as state funding declines, the Libraries face a growing need to acquire new research materials, tools and technology.

By his leadership in creating the endowment, Jim is helping the University Libraries respond to the information challenges faced by a 21st century university. You can join with Jim in helping us meet these challenges by designating your next gift to the University Libraries Endowment for Excellence. Please visit give.gmu.edu to contribute to the endowment.



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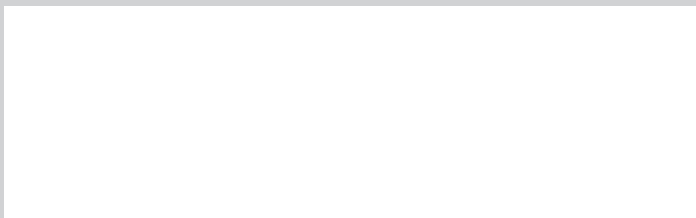
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