

C O N T E X T

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES

*Friends Lecture Highlights Treasures
from the Library of Congress*

Sharing treasures: Mark Dimunation, chief of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division at the U.S. Library of Congress, spoke to the Friends of the Libraries about the many fascinating holdings in the collection he manages.

Mark Dimunation, the United States Library of Congress's chief of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division, spoke to the University of Miami Friends of the Libraries at The Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables on Monday, February 27. The event was the third of the 2005-2006 Friends season.

Titled "Patriots, Poets, and Pranksters," Dimunation said his presentation provided "just a little glimpse into my very strange and massive world." Within a library holding more than 29 million books, his world features rare books ranging from the personal libraries of former presidents

to comprehensive collections of authors such as Benjamin Franklin and Walt Whitman. Dimunation cited Franklin as a personal hero.

Before joining the Library of Congress, Dimunation served as curator of rare books and associate director for collections in the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections at Cornell University, rare book librarian and assistant chief for special collections at Stanford University, and assistant chief of acquisitions at the University of California, Berkeley.

Dimunation said that he first became interested in librarianship when he was a graduate student doing library research at Berkeley. He expressed his gratitude to that university's friends program, which helped provide

materials he relied on for his research endeavors.

The hour-long presentation, which was followed by a question-and-answer period, revealed the depth of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division's holdings. Dimunation described to the audience his experiences with the collection, mentioning how, soon after he began at the enormous library, then-President Bill Clinton

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requested that he compose a sample of the collection to be displayed at the White House.

In considering which books to include, Dimunation discovered two books he had never seen before. Walt Whitman and Henry David Thoreau had autographed and exchanged the books over a century earlier, and they would be the centerpieces of the display he prepared.

As University Librarian William Walker said during Dimunation's introduction, "The Library of Congress has treasures that are just beyond our imagination."

- Hunter Umphrey

The University Libraries would like to thank Lauren Gould and Leroy Goldstein, whose generous gift to the Friends helped underwrite the reception held before the Dimunation event.

Cooper Appointed Deputy University Librarian

The University of Miami Libraries are pleased to announce the appointment of Yolanda Cooper to the position of deputy university librarian. Cooper previously was the associate university librarian for organizational development at the University of Virginia. She was responsible for organizational planning and development and the library's administrative serv-



Impact position: Yolanda Cooper has joined UM as deputy university librarian.

ices, such as human resources, training and professional development, grants and sponsored programs, financial services, business operations, and assessment activities.

Cooper brings a wealth of experience in confronting the critical issues facing today's academic libraries. "I'm particularly pleased with the current transformations and the enhanced role that libraries can

play," she says. "Traditionally, libraries have only been considered administrative infrastructure. I believe now is the time to build awareness and become more fully engaged in the teaching, learning, and research environment."

As deputy, Cooper will be second in command to University Librarian William Walker. She will oversee the day-to-day operations of the

Libraries' programs and services and provide leadership for strategic planning and implementation.

"This particular position presents an opportunity to work with a talented staff to explore the possibilities, engage, and have an impact in a broad range of areas," Cooper says. "The University of Miami is the landscape of the future, and I'm looking forward to being a part of it."

Myers Named Director of Library Development

The University of Miami Libraries are delighted to welcome Michele R. Myers as director of library development. Myers brings valuable experience as well as a stellar track record in organizational development to the Libraries. She most recently served as director of development for Dallas Summer Musicals, and she has also worked in similar capacities for Oberlin College and the University Hospitals of Cleveland. Outside of the office, Myers, an avid sailor, enjoys spending



Boosting support: Michele R. Myers is the new director of library development.

time with her two dogs. A graduate of Ohio University, with a B.S. in organizational communications, she will contribute greatly to the Libraries' continued support of the academic community at the University of Miami.

UM Joins Consortium of Top University Research Libraries

The University of Miami Libraries recently joined the NorthEast Research Libraries, a consortium known by the acronym NERL. Fortunately, NERL did not factor location into the equation for membership; the libraries at Notre Dame and Stanford also belong.

While geographically somewhat at odds with the consortium's name, all three of these private institutions share the common need to join an organization that offers a consortial arrangement for procuring electronic resources such as digital collections, e-journals, and full-text databases at the best possible prices.

Libraries at 27 private and public

universities (24 of which are in the Northeast region of the United States) benefit from NERL membership by using group purchasing power to negotiate subscriptions and license agreements for expensive scholarly electronic resources. "We earned savings that more than paid for the annual membership fee with the first two renewals negotiated under the auspices of NERL," says Craig Likness, director of collection development for the Libraries.

Ann Okerson, associate university librarian at Yale, organized NERL in 1996 and continues to coordinate the group's activities. Along with Yale, members include Harvard,

Johns Hopkins, Dartmouth, Rutgers, Syracuse, Penn, Columbia, Cornell, and MIT. The vote of these institutions to include the University of Miami stands as a positive endorsement of the Libraries' stature in the research library community.

In addition to sharing cost savings, member libraries exchange information on how they budget, manage, and use electronic resources. All University of Miami campuses can access resources purchased through NERL. Membership in NERL helps the Libraries provide a wide range of academic electronic resources for the University community at the most economical price.

Friends Explore Digital Collections

At a recent Friends of the Libraries event, John Renaud, education, psychology and interim e-resources librarian, facilitated an interactive demonstration of three of



Online research: Digital collections support students' scholarly work.

the University of Miami Libraries' remarkable digital collections: *Early English Books Online*, *The Making of the Modern Economy*, and *Eighteenth Century Collections Online*.

The resources provide access to facsimile images and allow researchers to view thousands of works from the 15th to 19th century as they originally appeared. In the past, using these early works required travel to the specialized research libraries that owned them. Digital collections such as these significantly strengthen the historical

collections while putting the University of Miami Libraries on par with the top research libraries in the world. Members attending the session learned how digital collections transform scholarship, and they had the opportunity to use these resources to find primary source material addressing research topics of interest to them.



Digital universe: John Renaud shows Friends how to access digital collections.

Support the Friends of the Libraries

The Friends of the Libraries is at the heart of the University of Miami Libraries' resources. On behalf of all who benefit from the Libraries' assets, we thank you. The Friends plays a vital role in the support and funding of programs and projects and is instrumental in ensuring the University's advancement as

one of the world's foremost research institutions.

Membership and additional gifts to the Libraries help support our mission of providing students, faculty, and the community with state-of-the-art research resources as well as inviting spaces for collaborative work or individual study.

Gifts from individuals, corporations, and foundations also help provide the critical resources needed to enhance and preserve our valuable collections.

The Libraries' unparalleled access to electronic information, which provides a vast array of international information and data, requires significant investment. The Libraries' Digital Media Lab, a learning environment with a wide and sophisticated array of emerging technologies and an excellent resource for students, offers instruction and assistance in integrating digital media into coursework. A top priority for the Libraries is to secure funding for the purchase of leading-edge software and equipment.

The Libraries' recent dramatic rise in academic research library rankings is attributable to the generosity of its donors—and continued financial support is vital to maintain this momentum.

For more information on how you can help support the Libraries, please contact Michele Myers, director of development for University Libraries, at 305-284-8825 or e-mail mrmymers@miami.edu.

Friends Group Helps Purchase Microfilm Scanner

A new digital microfilm scanner, purchased with donations to the Friends of the Libraries, is making research easier and faster. Historian Arva Moore Parks uses microfilm extensively for her research. In the past, she has had to print out four separate 8.5" x 11" sheets and piece them together to reproduce one page of a newspaper. Recently, Parks tried out the Libraries' new digital microfilm scanner. She left with "39 of the best copies I have ever seen" and commented that the new scanner makes the task of viewing microfilm for hours on end much less physically taxing.

The scanner, a Canon MS-800,

makes it possible to print an 11" x 17" newspaper-size copy from microfilm or microfiche, the ideal size for researchers to use. Connected to a computer with an ergonomic keyboard, the scanner utilizes software that provides a high-resolution image. A user-friendly control panel features auto focus, a motorized zoom lens, image rotation, automatic centering, and automatic border erasure to ensure quality prints.

Assistance with using the scanner to view material preserved in microformats is available at the second-floor Circulation and Reserve Desk.

Appointments aren't necessary but may be made by contacting a circulation supervisor at 305-284-4811.

Documenting Evanescence: the Cuban/Latino Theater Archive

The search for the documentation of live theater and performances just became easier with the launch of the interactive, digital Cuban/Latino Theater Archive, which can be accessed on the Web at scholar.library.miami.edu/archivoteatral.

The archive is the result of a Digital Library Fellowship awarded by the Otto G. Richter Library to Lillian Manzor, director of the project and associate professor in foreign languages and literatures at the University of Miami. The fellowships support faculty from a variety of academic disciplines to undertake



Live in the Apple: A flyer promoting a 1975 production of *El Robo del Cochino* in New York City by the Dume Spanish Theater. The flyer is in the Cuban Heritage Collection of the University Libraries.

digitally based projects that expand the quality and range of scholarly content on the Internet.

“The challenge we set out to solve was to create a coherent framework for documentary material based on the complex relationships in live theater,” Manzor explains. “Any writing or research on theater is partly a search for documentation that serves as a trace of non-repeatable performances.

“The digital archive opens up a new and exciting approach for theater researchers and artists,” Manzor continues. “They can discover the relationships between productions, writers, directors, actors, texts, theater companies, and related documentary material that is scattered across personal and institutional collections.

“My aim is to make this digital archive the model for multimedia theater documentation and research and the beginning of any research on Cuban theater in particular. It will also provide a useful link to the artistic community, who can use our site as a showcase of their work.”

In this initial phase, the archive



draws on written texts and live-art performances. The site contains more than 2,000 images of photographs, video recordings, sketches for costumes and stage design, program notes, director’s notebooks, and newspaper clippings. The archive’s focus is on Greater Cuba, a term for the island as well as the Cuban diaspora.

The digital archive continues to grow and, like theater, aims to be collaborative. The database and web-scene platforms are available to other communities of Latino/a scholars and artists interested in the preservation of live theater and performance as intangible cultural heritage.

The archive is being developed with the input and feedback from theater practitioners, theater scholars, librarians, artists, and scientists in the United States, as well as independent collaborators in Cuba.

Singular resource: The Cuban/Latino Theater Archive provides a rich storehouse of documentary material.

The Libraries Remember Friend Helen Muir

When Coconut Grove writer and historian Helen Muir died on February 13, 2006, the University of Miami Libraries lost a cherished friend. Muir served on the board of the former Friends of the University of Miami Library group from its founding until the early 1970s; she then concentrated her efforts on championing the develop-

ment of the Miami-Dade Public Library System. She received several citations from the American Library Association for her advocacy of Florida’s libraries.

Muir generously donated her personal papers to the University of Miami Libraries in 1995. Housed in the Special Collections Division, the Helen Muir Papers include her corre-

spondence with friends and colleagues such as Marjory Stoneman Douglas, Philip Wylie, and Robert Frost, as well as scrapbooks, photographs, and manuscripts. By preserving and providing access to these research resources, the University of Miami Libraries honors the legacy of a Miami pioneer and a friend of all libraries.

Brazilian Countercultural Collection Acquired

The University of Miami Libraries have acquired the Leila Miccolis Brazilian Alternative Press Collection, a rare and extensive archive of Brazilian underground journals, periodicals, and newspapers that were produced and circulated during the military dictatorship in the last century.

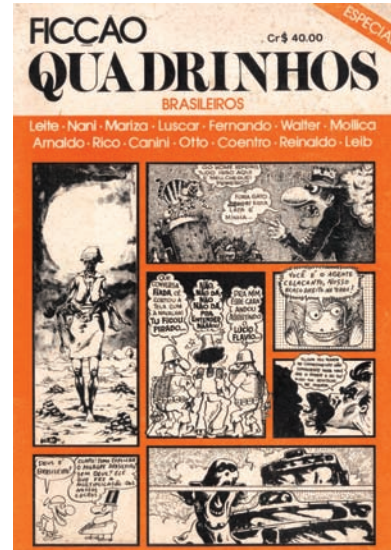
Prior to its acquisition by the University Libraries, the collection, which contains thousands of items, attracted Brazilianists from all over the world to visit renowned poet Leila Miccolis in her home in a remote town in the state of Rio de Janeiro. The collection was painstakingly accumulated over the course of 45 years by Miccolis, who decided to place the archive in a North American university to ensure the preservation of the collection and prevent its censorship.

As opposed to the commercial and widely circulated press of “official”

Brazilian governmental venues, many of the publications in the collection cover stigmatized or marginalized groups. As such, the collection tells the story of contemporary Brazil (1960s to the present) from an “unofficial” perspective, one which often diverts from the stereotypical images of what Brazilians and non-Brazilians alike have come to understand as “brasilidade” (Brazilian character) during the second half of the 20th century.

Steven Butterman, associate professor of Portuguese in the University’s Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, came across the collection while conducting research for his new book, *Perversions on Parade* (Hyperbole Books, San Diego State University Press, 2005).

“Collectively these works represent Brazil’s burgeoning civil rights movement within the surrounding culture



of repression,” states Butterman.

The collection will be processed over the next 18 months and will then become available for public use. The Libraries will publish an online guide to the collection, create a Web site for the collection, and undertake appropriate conservation and preservation treatment.

Going

underground:
The new collection presents a counter-cultural view of Brazil.

UM Parent Instrumental in Securing Dali-Illustrated Edition of Dante Work

The Special Collections Division recently acquired a rare and pristine set of Dante Alighieri’s *Divine Comedy*, as illustrated by Salvador Dali. This extraordinary find was secured by Nick Strimple and generously donated by Jack Wright. Strimple, a world-renowned musical composer, distinguished orchestra conductor, and adjunct professor in the Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California, is the father of David Strimple, a sophomore in the School of Business Administration and a member of the Miami Hurricanes football team.

The six red, Moroccan-leather-bound volumes of Dante’s classic epic poem, *La Divina Commedia*, contain French translations of the



Divine Dali: Salvador Dali illustrated this rare edition of Dante’s *Divine Comedy*.

Italian master poet’s *99 Cantos*, along with 100 striking illustrations by Dali. In the early 1950s, the Italian government decided to sponsor a special 700th birthday commemora-

tive edition of Dante’s masterpiece.

The quintessential surrealist, Salvador Dali seemed the perfect artist to commission for a modern aesthetic interpretation of Dante’s work. The Italian public, however, reacted less than enthusiastically to the prospect of a Spaniard making paintings for their native son’s poetry. As a result, limited bound editions of the new three-part masterpiece were actually published in Paris. They contain monochromatic offset prints in a slightly smaller size than Dali’s original watercolor wood engravings.

Those wishing to view the volumes are invited to visit the Special Collections Division between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Exhibition Calendar

The following exhibits, drawn from the Libraries' collections, are on display through May 2006 at the Otto G. Richter Library.

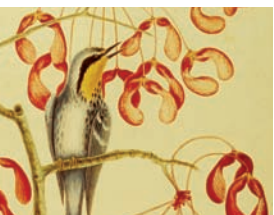
LIBRARY LOBBY, First Floor

Books on Blacks in Florida: Celebrating African Heritage

Africans have been part of Florida history since the European discovery of the peninsula. This exhibition highlights some of the important books and personalities that constitute Florida's rich African heritage. Stories about the early years recount blacks' participation in the discovery, exploration, and settlement of Florida. Historical accounts document the interactions between Seminole Indians and blacks. Memoirs of former slaves, compilations of interviews from the Florida Slave Narrative project, and primary source materials such as plantation records and tax rolls document the period when Florida's slave culture developed after Spanish rule ended in 1821. Works about the Civil War and Reconstruction years call attention to the fact that Florida's experience differed from other Southern states. Books about 20th century blacks and the civil rights movement are also displayed.

Now showing:

An illustration from an antique book on Florida's African heritage; materials promoting Cuban tourism in a bygone era; and 18th-century images of wildlife.



Second Floor

Cuban Heritage Collection: Destination Cuba: Tourism to Cuba, 1902 to 1958

When tourists began visiting Cuba during the 1800s, Cubans enthusiastically welcomed the visitors, staffing hotels with English speakers and producing multilingual promotional materials. As the 20th century began, so did the golden age of Cuba's tourism. Cuba responded to the influx of tourists by expanding the hotel industry, improving transportation systems, and organizing marketing campaigns. The Roberto C. Goizueta Pavilion features a selection of postcards, travel guides, photographs, posters, and other tourism materials from the Cuban Heritage Collection that document this era.

Dante B. Fascell and the Tourism Industry

This exhibit illustrates the ties that Congressman Fascell had with the tourism industry of South Florida, including hotels, airlines, tour guides, and other services.

Mark Catesby's The Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahama Islands

Catesby's work is recognized as the first illustrated record of North American flora and fauna. The original copies of the watercolor prints belong to the Royal Library at Windsor Castle.

Third Floor

President's Portrait Gallery

In addition to the official portraits of the University's present and past presidents, the gallery houses a beautiful cabinet containing University memorabilia from the Special Collections Division.

Eighth Floor

A Special Collections Miscellany

Recent acquisitions along with a sampling of the thousands of rare books, personal papers, and other unique items are featured. Materials on display include: a hand-written report from Charles Lindbergh to the founder of Pan American Airlines; a rare map of La Floride by cartographer Pieter van der Aa; and a rendering of the Opa-locka Administration Building from 1925.



Post Office Box 248214
Coral Gables, FL 33124-0320

www.library.miami.edu

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