

Friendscript

Making Your Mark

Naming opportunity reflects love for library



Like many undergraduates in the 1940s, Hugh Cameron '48 BUS left his studies to serve his nation. Following a lengthy recovery from wounds sustained at the Battle of the Bulge, he returned to the University of Illinois, earned a degree in accountancy, and never lost his love of the campus.

"Hugh always said it was a fantastic school," Fran Cameron said of her husband. "He'd always tell us it was the best education he could possibly have gotten."

Throughout their marriage, the Camerons underscored that love by supporting the university, first assisting the football program and then benefitting the Library. When Fran Cameron learned of the possibility of naming a printers' mark window in honor of her husband, who died in 2010, the prospect delighted her.

Considered one of the most stunning decorations on the Illinois campus, the printers' marks windows ring the walls of the Main Library's second-floor Reading Room, as well as grace the grand staircase leading up to it. The 27 windows—each sporting a trademark or emblem of an early printer in Europe—serve as an artful reminder of the tremendous impact books have made on the civilization of humanity.

"Anyone who has spent time here as a student or researcher has come to know the Library for its spaces," Dean John Wilkin has said. "Our unique, even iconic, environments have helped shape the campus experience for generations of scholars. The stately sanctuary of the Main Library Reading Room is one such space."

In the early 20th century, selection of the printers' marks to adorn the new Main Library building arose from the collective thinking of Library Director Phineas Windsor, architect Charles A. Platt, and artist J. Scott Williams. Each mark measures 48 inches by 30 inches in the center of the window;



The detailed mark of French printer Antoine Vérard features birds, angels, hearts, the royal crest of France, and the hellebore plant—also known as *verart*—which evokes the printer's name.

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"Anyone who has spent time here as a student or researcher has come to know the Library for its spaces. Our unique, even iconic, environments have helped shape the campus experience for generations of scholars."

—JOHN WILKIN,
DEAN OF LIBRARIES AND
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN



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The Office of Library Advancement garners interest and secures external funds from Illinois alumni and friends, provides visibility for the Library through its programs and events, and promotes the Library within the Illinois campus and the community-at-large.

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Upcoming Events

Annual C-U Edible Book Festival

The Library's beloved event, traditionally held in early April to coincide with the International Edible Book Festival, has been postponed until further notice given the COVID-19 pandemic. Updates will be posted to the Festival's website and Facebook page.

- ◆ Visit library.illinois.edu/ediblebooks or facebook.com/CUEdibleBooks

2021 Illini Fest

The Illinois-themed celebration is taking place online this spring. The Rare Book & Manuscript Library will be participating once again.

- ◆ March 7
- ◆ Virtual Event on Zoom
- ◆ Visit illinois.edu/events/illinifest.html

Lunchtime Player Piano Mini-Concerts

Join the Music & Performing Arts Library for a virtual lunch hour demonstration featuring the Library's Steinway Duo-Art reproducing piano and collection of piano rolls. See the piano in action and learn more about the instrument and roll collection. The demonstration will last approximately 30 minutes and there will be additional time for questions.

- ◆ May 5, noon–1:00 p.m.
- ◆ Virtual Event on Zoom
- ◆ Visit go.library.illinois.edu/May5PianoDemo for more information and to register



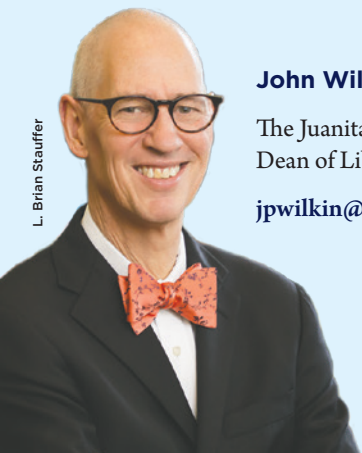
Ana Rodriguez (Digitization Coordinator & Registrar), left, and Ruthann Miller (Visiting Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts) helped showcase the Rare Book & Manuscript Library at the inaugural Illini Fest in downtown Chicago on July 18, 2019.



While in-person events have been postponed or canceled in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, please refer to the Library's online calendar for a list of virtual events.

go.library.illinois.edu/calendar

Several Rare Book & Manuscript Library events are planned this spring, including **Pi Day** (March 14), **Moms Weekend Virtual Open House** (April 9), **Shakespeare's Birthday Celebration** (April 19–23), a **Mariselle Melendez Lecture** (April 29), and **Reading Day Relaxer: Coloring Pages** (May 6). Visit library.illinois.edu/rbx for more information and updates.





Making Your Mark, *continued from page 1*

Williams used certain techniques to reduce the amount of obstructive leading, allowing natural light to flood into the room and its 28-foot ceilings. Colored in soft grays, browns, and ambers, the windows add a particular loveliness and historical gravitas to the spacious setting.

Developed in the 15th and 16th centuries as books and learning became more widespread, printers' marks, which generally appeared on a book's title page, helped identify printers and protect against forgeries. Designs and mottoes ran the gamut from the serious to the sly, with a wide range of images, including animals, shields, ecclesiastical symbols, and tools of the trade. These marks can be seen in person upon visiting the university's Rare Book & Manuscript Library, which contains a book associated with the printer depicted in each window.

"My husband thought the world of the university," Fran Cameron recalled. When her son, Bill Zywićiel '90 AHS, decided to go there as well, "Hugh was very proud and very happy." The family would attend football games together and take in old and new sights during campus visits.

When the opportunity arose to name a window in her husband's honor, Fran Cameron jumped at the idea. "I thought, Hugh loved the university so much that this would be a good way to have something in his memory at the Library . . . that will last a long time," she said.

"He would be so proud that it was something that he did for the university"—indeed, a treasured way to leave his mark.



Photo courtesy of the Cameron family

"It was a stage in his life that meant a lot to him," Fran Cameron says of her husband Hugh's undergraduate days at Illinois. The Antoine Vérard printers' mark window in the Main Library Reading Room has been named in Hugh's honor.



The stately windows of the Main Library's Reading Room showcase 27 printers' marks, bringing to mind the primacy of scholarship. Each window exhibits a printers' mark in the center, as well as a watermark in each corner, indicating the design imprinted on the handmade paper from the mill that the printer used.

Windows in the Library's majestic Reading Room, as well as in the Grand Staircase, may be named to commemorate many occasions, including honoring a loved one, memorializing a special person, or recognizing you or your family's dedication to the Library or the university. If you are interested in dedicating one of the 27 Printers' Mark windows, please contact Kathryn Risor-Heise (krh19@illinois.edu) in the Office of Library Advancement. Gifts toward a named window are used to support Library facilities, such as building projects. As well as providing a beautiful and lasting dedication, your gift will ensure that our historic Library is beautifully maintained for future generations of scholars.

"I thought, Hugh loved the university so much that this would be a good way to have something in his memory at the Library . . . that will last a long time."

—FRAN CAMERON



By the Book

Endowment honors classics professor's lifelong passion

Follow the books in John Kevin Newman's life, and you'll find a litany of all that mattered to him.

From texts that brightened his British childhood to a recent endowment to the Classics Library, each tome tells its tale.

"He spent his life reading," said Frances Newman, PHD '72 LAS, of her husband's zeal for the written word. Indeed, from basement to attic, study to back porch, the Newman house stands brimming with books—from the classics to 20th century British novelists, from pieces on art to works in Russian, German, or French.

And like stepping-stones that traverse a pond, books delineate the trajectory that directed the late professor's life.



Photo courtesy of Frances Newman

An endowment to the Classics Library honors the late professor John Kevin Newman, above, who devoted his life to books. "He was one of these people who loved learning for its own sake," said his wife, Frances.

STEPPING-STONE ONE: **A Child's World**

As an asthmatic youth in Bradford, England, Kevin Newman missed more school than he attended but remained an avid homebound student. "He would go downstairs and sit by the fire," Frances Newman said, "and there would be a pile of books on either side of the chair. He just would have to reach down, and so he did all his schoolwork." Newman's love of the classics was partly spurred by a two-week session on the Greek language, which so enamored him that he tutored himself to a level of excellence that won him a six-year scholarship and admittance to Exeter College, Oxford.

STEPPING-STONE TWO: **New Horizons**

Having completed a doctorate and 14 years of teaching in England, Kevin Newman looked to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, lured not only by a position in the Department of Classics but by the rich library resources that would be at his disposal. He arrived on campus in 1969 and actively contributed to the scholarly world for the next half century.

STEPPING-STONE THREE: **Love Story**

Within a year of his arrival at Illinois, Newman's love of classics took a personal turn when he met and married Frances, herself a classicist who would become a Latin teacher at Urbana's University High School. Their nearly 50-year marriage produced three children—Alexandra, John, and Victoria—who greatly admired their father's scholarship. "They would come in from school," Frances Newman recalled, "peek in the [study] door . . . and knew that he was working on something important." Each child would go on to earn a doctorate as well.

STEPPING-STONE FOUR: **Scholarship Partners**

Kevin Newman built a considerable professional reputation, including the publication of *The Classical Epic Tradition* and books on Latin and Greek poets. His work was handily supported by librarians at the Classics Library, who informed him of new arrivals, pointed out books of interest, and maintained a liberal loan policy. "We had a couple of shelves that were just

continued on page 8

Latest Library Innovation: The Orange Box

Portable unit offers wired, comfortable space for group work

In the early days of campus, the Library sat on the first floor of University Hall, approximately where the Illini Union stands today. In what may have been a vain attempt to help students focus, men were seated on the east side, women on the west.

As the University of Illinois developed, so did efforts to assist scholarly work. Altgeld Hall—the first UI building devoted to a library—sprang up in 1897, and in 1912, President Edmund J. James urged trustees to acquire 1 million volumes within the decade. By the mid-1920s, the Main Library building opened, followed by dozens of departmental libraries, the first online catalog in the nation, and a robust interlibrary loan system. From books to buildings to brand-new ideas, the University Library—one of the largest such public entities in the world—has never stopped finding ways to better serve its patrons.

And now, enter the Orange Box.

“It’s an ongoing evolution of student space,” said David Ward ’92 LAS, MS ’98 LIS, head of the Undergraduate Library, who describes the enclosed, portable unit as ideal for group work, interviews, online classes, Zoom or Skype meetings, socialization, and access to integrated technology not available in an apartment or residence hall room. Located on the upper floor of the Undergraduate Library, the first box was funded as part of a \$2.5 million gift to the Library from Megan Shebik ’80 LAS, vice chair of the Library Board of Advocates, and husband Steve ’78 BUS, ’78 BUS [see “Alumni Couple Invests in Library’s Future,” *Friendscript*, Fall 2020].

The Orange Box seats four to six people in a colorful and casual atmosphere—more like a living room than an office. The unit can be equipped with whiteboards, flat screens, internet access, adjustable lighting, recording capabilities, and its own ventilation system; in addition, it offers sound isolation and privacy.

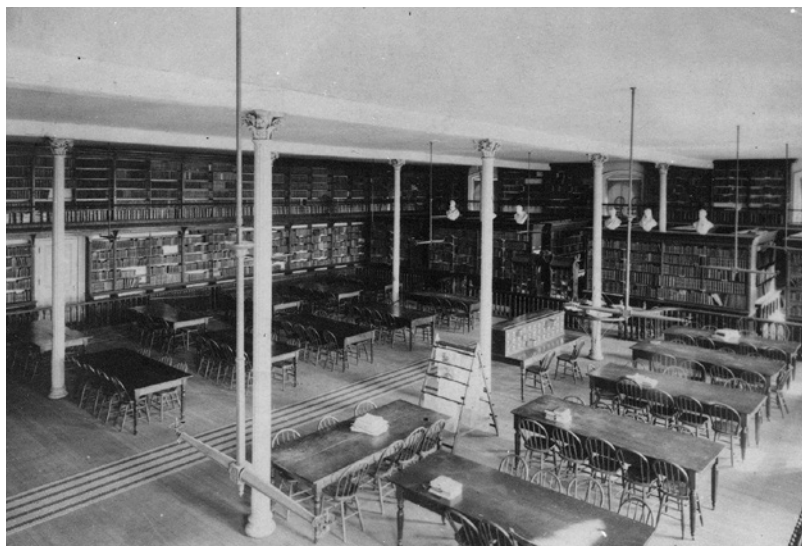
“As certain colleges and disciplines on campus have started favoring more group work, we’re [offering] that type of space,” Ward said. To accommodate the trend, the Undergraduate Library had been providing 10 fabric-walled booths, which have to be bolted to a supporting wall and are somewhat larger and drabber than the inviting Orange Box. He said such spaces had been in constant demand; now, however, due to social-distancing

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The Orange Box—a sort of one-stop shop where patrons can collaborate, record, edit, and access a wide range of convenient tools—is the latest in a long line of user services.

The Library, as seen in University Hall in 1878, offered tables, chairs, hard-copy books, and lighting. Male and female students sat on different sides of the room.



The Orange Box, *continued from page 5*

guidelines imposed by the coronavirus pandemic, their use is restricted to one person at a time.

Ward looks to the coming autumn—when COVID-19 may be somewhat contained—as a time when bookings will heat up for the Orange Box. Additional Orange Boxes, as well as new whisper rooms—media centers where students can practice music, conduct interviews, and record podcasts—are also planned for the future (see below for a special giving opportunity).

“When you think about the way [the unit is] built—the colors, the glass enclosure, the incorporation of technology—that feels like what students are expecting that they would get [by] going to a large university,” Ward said.

After all, as study needs evolve, isn’t an Orange Box better than sitting on different sides of a room?



Library Is Looking For

\$1,100 for Bacon’s New Chart of the World, a folding wall map providing a startling amount of disparate data for the Map Library. Created and published in 1907, this item reveals the jockeying for power that preceded the onset of World War I. Color coding details colonial holdings of various world dominions (with an emphasis on the British Empire), ocean currents are traced, and a table—conveniently set within the open areas of Greenland—lists the population of major nations. The map’s wide borders feature a broad swath of information, including flags, cities, steamship lines, and time zones. Measuring 37.5 inches by 47.5 inches, this strikingly colorful map, mounted on linen in 24 panels, is considered a rarity.

\$1,250 for video production equipment including a digital camera with two lenses, clip-on microphone, tripod, ring light, and teleprompter for the Rare Book & Manuscript Library. As the world has become increasingly virtual, the RBML has been creating more digital content. These items listed are collectively essential to producing professional video and audio that will best showcase RBML’s collections.

\$1,900 for The Mississippi-Missouri: A Geographical Blunder (Sedgwick, Pradt, 1868), part of the lively correspondence between two 19th-century geographical educators arguing over what to call the principal drainage network of the United States—Missouri or Mississippi. The set includes a manuscript map, letters, and part of a draft article. The items would complement the Map Library’s holdings showing the upper Mississippi River Valley and would be scanned and made available for use via the Library’s Digital Library website.

To fund one of these items or to ask for additional titles in an area of interest, call (217) 333-5682 or email friends@library.illinois.edu.

Special Opportunity

\$32,000 for a WhisperRoom Portable Media Studio in the Media Commons. Providing students with opportunities to create digital audio and video for class projects is a cornerstone of the Media Commons. As the Media Commons continues to evolve and grow, the need for efficient and portable studio spaces becomes essential. “Whisperbooth” units would provide an all-inclusive audio-treated recording space and media recording equipment to provide students (as well as staff and faculty) with an easy-to-use and robust media creation studio. Contributions of any size are welcome to support this important initiative. Contact **Kathryn Risor-Heise** for more details.



Thank You

The following donors have adopted these items previously featured in *Friendscript*:

- ◆ **Jonathan Buchbinder** for a gift to purchase a DJI Mavic 2 Pro Drone (Media Commons)
- ◆ **Paul Garcy** for *Map of the Mexican National Railway showing also its Relative Position to the Railway System of the United States* (Map Library)
- ◆ **Karl Greve** for *Map of the United States/The Trouble in Cuba* (Map Library)
- ◆ **Elizabeth and Peter March** for *Trans Continental Route Illustrated Crossing the Switzerland of America/Panoramic Map of the Great Overland Route from Occident to Orient. Europe to China, Japan & Australia* (Map Library)
- ◆ **Alan and Constance Mitchell** for *World panorama Daichi Sakai* (Map Library)
- ◆ **Robert and Dianne Patterson** for *Panorama of the Mississippi Valley and its Fortifications* (Map Library)
- ◆ **Deborah Paul** for *Sexually Transmitted Disease: An Encyclopedia of Diseases, Prevention, Treatment, and Issues* (Social Sciences, Health, and Education Library)
- ◆ **Linda Smith** for a gift to fund the scanning of historical annual reports (Library and Information Science Virtual Library)
- ◆ **Kenneth Krynicki and Victoria Walter-Krynicki** for *La securite La Prosperite de l'Empire Francais Exigent de Norte Pays une Marine Forte et Tourjours Prete* (Map Library)



An up-to-date, comprehensive list of items in need is located at library.illinois.edu/friends/library-is-looking-for

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FRIENDSCRIPT WINTER 2020-21

By the Book, *continued from page 4*

for the U of I [books], just directly behind his chair,” Frances Newman said. “So all he had to do was swivel around—there was the book.”

STEPPING-STONE FIVE: **Full Circle**

Upon the passing of their father at age 91 in July, Newman’s children created the John Kevin Newman Memorial Fund (to which their mother contributes). The initiative supports the work of scholars and students in the Classics Library, one of the world’s greatest collections devoted to Greek and Roman antiquity.

“I think this is something that would please him more than anything else,” Frances Newman said of the endowment. “I think he would be absolutely delighted.”

“For him, books were the way ahead.”



*“For
[Newman],
books were
the way
ahead.”*

— FRANCES
NEWMAN

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