A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Academic libraries are not ends in themselves. They are designed, or should be, to support the myriad instructional, research and service activities of their parent university. In a very real sense, they are service organizations, providing information or the sources of information to the students, faculty and staff of the university and to other researchers. In the past, when libraries were small and patterns for the dissemination of knowledge simple, libraries were relatively easy to use. However, as the production of knowledge and the resulting published documents (books, journals, films, newspapers, recordings, tapes, and microform records, etc.) have grown in volume and complexity, libraries have increased in size and complexity. This has tended to make the effective use of general university libraries much more difficult, thus frustrating the library's primary goal.

To help remedy this situation is important that there be active, two-way communication between the library and its users. The Survey of Faculty Attitudes sponsored by the Faculty Committee for University Libraries in the Spring of '79 highlighted this need. In response to this situation, the University Libraries have begun publication of this newsletter, which is designed to provide information on the Libraries' collections, services, policies and programs. I would hope that we can thereby aid in effective exploitation of the Libraries' resources and stimulate response from the faculty in the form of comments, suggestions, complaints, and hopefully an occasional kudo; on material appearing here, or on any other library matter. Such input is not only welcome, it is urgently desired.

Robert C. Miller

THE NEW APPROVAL PROGRAM for BUYING BOOKS

A university library approval plan is an arrangement made with a wholesale book dealer to deliver to the university library the actual physical copies of currently published scholarly books so that they may be seen, assessed and selected by the library and teaching faculty. Those selected are retained and added to the library's collection; those not selected are returned to the dealer. The advant-

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ages of such a plan are speed of acquisition, automatic acquisition of "standard" desiderata which avoids time-consuming ordering activities for things known to be wanted, and the benefits of being able to see and handle the book itself.

Although the crucial need for an increase of funds for library books at Notre Dame is unquestionable, acquisition priorities and methods are very important in determining how well the available funds can be made to serve the library needs of the faculty and students. University librarians in the expansive 1960's, with book budgets to match their universities' proliferating programs and enrollments, found this out. The approval plan was one means they used to meet the challenge of acquiring current books quickly, and this technique has been continued and has responded well to changing conditions in university libraries. Even in our present climate of restricted budgets, a recent survey of 18 major libraries in the Association of Research Libraries revealed that all used some variety of approval plan to obtain U.S. and foreign books.

Notre Dame's Approval Program began on July 1, 1979. The University Libraries will receive automatically through Ballen Booksellers current English language books published by a selected list of U.S. and Canadian publishers or distributors, provided those books are of academic quality and fit a description of our subject interests called a "profile." The profile, developed last Spring in consultation with Library Faculty Liaison Officers and representatives of the academic departments, draws a schematic outline of the publication needs of the University's teaching and research activities. It excludes exact reprints, fiction and poetry (except for critical editions), paperbound editions, musical scores, legal case books or programmed texts, books published during the first half of 1979, and all material in areas where Notre Dame has no program (medicine, agriculture, education, social work, etc.). In addition it eliminates certain aspects of fields where we pur- chase very selectively. The Library of Congress classification schedules provide the structure around which the Approval Program profile is built.

Upon receipt, the Approval Program books will be placed on shelves in Room 122 in the Memorial Library for a period of two weeks and members of the Teaching and Research Faculty are urged to review them. In some cases we will continue to receive notification slips from the book dealer rather than the actual books. These will be popular works, heavily illustrated volumes, and books peripheral to our major interests and we may order any of them if the book seems sufficiently relevant to our collection. Detailed procedures of the Approval Program are available from each academic department's Library Liaison Officer who can also provide additional information about book ordering.

If the goals of the Approval Program are to be achieved, the University Libraries must establish a close working relationship with the dealer. The incoming books must be examined in the light of the stated profile and reasons for rejection made explicit. The staff of the Collection Development Office can fulfill this obligation only with the help of the teaching faculty, who must give the librarians their expert opinion on books in their respective fields. Certainly, our judgments will be aided by seeing the book itself rather than an advertisement. A variety of viewpoints may contribute to the final decision to retain or return a book, since the Approval Program is designed to provide books for all the University Libraries, for freshmen as well as the professors. After the first several months in which out-of-scope titles are identified, we hope to attain a return rate of 10% or less.

Typically, in monitoring an approval plan, libraries are concerned less with what arrives than with what does not arrive. Some publishers are notorious for announcing titles long before their actual appearance and occasionally seem
almost reluctant to produce the actual book (a situation which creates problems for dealers as well as libraries). As time passes, the Collection Development Office will be checking book reviews and lists from dealers other than our own to insure that the Ballen Company is on the mark. While one ultimate advantage of the Approval Program is the saving of time to faculty and librarians in routinely checking publishers' catalogs and writing orders for each title wanted, we urge you, in the beginning, to continue to submit orders for specific titles which you need. If they have been published since July 1, 1979 and are within the scope of the Approval Program, we will obtain them.

Maureen L. Gleason

A FIVE YEAR PLAN for the UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

The initiation of this newsletter is perhaps an appropriate occasion to report briefly on the current state of the University Libraries and on the status of planning to remedy our shortcomings. The many reports and discussions on the University Libraries at Notre Dame over the past few years all seem to agree that significant improvements in the University Libraries are required if Notre Dame is to achieve the excellence it seeks. The collections overall are very modest for a university with comprehensive doctoral pretensions and individual subject areas all too often lack a significant proportion of the literature actively needed for research by faculty and graduate students. Although not highlighted frequently, the physical condition of existing collections is quite poor and requires some fairly immediate and broad-based action. The services of the University Libraries are modest, traditionally oriented and deficient in the qualities enabling students and faculty to make maximum use of information resources available here and elsewhere.

The University has responded to these problems in a variety of ways, including the use of non-library funds to purchase major specialized collections. In addition, the Campaign for Notre Dame includes a goal of $10 million to expand library endowment. While these actions have been a significant help to the Libraries and can do much to overcome their deficiencies, there has been lacking a coherent, commonly accepted outline for the development of the University Libraries.

Since the Libraries' deficiencies adversely affect the ability of the University to continue to attract, retain and support high quality students and faculty, the University Libraries with the assistance of the Faculty Committee for University Libraries and the Libraries' external Advisory Council, have been engaged in developing a five-year improvement program designed to bring the collections, facilities and services up to an appropriate standard for a major university research library. Although details are still being worked on, the program focuses on improving bibliographical access, initiating a systematic preservation program, increasing the general growth rate of the collections, improving general and specialized assistance to students and researchers, and upgrading the physical facilities and equipment in the Libraries, including automation of the library circulation system.

Various aspects of the development plan will be discussed in greater detail in these pages and in other University forums in the months ahead. At this point it is important to recognize that despite inadequacies, some of which are major, the
University Libraries generally are sound and provide a solid base for the development of a first-rate university library. It is also important to bear in mind at this point that careful, long-range planning is as important for the achievement of that goal as additional dollars. That planning cannot be effective and appropriate unless there is significant input from all segments of the University -- particularly from the faculty and students, the Libraries primary clientele. Therefore in closing, I would again urge that readers of this message not hesitate to bring to our attention problems and specific needs.

Robert C. Miller

THE NOTRE DAME MAIN BUILDING: FACT AND SYMBOL, 1879-1979

An Exhibit in the Memorial Library

Celebrations of historical events are important in any society. They serve as reminders of the past incidents formative of our present situation, give us clues to our character, and provide us with occasions to come together in community. In our own history as a university, no event occupies so high a place as the Great Fire of 1879 and the subsequent, rapid recovery and rebuilding. One hundred years ago, on April 23, 1879, the second of Notre Dame's Main Buildings burned, in the kind of conflagration that so demoralized other nineteen-century institutions that they never recovered. But, in a remarkable reconstruction effort, another Main Building rose in its place, grander and more long-lived than either of the two earlier ones, and opened when school resumed in September.

It is this building, later to be capped with a golden dome, that has since symbolized the University and its strivings. And it is in celebration of its centennial that the University Archives has mounted its first major exhibit since the time of James Edwards, first University Archivist. Last Spring, on April 23rd, Dr. Thomas Schlereth of the Department of American Studies delivered a lecture on the Main Building, identifying what he thought were the important functions of this structure in both our past and present. Using Schlereth's interpretive schema as a model, a collection of manuscripts, artifacts and photographs was gathered together by the Archives as an exhibit bearing Schlereth's lecture title, which is also the title of this article. The exhibit will be on display in the seven cases of the Memorial Library Concourse, September through December, 1979. Using its own materials and borrowing from several other sources on the campus, the Archives has presented a history of the University, centered on the building which has served it almost from the beginning as more than just an office building or dormitory or library. The "Dome" has been the meeting house of the community, the place of reception and departure, prayer and protest. Having been all of that to student and staff, it remains to the mind's eye of visitor and alumnus alike the symbol of the University.

Each of the exhibit cases focuses on an aspect of the story. The first case, "Before There Was a University," tells of our pre-history -- the land of Indians, pioneers and missionaries where, from its earliest days, the place called Notre Dame was a place from which man reached out to serve his fellow man. Following the first missionaries, men like Fathers Badin and Petit, came the Congregation of Holy Cross to begin their university in the wilds of northern Indiana. Case two, "The Dream A-Building," develops the story through the Great Fire years, the years of building and striving that ended in

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ashes. Yet, as one of the large central
displays, "Building a Bigger Dream,"
starkly attests, the University continued
and prospered. Visual evidence of the
fire and reconstruction is limited;
the only traces of either, rare stereo-
graphs and one photograph, are on display
in these last two cases.

Since the building has seen so large a
variety of uses in its one hundred years,
the other central display case, "Those
Were the Days... Under the Dome," shows
some of this range: commissary, dormitory,
office space, library, museum, artists'
studio. To complement its uses, of
course, are the people who have lived and
worked there. "A Facade With Many Faces,"
features a number of these unique per-
sonalities, like Herman H. B. Lange,
C.S.C., reputedly the world's fourth
strongest man. Featured also are lay
faculty, religious sisters and individ-
uals who have both applauded and pro-
tested their country's foreign policies
from the steps of the Main Building. In
the Archives pays tribute to the man who
was chosen by Father Sorin, in a nation-
wide competition, to design the building
that would make manifest Sorin's bigger
dream. Edbrooke's massive structures
span the country and those pictured in
this case are listed on the National
Register of Historic Places. Finally,
the display, "A Symbol For . . .," col-
lects many of the artistic and commercial
representations of the Main Building,
showing the hold this edifice has on our
imagination.

The centennial is an appropriate time
to salute this fine, old building, and to
remind everyone of its people and its
history, so vitally and integrally the
University's. A commemorative pamphlet,
composed of Dr. Schlereth's lecture of
last spring and illustrations from the
exhibit, is available for purchase, 607
Memorial Library. The University Ar-
chives, considered the University's
memory bank, is proud to be a small part
of this centennial celebration, and proud
too of its participation in the life of
the community.

Peter J. Lombardo

CHESTERTONIANS OF NOTRE DAME

Organizational Meeting

The first meeting of the Chestertonians
of Notre Dame was held on September 12,
1979 at the University Club to explore
the possibility of forming a Notre Dame
chapter of the International Chesterton
Society. Attention was also given to
preparations for a 50th anniversary cele-
bration of G.K.C.'s famous lectures which
took place at Notre Dame in the Fall and
Spring Terms of 1930-31, an historic visit.
It was suggested that a special symposium
or series of lectures be given to honor the
anniversary in October or November 1980.

The initial membership of the Chesterton
group which is taking shape includes Rev.
James T. Burchaell, C.S.C., Edward Cronin,
Thomas J. Jemielity, Anton C. Masin,
Charles W. McCollister, Ralph M. McInerny,
Rufus W. Rauch, Thomas J. Stritch, Rev.
Leo R. Ward, C.S.C., Richard J. Thompson,
Thomas Werge, Stephen T. Worland, and
Mrs. Florence Yeandel. Anyone wishing to
support or actively participate in the
new Chesterton program can contact Rufus
W. Rauch, professor emeritus of English.

Anton C. Masin
The Library of Congress Shelflist on microfiche and the fifteen-volume Combined Indexes to the Library of Congress Classification Schedules have recently been received in the Memorial Library.

The entire shelflist of the Library of Congress, a total of over 6.5 million cards, is represented on 3,229 microfiche. Together with the Combined Indexes, which are in a book format, the shelflist provides a new type of access to the Library of Congress collections that is invaluable to the cataloging staff of any library using the Library of Congress classification system. In addition, the shelflist can be used with the Combined Indexes as a unique bibliographical tool. The indexes provide subject access to the shelflist, which can then be searched for works in the classed array of the schedules. Access to the shelflist classification is by literary author, geographical name and subject keyword. The entire Library of Congress reference system is available for use in the Cataloging Department in the Memorial Library.

When the NYPL's automated book cataloging system was put into operation in January 1972, it became possible to divide the libraries' collections as of that editorial date. The Dictionary Catalog, 1911-1971 represents the holdings of the Research Libraries as they were developed from 1895 to 1971. A major part of the collections is represented in this catalog and constitutes a great national resource.

Although the holdings of the Research Libraries of the NYPL have been reported to the National Union Catalog in the Library of Congress since early in this century, the Dictionary Catalog will have special value as a bibliographical resource. It is unique in that it is a dictionary catalog, containing subject entries as well as entries under author and title. In addition, the work contains other types of entries not found in the National Union Catalog, particularly entries for parts of books, book sets, and index entries for journal articles. Also found are series entries for monographs in series.

A detailed description of the Research Libraries of the NYPL can be found in its publication Guide to the Research Collections of the New York Public Library, compiled by Sam P. Williams (See: Ref. Z 733 .N6W54).

Judy Sterling