An Open Letter to Bob Miller*

Mr. Robert C. Miller  
Director, University Libraries  
221G Hesburgh Library  
Notre Dame, IN 46556

Dear Bob,

As you prepare to take leave of the University, I want to thank you for your substantial assistance over the years. In 1985, when I was considering coming to Notre Dame, I was most interested in what our relationship might be. I knew that a law library director colleague writing a decade earlier had said: “The unwary law librarian who, innocently and without guile, throws himself and his staff into the game of close cooperation with the university library system faces a numbing enlightenment when he comes face to face with the ... [disadvantages of such cooperation].” (James F. Bailey, III, The Autonomous Law School Library; What It Can Mean To You, 68 Law Library Journal 274, 285 (1975)). I wondered if this advice to avoid dealings with the university library was being heeded at Notre Dame because it seemed clear that law librarians had very little, if any, contact with the librarians in the University Libraries. I was fearful that communications between the libraries had so withered as to have more or less permanently handicapped any opportunity for strong cooperation between the two units.

I immediately discovered that you would not be a party to continued estrangement if the law library had the slightest interest in cooperation. You may not recall, but at our earliest meetings, while I was still a candidate, you enthusiastically supported my interest in Notre Dame and pledged that you would be a willing ally in any effort to improve library collection strength and services for the entire University. At the time I appreciated your kind words, but I admit that it occurred to me that I should expect such comments from the director of University Libraries supporting the efforts of an important school as it attempted to fill a senior position. Bob, 11 years later, I want to attest to the strength of your earlier pledge and recall how your continuing interest and encouragement benefitted not only the law library and its school but the campus as well.

Shortly after my arrival, your warm and enthusiastic invitation to take part in all the activities of the University Libraries helped ease my transition into the Notre Dame community. Early and direct involvement with library faculty, the library management...continued on page 2

*On January 31, 1997, after some 18 years of service, Robert C. Miller will retire as director of the University Libraries of Notre Dame. In recognition of his tenure as director, we are publishing this tribute from Professor Roger Jacobs, associate dean and director of the Kresge Library of the Notre Dame Law School. This issue of Access is dedicated to Bob and his wife, Jeanne, with best wishes from everyone at the University Libraries for a long and happy retirement. (Photo: Notre Dame Photographic)
group, the Friends of the Library and your advisory council impressed on me the culture of research and service that you and your colleagues were attempting to bring to the campus. Moreover, when you took the extra time to insure my participation in relevant agenda topics, you gave me the opportunity to become an engaged member of the library community more quickly than ever would have been possible on my own.

Among your most significant initiatives was to encourage the law library to join the University in the implementation of NOTIS which, as UNLOC, became the bibliographic centerpiece of library organization. Admittedly, while the legal collection was not the strongest in the nation, it did possess some 30,000 unique titles that, if cataloged, could be beneficial to campus-wide users. Without any standardized classification scheme or machine-readable records, however, the law library was totally unprepared to contribute to the University’s efforts in applying NOTIS to its collections. With your advice, and more particularly with active University Libraries’ support, the law library was able to convert its card catalog to a machine-readable format capable of incorporation by UNLOC. Additionally, in order to foster continuing transfer of bibliographic information, and to insure that law library patrons could effectively use the resources of the Hesburgh Library, you arranged for the law library to be included in the Notre Dame library network. As a direct result of your leadership the entire academic community finally had unified access to the holdings of all libraries on campus.

Other matters where your leadership directly involved the law library was our continuing relationship with the Center for Research Libraries, OCLC and its Indiana affiliate, INCOLSA, and the Association of Research Libraries. By giving us the opportunity to pool our resources with those of the University Libraries you placed the massive resources of the Center for Research Libraries within the interlibrary loan reach of the law library. Your leadership role in INCOLSA, and through it access to the services and the massive bibliographic files of OCLC, has allowed the University Libraries, including the law library, to share the cataloging output of thousands of institutions, thereby insuring increased productivity without commensurate institutional costs. It has also dramatically fostered interlibrary borrowing to the benefit of the entire scholarly community. Your support of University Libraries’ membership in the Association of Research Libraries and inviting the law library to take part where appropriate, assures the Notre Dame community that the libraries on campus have access to the plethora of management and data services provided by this association – information, as you know, that very much informed the recent decisions of University officers to enhance library resources.

Even after a decade of working with you, I find your library leadership impressive. I personally have never met a library director with a greater commitment to university service or with a greater desire to effectively use the resources of the institution to build a superior library. Never have I met a library administrator whose style of management so artfully blended the hierarchical model of library administration with the collegial model of academic participation. I know few librarians of our generation who could best you on the methods of applying new technologies to library operations and on understanding the implications of these developments for the future. Notwithstanding your appreciation of the value of technology, your unrelenting advocacy of the book is admirable: acquiring the facsimile reprint of the Book of Kells, the purchase of the complete Penguin editions, and the establishment of a major book preservation facility are just some of your more recent achievements.

Bob, if there was just one of your talents I could emulate, it would be your efforts to communicate the story of the library to its many diverse interest groups: Mosaic, the newsletter for the Libraries’ staff; Access, the newsletter addressed to the University community, the Libraries’ friends and colleague institutions throughout the country; the retreats and planning days for librarians and library staff; the publication of the minutes of your several advisory and management groups; ads and letters to the students in the Observer; and the many activities of the Friends of the Library at Notre Dame. In these and other fora you have engaged the library staff and the community of library users in a profitable, continuing dialog that has led to an articulation of the mission, goals and strategies of library service at Notre Dame.

For slightly more than a decade I have had the pleasure to work with a singularly talented and dedicated librarian and mentor. I will dearly miss your counsel, your enthusiasm, your vision, your friendship.

Warm personal regards,

[Signature]
Roger F. Jacobs
Associate Dean
Professor of Law
Notre Dame Acquires Library of José Durand  
by Katharina J. Blackstead

Through the generosity of the Tom and Dottie Corson family of Middlebury, Indiana, the University Libraries have acquired a major research collection focusing on colonial Latin American history and intellectual history. While private libraries come on the market with some regularity, few have the quality or the significance of the collection which was assembled over a period of 40 years by the late José Durand, professor of Spanish at the University of California at Berkeley. While the acquisition of this library in itself constitutes a great step forward in collection building at the University, the Durand Library has the added appeal of supporting a wide range of disciplines targeted for expansion at the University and of filling in critical gaps in existing library collections in the humanities.

The Collection

Rich in content and multidisciplinary in nature, the Durand Library reflects the wide and far-reaching scholarly pursuits of its creator, who dedicated most of his professional life to the study of García Inca de la Vega, a classic writer of the Spanish Golden Age period. While reconstructing the library of this literary giant, Durand amassed a collection that boasts three, possibly four incunabula, 515 16th-century, 222 17th-century, 240 18th-century and 182 19th-century monographs. This “Biblioteca del Inca” includes works by Italian Renaissance authors such as Petrarch, Boccaccio and Ariosto, as well as works by major Portuguese and Latin poets such as Camões and Virgil. It is strong in chronicles, both Spanish and Spanish American, and is a treasure trove of early editions of works by Spanish American authors from the 16th to the 18th centuries. And that is only the beginning.

Included in the library also are collections (for the most part, complete) of literary and historical magazines and newspapers primarily from the 19th century. These valuable and rare periodicals are indispensable for the study of various aspects of that century. There are 19 unpublished manuscripts of literary and historical themes; one of them seems to be the only existing copy of an extensive literary work written in Peru in the early 17th century entitled “Tragicomedia de la Ystoria de Joseph.” Easily several hundred pamphlets, varying in length from a few pages to around a hundred and dated from the 18th to the 19th centuries, deal with literary, historical and political matters. Several hundred broadsheets in the library deal with a variety of subjects. There are government documents and historical treatises. Of special interest is a substantial quantity of loose sheets containing poetry, such as “romances” and “décimas,” (both printed and in manuscript) which Durand was gathering for his project on early Latin American poetry. There are over ten colonial "loas," a rare literary sub-genre.

While all the above-cited materials are very rare, another true gem in this library is a collection of many issues of Gaceta de Lima, which represents one of Durand’s most impressive research endeavors in recent years. The oldest newspaper of Latin America, the Gaceta was started around 1744 and soon disappeared from circulation. Only a few out-of-sequence numbers have been located (in the John Carter Brown, Yale, Lilly, Bancroft and Dunbar Temple’s collections). Many years ago, Durand began to compile these issues, with extraordinary results, and amassed the most complete collection of the Gaceta known. Having recently published three large volumes of facsimiles, Durand had planned six volumes of the Gaceta altogether, a task that was left unfinished; many issues that were to be included remain in his library and add immeasurably to its value. As it stands, Durand’s pioneer work with the Gaceta de Lima contains particularly useful information about the history of journalism and for the reconstruction of the period as a whole. For example, diverse facets of the Enlightenment movement in Spanish America, including the history of ideas, biographies, literature and art, the economy, demography, etc., can now be studied.

Lastly, interspersed throughout the collection of modern texts is an appreciable quantity of very valuable first editions of major contemporary Latin American authors, many effusively dedicated to Durand.

The Collection in the Notre Dame Context

The Durand Library has found a perfect fit at the University of Notre Dame, where it can serve as an invaluable enhancement to a planned Ph.D. program in Romance languages and literatures. The Durand Library will also lend support to Spanish literature and history, areas where current library resources are quite limited and to many other disciplines in the humanities, among them history, medieval studies, art and literature. Intellectually compatible with the broad range of area studies programs at the University, the José Durand Library constitutes another nationally significant library collection at the University of Notre Dame to which the community of scholars will gravitate.

Next Steps

The Libraries are committed to ensuring the visibility and use of this magnificent collection. Supported by "The Tom and Dottie Corson Family Program for the Durand Collection," we are undertaking a variety of promotional activities centered around the library of José Durand. To date, these have included plans for a major World Wide Web initiative; an exhibit entitled "A Humanist Library: The Durand Collection: The European Renaissance/Baroque and the New World," which is currently on display in the Department of Special Collections; and two lectures. The first of these, "The Significance of the José Durand Collection at Notre Dame," was presented at the library’s dedication on September 18 by Professor José Anadon of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures. Professor Anadon was instrumental in the initial discovery of the collection’s availability and was the force behind the pursuit of its acquisition by Notre Dame. Speaking to an audience which included members of the Corson family, Anadon emphasized eloquently the depth and richness of the collection and the
possibilities it presents to the University. The second lecture, "The Diffusion of Books and Ideas in Colonial Peru: A Study of Private Libraries," was given by Teodoro Hampe Martínez, professor of history, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, on October 23. Hampe Martínez discussed the book trade which flourished in colonial Peru despite close scrutiny of the import of printed materials by representatives of the Inquisition. Started by Italians in the mid-16th century, the bookselling business became very lucrative for European printers and publishers who profited from the markups applied at each stage of the long journey their books took from ports in Europe to various destinations in the New World. The result of this thriving trade was a number of surprisingly large private libraries in colonial Peru which have been the focus of Hampe Martínez’ recent research.

Future initiatives, resources allowing, will include not only further exhibits and lectures, but further development of the collection, the publication of books, the hosting of conferences and symposia and publication of their proceedings, the development of research programs for outside scholars and a host of other related activities.*

*Many thanks to Professor José Anadon for his generous assistance in providing background material for this article.

## Developing Collections Through Approval Plans

by J. Douglas Archer

Until 1980 most books purchased by the University Libraries were acquired one at a time. Each item was identified, selected and ordered individually, involving significant expenditure of time and effort. That changed dramatically in 1979-80 with the establishment of an approval plan for English-language titles currently in print.

Ideally an approval plan is an arrangement between a library and a wholesaler or distributor which allows the library to receive all currently published books which meet the library’s specified criteria – while returning only those items which are not wanted. The trick is to carefully and clearly define the plan. A perfect plan would have no returns and no titles missed.

Though never perfect, a well drawn and well administered plan can significantly improve the library’s collection development efforts. New titles are received expeditiously. Books are identified which might otherwise be missed. Items are purchased which might have gone out of print before being identified. Users and librarians have a chance to examine books before they are actually purchased and, in the process, to heighten their awareness of recent publications in their disciplines and in related fields. And much of the time and effort formerly expended can be focused on other aspects of collection development, such as building retrospective collections, preservation initiatives and locating those materials which are not included in the approval plan’s profile. One more benefit is the larger discounts applied to the price of approval plan books.

In 1979 the University Libraries negotiated an approval plan with Ballen Booksellers, a major American vendor of academic books. The plan covered English language titles published in the United States and a few published in Canada in most disciplines of importance to the University. With much fine tuning it served us reasonably well for over a decade. For example, though most university presses have relatively short press runs, very few university press books relevant to our programs have eluded us since 1980.

Encouraged by the success of this general approval plan, several subject librarians and liaisons working with the Acquisitions Department have arranged specialized approval plans for specific disciplines, languages or countries not included in our general U.S. plan. At present there are 17 such plans covering 13 different areas. These include art and music subject plans; German, French, Irish, Polish, Russian and Spanish language plans; and country plans for Israel, Argentina, Chile, Brazil and Uruguay.

In 1995 Ballen Booksellers was purchased by Blackwell North America, Inc. (BNA). Mergers and buyouts make for interesting times for customers. In our case the results have been very positive. BNA is the leading vendor of approval plans in the United States, servicing a majority of the members of the Association of Research Libraries. Its specialty is comprehensive plans for university libraries. It maintains a nearly complete list of North American publishers. At present over 1,100 of them are included in our plan’s profile. The change in approval plan dealer provided an excellent opportunity to review the "profile" which determines what will be shipped automatically, to better fit Notre Dame’s academic requirements. Those requirements are defined by subject fields and subfields and by non-subject parameters such as academic level, type of publication, format, etc. We do not receive reprints, serials, lower level textbooks (with a few exceptions), nor volumes costing more than $125. All books retained are charged to a general fund while those selected on forms are charged to subject allocations or endowments. During our first full fiscal year with BNA we received 14,674 items and kept 12,450 of them. Since shipments are displayed on a biweekly basis (except during Christmas vacation), there are usually over 500 new titles on display in the approval room by Monday afternoon of each new cycle.

Faculty may review these new titles from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, throughout the two-week period. No appointment or prior arrangements are necessary. Maria Lottridge, Collection Development Department technical assistant, and Carla Ross, Acquisitions Department receiving coordinator, have primary responsibility for approval plans and will normally be available to answer questions. This display system allows reviewers to examine titles of interest to them and to record their recommendation with as little fuss as
possible. In addition to being able to make certain that a given title will be purchased or to alert us to inappropriate items, reviewers have the opportunity to see the latest publications in their fields of concentration and in neighboring subjects. Finally, by filling out "hold" forms, reviewers may have titles held for them after the items have been purchased and cataloged.

For a variety of reasons including cost and the peripheral nature of some subjects, many titles which may be of potential interest to us are described on standard forms rather than being physically shipped. These form selections are also available for review in the approval room. They serve as a buffer or filter for those titles which are neither clearly in or out of profile.

Anyone with questions about the BNA approval plan or any of the more specialized plans is welcome to contact Joseph Huebner, head of the Collection Development Department at 631-5953 or to contact his or her department’s subject librarian or liaison. The web address for the Collection Development Department’s homepage (which contains a link to a full list of disciplines and their assigned subject librarians or liaisons) is:

http://www.nd.edu/~coldev/

To find the approval room itself, upon entering the Hesburgh Library and passing through the turnstiles, walk past the circulation desk through the double doors into the reference area and make an immediate right turn. Walk along the circulation unit past its side door to the next doorway on the right. There should be a standard identifying the room and indicating the dates of the current display. You are welcome to visit the display, make recommendations and offer suggestions at your convenience.

Libraries Welcome
Carole Richter
by Marsha Stevenson

On November 4, 1996 Carole Richter joined the faculty of the University Libraries in the capacity of electronic reference services librarian. This newly established position was made possible through the increased financial resources made available to the Libraries as a result of the Colloquy for the Year 2000 reports and recommendations.

Richter is based in Hesburgh Library’s Reference Department, where she will work at the reference desk and participate in staff and user instruction activities. The main focus of her job, however, will be to provide expertise and leadership in the area of electronic services. She will plan and coordinate access to existing resources, work cooperatively with others to develop services and tools, recommend refinements to current access mechanisms and investigate new directions for the Reference Department to pursue.

The Libraries will benefit from Richter’s previous experience as electronic services librarian at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. While there she developed both formal and informal current awareness sessions, targeted for teaching faculty and focusing on new developments in electronic information products and techniques. She received a university grant to coordinate a two-day Faculty Internet Workshop in spring 1996, and despite its being held on Saturdays, she had to turn applicants away from the oversubscribed sessions!

Richter’s earlier professional positions include an appointment as automation coordinator with the Michigan Library Consortium and another in the Reference and Information Technology Department at Northern Kentucky University. Through these and other work experiences she has developed very substantial, hands-on experience with microcomputer hardware and software.

Richter holds two master’s degrees from Indiana University in Bloomington: one in library science, the other in history, with a Russian language minor. She holds an undergraduate degree from Coe College, where she graduated magna cum laude with memberships in Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi. Her current professional interests are evident in a recent article she co-authored which is entitled "IAC and UMI Go Head to Head: A Comparison of Full Text Periodical Databases in Academic Libraries," which appeared in the July-August 1996 issue of Database.

The Libraries are very pleased to add Carole Richter to their faculty and invite you to make her acquaintance. Her office is in 108 Hesburgh Library, just off the main Reference Room.
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