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Lux et Lex: Volume 1, Number 1

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From the Director of Libraries

As the Chester Fritz Library (CFL) enters its fourth decade of service to students, faculty, and the people of North Dakota, we find the need for improved communications with those we serve and those who are interested in and supportive of the University Libraries. Lux et Lex is an effort to improve our communication with UND faculty and friends.

In addition, Lux et Lex provides an opportunity for some of the 115 energetic and innovative people at the Chester Fritz Library and Branches to tell you more about our collections, as well as new acquisitions, current operations and other CFL activities and accomplishments.

For our inaugural issue the editors have selected to showcase monographs from CFL’s Rare Book Collection, as well as, the resources which make up one of our newest collections: maps. Also, this issue contains a special essay on the significance of selecting Lux et Lex as the title for this new CFL publication.

The Co-editors of this inaugural issue are Jon Boone, CFL’s Collection Development Librarian and Sandy Beidler, the newly appointed Head of the Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections.

These two professionals have a key role to play in acquiring published resources which support the teaching, research, and service programs here at UND, for strong research collections do not simply appear on library shelves. Because of their training and experience in selecting materials, evaluating the quality and use of collections, as well as familiarity and knowledge of many scholars who use our collections, these two bibliophiles were asked to be responsible for the first edition of Lux et Lex.

I hope you will take a few minutes to browse through this inaugural issue. Also, I hope that this publication will help to improve our communications with our various clients and friends and inspire greater use of the rich and varied collections located in the Chester Fritz Library and its six branches.

— Frank A. D’Andraia, Director of Libraries

What’s in a name?

It is particularly fitting that “Lux et Lex” has been selected as the name of Chester Fritz Library’s new publication. The Latin phrase, which literally translates as “light and law,” is the motto inscribed on the University of North Dakota seal. For the Library, its significance lies in the motto’s elaboration in 1960 for the inscription text prominently displayed in the Library’s lobby. The story of its selection is an interesting one.

Chester Fritz, born in Buxton, North Dakota in 1892, attended the University of North Dakota from 1908 to 1910. He made his fortune as an international financier. Never forgetting his beginnings, Fritz made his first generous gift to the University in 1958, one million dollars for a new library building. Fritz’s aunt, Kathryn Tiffany, UND alumna and retired English professor from
Maps of the World

In June of 1990, the Chester Fritz Library officially opened its new Map Room located in Room 220 in the east wing of the second floor. The 14 by 22 foot room contains 18 five drawer map cases which house a wide assortment of materials. A number of these materials have come to the Library through a Defense Mapping Agency (DMA) depository collection first located in the Geography Department and later a part of our Regional Government Depository Map collection.

The majority of the maps are historical topographic maps with smaller collections charting the Development of Navigation. Some materials focus on particular places and even whole continents. The Library has a strong Geographic De formation System (SDS) numbers, identify a map set using one of two forms of designation. Form A is a four number code and Form B is made up of a letter and three numbers. As an example in our local collection, set 1205 is the cover sheet for the USGS of a scale of 1:4,000, with a revision date of 1953 (drawer 6). Set 5061 is for Haapsalu, Estonia, at a much smaller scale of 1:250,000. It was compiled from a number of map sources from the early 1940's (drawer 46).

The map collection is large, covers virtually every country completely or in part, and in some cases, displays particular cities or regions. As an example of the set 5061, the Philippine Islands are covered in series SO41 at 150,000, and in series S041 at 1:250,000. Mindanoa, in series 9651, has been mapped at 1:50,000 and Laranon, in 5721, at a 1:50,000 (drawer 50).

The detail and overall quality of these maps is very high. They offer a wealth of information, as well as political and geographical use, in considering the history of a nation.

Detailed map coverage of the United States has been achieved by the Army Map Service. For completion in 1950, 57,545 maps on a scale of 1:24,000 will cover the entire United States in great detail. At the University of North Dakota, this collection is housed in the Geology Library. The total map collection in the Geography Library exceeds 150,000 items.

Hours for the Map Room are the same as those for the main library. The Reference desk in the Library can assist those interested in using these materials. Maps can be checked out for a one week period at the circulation desk. Through the use of these large collections, the academic world has access to some of the best contemporary mapping available.

Sanborn Maps

The Elyon B. Robinson Department of Special Collections is the only repository in the state which houses a unique set of Sanborn's Fire Insurance Maps. The Library of Congress retains a complete set of Sanborn maps for each state in the nation. Beginning in 1855, it offered its duplicate sets of libraries in various locations. The Chester Fritz Library considers itself fortunate to own a set of Sanborn Maps for North Dakota. They cover fifty-three cities within the state and were primarily done before 1890. New maps are updated every four to six years.

Sanborn Map Company of Fallham, New York, produced maps for the fire insurance industry which accurately plotted properties and fire fighting facilities in a given city. Each map is a detailed technical drawing showing information which allowed an insurance agent to determine the fire hazard of a particular property and assess a premium. These maps contain a wealth of information of features about a building; size, shape, and construction material, location of doorways, windows, and fire walls, and other information useful to insurance agents. The maps mark fire hydrants and identify building use and names of streets. One interesting feature is the use of hand-colored trending lines to denote the construction material of a property. Pink stands for brick, yellow for frame, blue for stone, gray for iron, and olive for adobe.

Today's researchers utilize the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps primarily to study change. The maps document the changing facades of American cities over time. They show changes in the construction materials used for buildings; functional changes of properties; and, structural changes of individual dwellings. They remain a unique, historical record.

Rare Books at the Chester Fritz Library

A book is generally thought to be "rare" if it possesses one of a number of unique characteristics, or a combination of such characteristics. A rare book might be autographed, edition, the aesthetics of binding, or historical significance. Although the Rare Book Collection at the Chester Fritz Library is not large, it still possesses many important academic works, as well as rare editions of such novels and short stories that at least one of the rare qualifying characteristics. Four rare items have been chosen for brief description, for almost no other reason than this selector's interest in the historical and scientific content. They serve, however, as useful examples of what one may find in the collection.

Jeremy Collier (1672-1715) is primarily remembered as the author of A Short View of the Immorality, and the Profaneness of the English Stage, Together with the Sense of Antiquity upon this Argument. We have in the rare books section of the library what purports to be the first edition of this work, dating from 1698. Although the cataloging information indicated it to be a later edition, the National Union Catalog lists the first edition, the National Union Catalog lists the first edition.

Catalog (NUC) number 53450, was warmly praised by Dr. Johnson. He is one of the few poets added to the Library of the English as Johnson's own choice. Blackmore, who was physician to Queen Anne, produced "some indifferent poems of great length," (ODN) which was so warmly praised by po; in the dedicatory letter, for his "sonorous strain." The inclusion of Blackmore's work in this brief discussion, however, rests mainly on the fact that this is the first example of the publication in London, "Printed for S. Buckley, at the Daniel in Little-Britain; and J. Tonson, at Shakespeare's Head Over-Against Catherine-Street." It is the physical book itself, that object from over 200 years before we were born, that excites the imagination.

In very similar introduction to some of the unusual items in the Chester Fritz Library, I have left free to borrow information from the NUC and the BNF without precise citation. Scholars should be able to find the background information indicated along with much additional information in numerous locations. It is the physical book itself, that object from over 200 years before we were born, that excites the imagination.

The rare books section of any library is a new world of fantastic wonders. It would be past experience to mention. However, in this section of the collection, houses over 700 titles. Not all, of course, are as old as the four hundred years. A few works are dated even prior to these four hundred years. They all possess, however, in one way or another, one or more of those interesting characteristics so cherished by book lovers.

Bibliographic information is readily available for all of the rare books in the Chester Fritz Library through the online cataloging system, ODN. While these materials must be handled with extreme care, they are available for scholarly and academic use. One or another of the rusty dust of old leather and the well preserved quality of old paper to peruse this collection from the past.
reflected upon, debated, and "re-read and re-read without becoming trite."

At the same time, however, Starcher had sent Tiffany an entirely different possibility, "Beacon o'er our western land." This is a line from the "Alma Mater," UND's school song composed by John Macnie in 1908, the University's silver anniversary year. Tiffany's reaction was most favorable, except for one reservation. She questioned whether it was not more appropriate for the University as a whole. She writes, "It looks a little like taking prestige and distinction from the University as a whole and pinning it especially on the Library—though we know the library is a pretty important part of any university."

By the middle of January 1961, both Starcher and Tiffany agreed that the "Beacon" line would be more suitable for the new Administration building, for which ground would be broken in June. They reasoned that it came "nearest to being the all-University building on the campus." Their thought was carried out later only in part. A plaque rests at the base of the Old Main Memorial Sphere, dedicated in 1964 and adjacent to Twamley Hall. Besides the names of University Presidents, the last half of the first stanza of the "Alma Mater," which includes the "Beacon" line, completes the dedicatory inscription.

The Chester Fritz Library was dedicated on October 13, 1961. St. Clair's eloquent words, "By the light of knowledge, men read the laws of life," graced not only the dedication program, but also the tiled panel above the second floor lobby doors. In bronze letters, they have lent inspiration to several decades of Library patrons.

There is an addendum to the story. A major addition to the Chester Fritz Library was dedicated October 9, 1982. Again the dedication program carried St. Clair's composition, except for one revision. "We" replaced "men" in the text. The impetus for the alteration came from another English professor, Sandy Donaldson, and reflected changed societal perceptions. She conveyed to Ed Warner, Library Director, her strong feelings that a change in the physical structure of the library building was an appropriate time to make a change in the language which lent inspiration to the building.

Warner was receptive to Donaldson's argument. If today one looks closely at the inscription text in the second floor lobby, now on wood instead of tile, one can visualize a different spacing after the word "we." The change was made; the "n" was removed and the "m" became a "w." Donaldson loosened the text's restrictive terms and broadened its universality. It was the latter which Katherine Tiffany found so appealing when she endorsed the use of St. Clair's elaboration of "Lux et Lex." (from the Katherine Tiffany Papers, OGL #266, Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections and interview with Sandy Donaldson, November 15, 1990) — SB