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From the Director of Libraries

Last year was a very busy time for the Chester Fritz Library. Our records indicate that more than 180,000 items were circulated, or 70,000 more items than the year before. During September, our turnstiles recorded traffic counts of 40,000 people passing through our doors. In October, the figure increased to 50,000 and during the first two weeks of November, an average of 3,000 individuals a day went through the turnstiles.

This fall, the Library expanded the number of hours it is open to 86 which represents a 4% increase in our operating hours. Beginning spring semester, the hours of operation will again increase. The Library will remain open until midnight, Sunday through Thursday, rather than close at 11:00 p.m. as it does now. The Student Senate is providing the funds to cover the midnight closing on a trial basis. Should traffic warrant, the Library may extend the hours permanently.

Last year saw a modest increase in the number of donations made in support of the Library. In an era of increasing costs and static book budgets, contributions from Alumni and friends have become critical to Library operations. The average price of an academic journal title has increased almost 60% over the last 5 years, $116 in 1987 to $184 in 1991. Although the annual increase in book prices is not as dramatic, comparison of average 1990 prices for hardcovers ($41.95) to those of 1977 ($19.22) are most startling. Such factors obviously restrict our ability to meet the needs of our users.

The Library is continually exploring other opportunities to broaden its funding base. Three grants were secured last year, chief among which was a grant from the 3M Corporation for $80,000. This grant allowed the Chester Fritz Library to become the 67th U.S. Patent and Trademark Depository. The Library received grants from the Canadian Federal Government and the Quebec Provincial authorities to enhance our collection in the area of Canadian studies. We also procured special funds to do some much needed retrospective binding of completed volumes of periodicals, thus ensuring a more permanent and expanded collection. We are proud that our holdings now total more than 600,000 volumes.

In addition, the Library and the Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections were the recipients of several unique gifts this past year. The Grand Forks chapter of the Sons of Norway was particularly generous in their support and presented the Library with the national flag of the Kingdom of Norway. UND alumna, Margaret Anderson Roberts-Howell, donated her private library of myth and fairy tale books, lovingly collected over many years, to the Department of Special Collections.

Next year we have several projects planned that will enhance our existing services and we always appreciate learning what services our users find most beneficial.

Frank A. D'Andrala
Director of Libraries

It's no chess set

The United States Civil War produced some remarkable contributions to American historiography. One of the most interesting items to come out of that bloody conflict was a documentary series that sought to make available to any reader some of the key documents generated by both sides during the fighting. At a time when professional historical editing hardly existed and the historical profession itself was in its infancy, army officers and civilian clerks combined to produce what is properly cited as U.S. War Department, The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. 70 vols. in 128 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1880-1901).

The volumes contain almost 140,000 pages, including maps in an accompanying atlas (not cited), and are arranged in four series. Series I, which comprises a large majority of the set, pertains to military correspondence, returns, reports, orders, and messages of both sides. Series 2, which is eight volumes, pertains to prisons and prisoners on both sides. Series 3 consists of five volumes of Union miscellaneous correspondence, much of it political in nature, and Series 4 includes three volumes of the same sort of Confederate material. The last volume is a general index, but it only refers the user to the appropriate series and volume. The user must then refer to the index of the relevant volume for specific page numbers. Many volumes are so long that they had to be printed in two or three parts, each part in a separate book, hence the cryptic “70 vols. in 128” in the citation.

Although a tired researcher may conclude that surely most of the records of the Civil War must have found their way into this series, that is not the case. Only a very small percentage of war records were reprinted, and in the national Archives in Washington, D.C., these are indicated by an identifying stamp. Many other important documents could not be

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Early North Dakota registered patents

If a man can write a better book, preach a better sermon, or make a better model than his neighbor, it behoves him to build him a house in the woods, the world will make a beneficent path to his door.

Ralph Waldo Emerson's oft quoted reflect a truth as seen in a glance at some of the patents registered from 1890 to 1910 to residents in that part of Dakota Territory which soon to becoming the Sate of North Dakota.

The first patent registered to a North Dakota was a "Stamp-Canceler" assigned to Earnest W. Brenner of Fort Totten, Dakota Territory June 3, 1881. Brenner came to Dakota Territory with General Alfred Terry when Fort Totten was established in the summer of 1867. At that time he was assigned a position as post trader. It would be perhaps in this official capacity that Captain Brenner, together with army clerk, Octave Lacrosse, developed the "Stamp-Canceler" which they patented in 1879. However, according to various accounts of early North Dakota, Earnest Brenner's place in history was secured by a more notorious patent-the patented mental device.

Capitalizing upon the ready market among Fort Totten personnel, Brenner established a crude hardware in which he produced ten hundred bottles of beer a day, but enough was consumed and bootlegged by the soldiers to jeopardize Brenner's career as post trader. After two Fort Totten soldiers froze to death while drinking and another was killed in a Fort brawl, General Trobriand, the area commander, closed the brewery.

Brenner continued his trade in liquor from licensed brewers in the East until Indian Agent, James McLaughlin, who thought the Indian Agency of the Turtle Mountain Reservation. Content to their separation from the military, Earnest Brenner was married to Mary Mulhern, daughter of Pierre Bottineau, and accepted a job in the Indian Agency of the Turtle Mountain Reservation.

The first two patents registered to residents of the newly formed state of North Dakota reflected the economic base of the state. Andrew Drengren of Thompson, was granted patent no. 415,449, November 19, 1889 for a "Carriage and Coupling Car." While most are patents of a practical nature, reflecting what old adage that necessity is the mother of invention, some patented idea illustrate the creativity of man. In the 1890s, as the Territory of Dakota was growing and became more prosperous, the frivolity of patented inventions reflected a new found leisure in Grand Forks.

In 1896, Royal L. Boulter, manager of the Western Union telegraph office in Grand Forks, received a patent for his "Bicycle of Boys' position was in step with the bicycle craze sweeping through the Northern Plains at the time. According to an April 9th, 1894 article in the Grand Forks Herald, "The boat is made of canvas on wooden frames and is very light. The motive power is supplied through a bicycle operating two small propeller wheels. The craft is said to speed through the water like a rocket for instance. Mr. Boulter has been making numerous improvements during the winter and has a big thing on wheels."

From the bootlegger, Captain Earnest W. Brenner, inventor of the first North Dakota patent, to the business man and public servant, General William H. Brown, inventor of the first Grand Forks patent, are inventors with names long forgotten, who held patents both for the man and for the military. Following his separation from the military, Earnest Brenner was married to Mary Bottineau, daughter of Pierre Bottineau, and accepted a job in the Indian Agency of the Turtle Mountain Reservation.

The first patent registered to a resident of the city of Grand Forks, Dakota Territory, was patent no. 254,195, "Hand-Airlock," granted February 28, 1892 to William H. Brown, a Civil War veteran, came to Grand Forks from St. Paul, Minnesota and opened a hardware store in 1877. The city directory for Grand Forks, Dakota Territory, was patent #254,195, December 1991

By Nancy Mulhern and Joan Ruelle

Document's, Patents, and Files of the Chester Fritz Library, "in the University of North Dakota.

Humans are by nature storytellers. Throughout the ages they have recorded their history, lives, and endeavors. Before spoken language had completely developed, markings on walls told of hunts and journeys. Before written language evolved, oral storytelling flourished.

Effective use of the world has used or used oral storytelling to pass on its own uniqueness, values and history. Through centuries, stories became refined and developed into specific themes suited for different purposes. Myths search for meaning in human struggles and natural phenomena. Folklore and proverbs tell short moralized stories about human behavior and folklore. Fairy tales pass along values, dreams, hopes and truths for living.

The "storyteller" was often a person who held an honored position within the community. Traditionally the storyteller was an elder person within a tribe, who inherited the position, along with other traditions, from his or her ancestors. Following his separation from the military, Earnest Brenner was married to Mary Bottineau, daughter of Pierre Bottineau, and accepted a job in the Indian Agency of the Turtle Mountain Reservation.

The first fare tale that most children in the United States hear are English ones collected by Joseph Jacob in the 1800s. Jacob adapted them for young children and wrote them for young children and wrote them as "a good old nurse would speak when she tells fairy tales." They include, "The Three Little Pigs", "Henny Penny", and "The Three Bears.

Joel Chandler Harris recorded black slave stories under the name Uncle Remus. His characters took on the personas of the southern slave in dialect and narration. He has been called the "storyteller, a 1931 UNDAlumna, Is

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Folk Tales

Donated

Those who choose to develop their skills as storytellers research the many volumes of books looking for stories that recite well and that please them enough to make them a part of their repertoire. One such modern storyteller, a 1931 UNDAlumna, is Margaret Anderson Roberts-Howell who recently donated to the Chester Fritz Library a large personal collection of books. The donation includes stories from all over the world including books which are no longer in print. The collection shows a true love of traditional literature.

Margaret Roberts-Howell grew up in California but at one time lived and worked in North Dakota. For a number of years she drove a bookmobile throughout North Dakota counties for the North Dakota State Library Commission. Later she left North Dakota and became the district librarian for the Pleasant Valley School District where she set up the elementary library program. She has been a storyteller and lover of books for many years.

In Canada, for example, 1871, the year it was established, is known as the "Day of Thanksgiving." A new book "Folk Tales in Wonderland, a collection of stories which is a celebration of the "National Library Week". The book was housed in the Eben B. Robinson Department of Special Collections at the Chester Fritz Library where it will be available for research and study.

Folktales for the most part were told in early cultures as adult stories.

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Storytelling hasn't gone the way of books.

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printed for lack of space. The Union documents had to be selected from a mass that filled a four-story warehouse and parts of other buildings besides. Many Confederate materials were accidently or purposely destroyed at the end of the war, or found their way into the hands of Union or Confederate souvenir hunters. Even so, enough southern documents survived the war to fill a three-story building.

In the early years of the project, former Confederates were highly suspicious of this Yankee enterprise, and because many Confederate records were then in private hands, there was a possibility that southern documentation would be lacking. However, a former Confederate general was appointed to the project in 1878 for the purpose of collecting Confederate records. He was remarkably successful, considering the number of records that had been dispersed or destroyed, and he managed to obtain many southern documents by purchase, gift, or copying. In the end, most Confederate participants agreed that the series was useful and unbiased, although there were strong objections to the title. To them, it was not "rebellion."

The documents were collected and edited during the period when many veterans were still active. Some were pursuing political careers or were otherwise eager to appear as favorably as they could before the light of history, their neighbors, or their children and grandchildren. As the early volumes came out, therefore, many officers sought to update or revise their wartime reports for insertion into the Office Records. Fortunately these efforts were defeated, and whether the information in the documents was correct or not, they were reproduced exactly as originally written; although some errors in transcription were made, they are remarkably few considering that the project was begun and many documents copied in the days before the invention of the typewriter.

The number of copies of each volume to be printed varied, but generally was about 10,000. These were distributed by members of Congress and the Executive branch, many getting into the hands of recipients who did not particularly desire to have them. One former member of the Confederate House of Representatives confessed in 1888 that he could not even bear to look at them. "The have got the same effect on me," he revealed, "that Poe's *Raven* would have. They are a constant reminder of disaster and defeat." In another instance the set was used instead of stone or brick to support the corners of a small house. This and other abuses led to the loss of countless sets.

The interested librarian, Civil War buff, student, or curious scholar should also consult U.S. Naval War Records Office, *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion*, ser. 1, v. 1-27; ser. 2, v. 1-3 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1894-1927), and U.S. Surgeon-General’s Office, *The Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion* (1861-1865), 3 vols. in 6 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1875-1882). The Chester Fritz Library owns all three of these sets in the ultrafiche format utilized by the Microbook Library of American Civilization, and is available in the periodicals department on floor one of the library. (The publication dates of all three sources are not exact; even the Library of Congress cards are not consistent.) The *War of the Rebellion* is also available in original hardcopy in the Government Documents section of the library, although many volumes are in poor condition. The series was unfortunately produced shortly after the development of cheap paper, which had a high acid content, with the result that the pages and bindings are rapidly deteriorating on library shelves. It is rare to find an original set in top condition, although occasional volumes may be picked up on the used book market and one of the high-priced reprint houses has put out a facsimile edition. The University has only a part of the *Naval Records* and the *Medical and Surgical History* in original hardbound copy. For further information see Dallas D. Irvine, "The Genesis of the *Official Records,*“ *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* 24 (September 1937): 221-29, and Joseph L. Eisenhardt, Jr., "The *Official Records* — Sixty-three Years in the Making," *Civil War History* 1 (March 1955): 89-94.

By Richard E. Beringer
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