Acquisitions

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) will receive state-of-the-art multimedia computer equipment valued at $1 million from International Business Machines Corp. (IBM). The equipment will be used to access digitized audio and video materials and to support projects that take advantage of multimedia and a fiber-optic network coming to UNC-CH next year. The library plans to digitize original documents, images, recordings, and video materials from its Southern collection. That database of electronic materials will be available to students and faculty on the network and in specially equipped classrooms. Students will be able to prepare electronic term papers that incorporate interviews and video clips on the computer screen.

Whitman College’s Penrose Memorial Library received a $240,000 endowment from the estate of Ruth McBimey, Whitman class of 1939. McBimey, retired director of libraries and professor emerita of Boise State University, died in March 1991. She was head librarian of the American Library in Paris (1947-53) and received the Palmes Academique from the French government for this work. Proceeds from the McBimey endowment will be used for library materials and automation at Penrose.

The 70,000 volumes of the Nazareth College (Kalamazoo, Michigan) Library were acquired by the Baker College system for its seven campuses in Michigan after Nazareth College closed its doors at the end of the 1992 academic year. The Nazareth collection provides a liberal arts balance to Baker College’s computer, business, and medical collections.

George Orwell’s original handwritten manuscript of Nineteen Eighty-four has been given to Brown University’s John Hay Library by Daniel G. Siegel, Brown Class of 1957 and president of M & S Rare Books. The manuscript, containing about 44% of the published text, is the only known holograph manuscript of the work, and is the only extensive Orwell manuscript known to survive. As Orwell’s widow wrote in a letter to Siegel, this manuscript is a very “rare document” for “George always threw away all his mss. letters etc., so his actual working methods are very badly documented.” The manuscript consists of 143 leaves written on 183 pages and contains both handwritten and typed sheets. The latter are heavily overwritten. Nineteen Eighty-four, published in 1949, was Orwell’s last work; he died in 1950.

A total of 232 editions of Melville’s Moby Dick, in 31 languages, were donated by alumnus William S. Clark, class of 1942, to Dartmouth College, which already has a substantial Melville collection. Clark says he was motivated by an urge to collect books, not by a love of the epic itself: “I found it difficult to get through.”

The papers of the Beckwith-Fox family have been acquired by the Huntington Library. The 1,000-piece collection details the careers of Edward G. Beckwith and John L. Fox. Beckwith was instrumental in the completion of the government survey for a Central Pacific Railroad route. During the Civil War he served under General Banks in Union-occupied Louisiana. Fox served as a surgeon in the U.S. Navy during the Union blockade of southern ports.

The Janet Hobhouse (1948-1990) papers documenting her life and career as a novelist, art critic, and biographer of Gertrude Stein have been donated to Rutgers University Libraries by Anne Virginia Hobhouse Bergen. The Hobhouse papers include letters, appointment books, manuscripts of published works, an unpublished autobiography, unpublished essays and reviews, and reviews of her work.

The papers of poet James Arlington Wright have been acquired by the University of Minnesota. Wright (1927-1981) was a poet and teacher who held positions at the University of Minnesota, Macalester College, and Hunter College. He received numerous awards and published widely, including eight books of poetry. The collection includes correspondence, journals, manuscripts of Wright’s poetry and prose, photographs, clippings, writings about Wright, and teaching notes from his various posts.