



**Library Directions/
A Newsletter of the
University of Washington
Libraries**

Volume 2 No. 2 Spring 1991

**From the Director of
University Libraries:**

On February 8, 1991, the University Libraries dedicated the Allen Library in a moving ceremony attended by the Honorable Booth Gardner, Governor of the State of Washington; President William P. Gerberding; Paul Allen, whose \$10,000,000 gift to the Libraries is the University's largest contribution from an individual donor; and Edward Larrabee Barnes. Barnes, the distinguished architect whose vision made the Allen Library a reality, and Professor Jere Bacharach, Chair of the Department of History, served as keynote speakers. Paul Allen gave a heartfelt tribute to his father, Kenneth Allen, for whom the building is named, and both Governor Gardner and President Gerberding spoke of the importance of the Libraries to the life and mission of the University and the community.

In this issue of *Library Directions* we are reprinting the addresses of our keynote speakers. We think you will enjoy Mr. Barnes' comments on the creative process at work in the construction of a major addition to a large and diverse campus. Pro-

fessor Bacharach addresses some key issues in the relationship between the research library and the working faculty of a major academic institution.

We are also excited about the recent organization of the Friends of the University Libraries, a group which will help to create closer ties between the Libraries and the community at large. The Libraries has long wished for a support group to link our urban university library in closer and more substantive ways with our neighbors and friends.

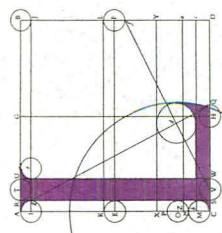
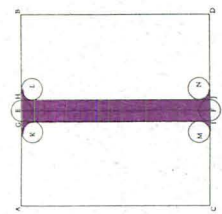
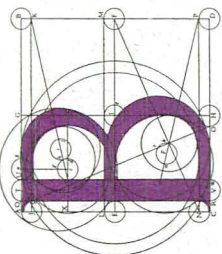
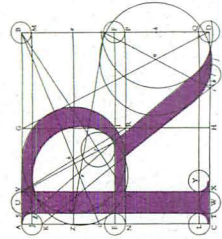
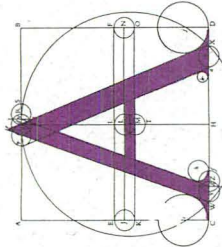
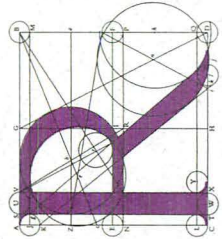
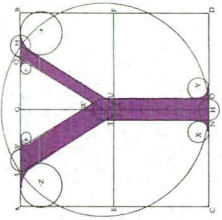
Finally, we have included a brief article on a series of presentations for faculty and for library staff by Ann Okerson, Director of the Association of Research Libraries' Office of Scientific and Academic Publishing. Ms. Okerson discussed a number of issues concerning academic publications, including rising costs. In a forthcoming issue of *Library Directions* we intend to provide you with detailed coverage of the dramatic price increases in periodical subscriptions and the extremely serious impact these increases are having on libraries here and nationwide.

Betty G. Bengtson, Director of University Libraries



Betty Bengtson with President William Gerberding

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Scenes from the Kenneth S. Allen Library Dedication



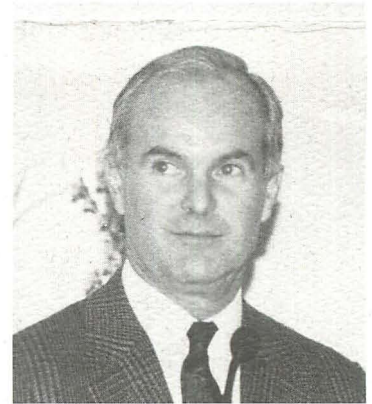
Frances Hilen, donor; Betty Wagner, Head, Architecture/Urban Planning Library; Mrs. Kenneth S. Allen; Betty G. Bengtson, Director of University Libraries



Paul Allen, who has contributed \$10 million to the University Libraries



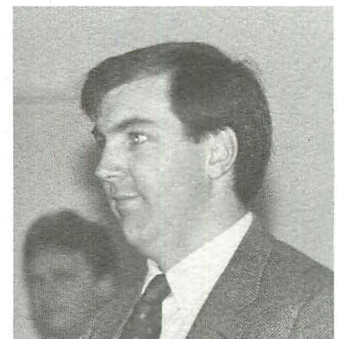
Michael Barratt (E.L. Barnes) and Ron Penninger (TRA). Mr. Barratt and Mr. Penninger were members of the Allen Library Design Team



The Honorable Booth Gardner, Governor of the State of Washington



Dedication Committee: Carolyn Mateer, chair; Gary Menges, Betty Wagner, Norman Arkans, Lauren Fortune, Steve Hiller, Dianna Harbin, Michael Dixon, Adam Hall, Marie Spears



Scott Rusch, UW Project Administrator for the Kenneth S. Allen Library Project

Allen Library Dedication Ceremony

Speech by Edward Larrabee Barnes, Architect

Five years ago when I came out to Seattle from New York for this interview, I arrived late at night and I woke up on New York time at five a.m., got dressed, and went out to the campus while it was still dark. All I could see were buildings at odd angles, street lights shining on green trees, occasional fluorescent lights from labs or something; a jumble of old and new facades in dark courtyards.

What kind of a campus was this? I knew Frederic Law Olmstead had worked here, but what had he done? The conflicting grid lines and shifting axes were puzzling. And then suddenly, I came out into the open and looked up, and there was Mt. Rainier: the top glowing in pink morning sun, and below, everything was still dark. It was very moving. And then as the sun came up, this most beautiful campus was slowly revealed.

I am reminded that once when I was teaching, a student asked me what was the *real* difference between one architectural style and another? Between Roman and Greek, or Romanesque and Gothic? What was so distinctive about a colonial farm? And I tried to say that there is a hierarchy of importance: overall form comes first, facades and details later. And so the colonial farm should not be judged first off for its green shutters, and white clapboards and fan window over the door. It must be seen in moonlight, when the solemn mass of house and barn and silo stand out in bold silhouette, and the clarity and simplicity of the colonial mind is sharply apparent.

In great architecture, mass and form are primary, and details, no matter how elegant, are secondary. And sometimes, the space around and between buildings is even more poignant, more telling, than the buildings themselves. Certainly when I think of my college days, it is the courtyards, the diagonal walks, and the dappled shade that I remember more than the classrooms. So, that morning as the sun came up, I began to sense the structure and complexity of this campus. I began to realize that this site, where we would add on to Suzzallo, was a very complex vortex, where there was a collision of axes defined by other buildings.

The HUB yard itself was framed by facades set at six or seven different angles, by buildings of vari-



Edward Larrabee Barnes

ous heights. Lines of student traffic crisscrossed in every way, and a new wing on Suzzallo might not only overpower some of the lower buildings, but also block the main string of pedestrian flow.

A couple of hours later I met with Gordon Varey, Dean of the College of Architecture and Urban Planning and Chairman of the University Architectural Commission, and members of the Architectural Commission. Now, I have to say that it was the most intelligent, most enlightened interview I have ever had. I guess there were questions about my competence and the office team, but I don't remember them. What I remember is our talk about this critical first business of architecture: what would be the mass and structure of an enormous addition in such a sensitive center? What would such a bulk do to neighboring buildings? How would people get around it?

I still have the hairy sketch I drew at that meeting, and already the idea of the angled mass, the pivotal tower, and the arcade is apparent. I remember so well the intensity of the Commission: all top design architects with high standards, prodding and questioning as I groped for words. It was a session I'll never forget.

Now, five years later, people are streaming through the arcade; hundreds of students are working at carrels throughout the Library; thousands of books are arranged on shelves in orderly ranks; the Petersen Room above the arcade is used for receptions; the Library has come alive. Mrs. Bengtson, I hope you and your staff, and all those who read in this Library, will be very, very happy.

UW Celebrates Opening of Allen Library

*Speech by Jere L. Bacharach,
Department of History*

In 1814, after British troops burned the U.S. capital and destroyed the original Congressional Library, former President Thomas Jefferson made available his own outstanding library of over 6,000 volumes, creating the core of our current Library of Congress. At the same time, a half dozen institutions of higher learning were developing their own libraries.

In the United States, the tradition of great libraries differs from virtually every other country in the world. Instead of having only one national library or one or two major university libraries, we encouraged universities throughout this country to create these absolutely essential resources for teaching and research, for the preservation and pursuit of knowledge.

As U.W. faculty, we brag that we have one of the best libraries in the country. As teachers and scholars we use its resources in a wide variety of ways. In dedicating the Allen Library we take a moment to acknowledge the critical role this library system and its outstanding staff, most of whom go unnoticed, play in our lives as members of the University of Washington community.

There are three themes I wish to touch upon briefly: the U.W. Libraries as place, that is, their physical role; Library holdings as tools for teaching; and Library resources and faculty research and publication.

I begin with the obvious: the main Libraries, particularly with this newest and most spacious addition to the system, are located at the heart of the campus which has more than a symbolic importance. Situated so dramatically between the HUB and Red Square, the majority of students, faculty, and staff see these buildings every day. While some of my students a decade ago confused Odegaard and Suzzallo when I referred to the Main or Graduate Library, this confusion has ended. Even recent visitors whom we were recruiting remarked on the physical presence of the Libraries. They felt that the Allen-Suzzallo combination said something about our priorities.

Let me digress a moment to praise the Library staff for its critical role in recruiting efforts. Candidates



Professor Jere Bacharach

constantly report how encouraged they are by meetings with librarians who will work with them to develop library holdings in their areas of specialization.

Now, back to my first theme. These two Libraries, Allen and Suzzallo, and the branch libraries, which are also so important, are not just places faculty go for particular research or teaching needs. We wander into Suzzallo, Political Science, Forestry, to glance casually over the shelves of new books in fields far from our areas of specialization; we stop by the shelves of new journals in Periodicals, Art, Natural Sciences, to run our eyes over recent articles in fields peripheral to our primary research as a break from our own highly specialized professional journals. Often we say a private thank you to those library leprechauns who keep presenting new delights to our eyes and mind.

Sometimes we go to the Libraries to escape. We read, prepare lectures, contemplate. Not only are there no phones, but students tend to respect implicitly, that sign which reads "Do Not Disturb."

Ironically, many of us are making fewer trips to the library for other types of tasks. Electronic mail has changed, radically, our physical relation with parts of the system. Reserve lists with full citations now

can be prepared from our offices by using computers which are hard wired or have modems. We can even send these lists electronically to the Reserve Desk. Students and, recently in my own case, members of the public who need references, can be served more easily and more rapidly by searching the electronic card catalog. Do we own a particular work? In which branch is it located? Is it in circulation? I can answer all these questions immediately, without moving from my desk.

My favorite example, which illustrates the proper priorities, concerns a teenage Soviet visitor who was in my office last summer. I wanted to brag about our electronic system so I put her in front of my computer and had her call up the library catalog and then type the name of her father, a noted Soviet physicist. What thrilled her was not the electronic toy, but seeing come across the screen references in our library in transliterated Russian to books by her father, her grandfather, and, from the end of the last century, her great grandfather.

The second theme touches on our role as teachers. It is possible, and indeed very probable, that students enrolled in many of our first year courses whether they be large lectures in psychology or geology or multiple sections of first year math and Chinese, never use the Library system. These courses are self contained with material available in the book stores and/or copy duplicating. But this is not true for more advanced courses.

In fact, the holdings of the U.W. Library system are so strong in some areas that it is possible to have students in relatively large undergraduate classes of 30 to 40 use primary materials and undertake original research. Two examples using the holdings in Microforms & Newspapers will illustrate my point:

For the study of recent American culture an essential resource is the 40 reels of all the underground newspapers from the 1960s, including the *Berkeley Barb* and the *Seattle Helix*. Each student can be assigned a separate paper from the radical press to Black papers and hippy journals. It is fascinating to watch as these 18 and 19 year-olds realize how diverse popular culture was during those "ancient" days.

In another undergraduate class, this one focusing on early American history, every student was assigned a different almanac from the collection of pamphlets and books published in the U.S. from the first printed work in 1638 to 1819. We have

them all on microcard. Students discovered, among other things, that the American fascination with horoscopes and astrology goes back to our earliest eras.

At the same time, the Library is making available new tools for teaching and research. A recent acquisition of a videodisc with an index of all the illustrations produced during the French Revolution, (a resource hitherto only available under difficult conditions at the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris), opens up new areas of investigation for undergraduates and graduates in Romance Languages, Art History, History, and Comparative Literature.

Having an outstanding faculty may be the key element in attracting the best graduate students, but another important factor is our Library system. More and more these graduate students, actively encouraged by faculty, are presenting in appropriate forums the results of their own research. Two recent examples will illustrate my point on how these students use our library resources:

One graduate student examined the life of a fifteenth century Chinese bureaucrat who travelled as an official ambassador from the Ming court to Muslim Iran and Afghanistan. Having both Chinese and Persian language skills, she was able to use the extensive materials in the East Asia Library as well as the fine holdings in our Near East section. She wrote a paper which was presented at a national conference and it is now being considered for publication.

Another graduate student, drawing on the rich resources of Manuscripts and University Archives, not only published a paper on the World War II shipyards of Kirkland, but helped the city identify important historical sites which are now marked with informational panels.

I will say the least about the last theme, Library resources and faculty research and publication. Every faculty member, at some time, uses the Library's resources for his or her research. In some areas, such as Pacific Northwest which includes

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Director of University Libraries: Betty G. Bengtson

Editor: Carolyn Mateer

Photographs of Dedication Committee and Professor Bacharach by Ken Zick; all other photos by Mary Levin.

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archives and photographs, many areas of English literature, but particularly 19th century material, East Asian Studies, Forest Resources, to name only a few, the Library's holdings are among the best in the country. In fact, a federally sponsored Forest Service Information Office is located here because of our Forest Resources Library, while the Government Publications Division is only one of a dozen such repositories in the country.

But it is also true that we are not strong in every area, nor should we be. Interlibrary loans are extremely important in overcoming some of our limitations, but, in other cases, research trips to other libraries are also necessary.

Very recently a dark lining has been added to our silver clouds. Storm warnings from Olympia have led to fiscally prudent, but unpopular, steps by the Provost and Director of Libraries. The faculty are concerned that after a number of years of real growth, the library as well as other parts of this institution, will suffer. The fact that members of the Library are already working with faculty representatives on these fiscal problems illustrates the very



Attendees at the Allen Library Dedication

real interdependence and spirit of cooperation of both. But let me end on a more positive note: a piece of local history dug up by a colleague from University Archives which are also part of the library system.

Across Red Square stands another building which plays an important role in the cultural life of this University, Meany Hall. It is named for Edmond S. Meany, a man who helped create the field of Pacific Northwest History through his publications, management of the journal *Washington Historical Quarterly*, and his long career as a teacher. Meany did not have a post-bachelor degree but was appointed anyway in 1894 Secretary to the Board of Regents and University Registrar because of his labors in promoting Washington state at the Chicago World's Fair, his support of the University, and, most important of all, because he had excellent connections as a Republican with the Republican governor. In 1895 Meany was made instructor in History and Forestry.

The following year brought a Democratic-Populist ticket to the governorship and Meany's position was vulnerable. New regents were appointed and Meany was removed as Secretary to the Board, University Registrar, and from Forestry. The Board of Regents sought to employ him where he would make the least trouble. They kept him on as an historian. It is in that tradition I have shared my observations with you.

Address by Jere L. Bacharach, Chair of the Department of History, at the dedication of the Allen Library

From the Bookshelves:

Iris Murdoch has described the novel as the most essentially imperfect of all the great art forms. Recognizing the imperfectibility of fiction does not prevent us from making judgments, usually based on the way in which the work speaks to our personal world or provides enlightenment regarding another world. Collective judgments are often expressed in the form of awards or prizes, eagerly sought by both budding and established authors.

Among the nearly five million titles on the shelves of the University Libraries stand many volumes that have received literary awards; awards chosen by a subjective process which may or may not be obvious. Hundreds of literary awards abound. The

best known, the Nobel Prize for Literature, the National Book Award, the French Prix Goncourt and the Pulitzer, bring at least temporary recognition and fame to the recipient. Many awards are surrounded by controversy, and are frequently fraught with political and social overtones. Although the selection of Charles Johnson as the recipient for this year's National Book Award was met with general enthusiasm, hints of dissension preceded the selection.

Despite the number of literary awards available, recognition does not always come to the deserving. Many of the world's most prestigious authors have been neglected by award committees, and others have been recognized belatedly, but for their least important work. (Hemingway won the Pulitzer in 1953 for *The Old Man and the Sea*, certainly not his best.) The Nobel prize for literature has been awarded to Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Octavio Paz, but not to Luis Borges or many other important Latin writers, though Latin American literature is among the most original of the twentieth century.

Some writers elect to decline awards, usually for political reasons. Boris Pasternak rejected the Nobel in 1958. Scandal surrounded the Prix Goncourt in 1960 when it was belatedly learned that the relatively unknown winner, Vintila Horia, author of *Dieu Est Né En Exil*, was a Nazi sympathizer. Fortunately, Horia declined the award. Those who do accept are assured of fame and occasionally, fortune, however transitory. Readers are drawn to the winners, perhaps because we need reinforcement for our personal sense of taste and discernment, rightly or wrongly assuming that the judges represent the most enlightened critical appraisal.

Few people connect Kenneth S. Allen Library architect Edward Larrabee Barnes with the Pulitzer prize winning novelist, Margaret Ayer Barnes, who was his mother. Margaret Barnes was a novelist of stature in the 1930's, whose work depicted the life of an American upper class challenged by changing rules of respectability and morality. Her award-winning novel, *Years of Grace*, predicts the onset

of "graceless" years ahead, and was the recipient at a time when the Pulitzer Prize stood tall among literary awards.

This year the Booker prize, Britain's prestigious literary award, went to A.S. Byatt, sister of Margaret Drabble, who, though better known, has never received the Booker. Byatt's award-winning novel, *Possession*, is of special interest to the academic world, where researchers must frequently confront ethical and moral issues of consequence similar to those encountered by Byatt's characters.

The Booker prize, given to residents of Britain and the Commonwealth countries, is exemplary in that it is often given to writers of merit who may be fairly new, sometimes young and frequently innovative. (The Booker is provided by the Booker McConnell food company, feeding soul as well as body.) Last year's Booker award, *Remains of the Day*, by Kazuo Ishiguro, is a personal favorite for the best fiction of recent years.

Peter Carey, a young Australian novelist, won the Booker in 1988 for *Oscar and Lucinda*, a novel of a soon-to-be discarded Christian culture that enters and destroys the aboriginal landscape. Carey is a gifted novelist who feels that "Australia has not yet been invented" and feels some obligation to do so. His deprecatory self-characterization as "a man with a white cane knocking into knowledge" belies his creativity and originality.

A budding author, who may not dare as yet to aspire to the lofty heights of fame and glory bestowed on the above-mentioned winners, may set his or her goals a bit lower, and apply for the Prix des Vikings, awarded to works written in French to celebrate Franco-Norwegian amity, or the Bancarella Prize, given to the author of the work that has sold the most copies in a given year from an Italian pushcart. And, of course, speaking of pushcarts, one may compete for the Pushcart Prize, given by the Pushcart Press of Vancouver, B.C., for the best novel written over a Labor Day weekend.

Carolyn Mateer, Library Development Officer

Friends of the University Libraries

During the celebration following the dedication of the Allen Library, an enthusiastic group of library supporters launched the Friends of the University Libraries. This new support group, organized to establish closer ties between the Libraries and the community at large, is quickly gaining new members interested in promoting books and libraries.

The first formal meeting of the Friends, on May 8, featured guest speakers active in the book world in Sweden. Anders Öhman, President of the Swedish Royal Academy of Music, spoke of the Academy's activities, and Veronica Öhman told of her involvement with the Fredrika Bremer Förbundet, Sweden's leading women's group.

The Friends plan to have a lecture series during the coming year and will be active participants in supporting library collections and services.

**University of Washington
University of Washington Libraries
Suzzallo Library, FM-25
Seattle, WA 98195**

Journal Subscriptions and Academic Libraries

Ms. Ann Okerson, Director of the Association of Research Libraries' Office of Scientific and Academic Publishing, recently led a series of presentations for faculty and library staff on the forces affecting the production, dissemination and use of scholarly and scientific information.

Ms. Okerson's presentation focused on escalating journal costs as one factor within the context of the scholarly communications process. These costs account for nearly 75 percent of the University Libraries' materials budget.

The proliferation of new journals, combined with the researcher's need to publish, are just a few of the factors influencing subscription budgets. Ms. Okerson also discussed the future implications of electronic publishing and the challenge libraries face meeting student and research needs through publications read only via computer.

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