

Minutes of the Twenty-Third Annual Meeting of the Council of the Friends of the
Oberlin College Library, November 2, 2013

President Robert Longsworth convened the Twenty-Third Annual Meeting of the Council of the Friends of the Oberlin College Library at approximately 1:40 p.m. in the Goodrich Room at Mudd Center.

The following Friends Council members were present: Eric Carpenter (Secretary), John Elder, Ray English (ex officio), Celeste Feather, Jesse Gamoran (Student Representative), Jack Glazier, Jessica Grim (ex officio), Herb Henke, Maxine Houck (Vice President), Nick Jones, Robert Longsworth (President), Anne McFarland, Thelma Morris, Scott Smith, (Chair of the Acquisitions Committee, by phone), Ed Vermue (ex officio), and Janice Zinser (Chair of the Nominations Committee).

Highlights of the Meeting:

- approved acquisitions for the library worth \$40,000 in response to recommendations from the Oberlin faculty
- re-elected officers for the 2013-2014 academic year, 4 incumbent Council members to second terms, and elected one new member to his first term
- approved the award of new life memberships to Mike Haverstock, Clyde Owan '79 and Virginia Luce '63
- approved honorary memberships for Robert Taylor and Ted Nowick for their creation of a generous trust that will establish a major endowment for special collections and archives, and for Robert Taylor's (author of four novels and a short story collection) pledge of his professional papers to Special Collections
- approved a one-time expenditure of \$10,000 to provide flexible support for Special Collections and Archives to acquire titles requested by faculty to support courses or to integrate courses into Special Collections
- awarded a \$3,500 Library School scholarship to Marguerite Monosoff-Richards, OC Class of 2011
- Approved a one-time expenditure of \$1,000 to support two Winter Term projects by contributing \$500 each – one on letterpress printing and one on papermaking.

Welcome and Introductions – President Robert Longsworth began by asking if there were any proposed alterations to the agenda. Hearing none, he welcomed all members to the meeting in the Goodrich Room of the Main Library. He then began a round of introductions, and each member introduced him/herself briefly.

Minutes – Eric Carpenter prepared the minutes of the November 3, 2012 council meeting (his first submission of minutes as the new Council Secretary). Janice Zinser provided two minor editorial changes to these minutes. With these two minor changes, the minutes were approved.

Financial Report – Ray English presented the financial report (distributed in advance of the meeting). Total revenue from membership contributions for 2012-13 was \$70,563, the highest amount in the history of the Friends. Expenditures for 2012-13 were \$57,629,

primarily for materials in various formats. Considering the ending balance of \$38,424 Ray suggested that the council consider additional expenditures that fit past spending patterns. This subject was addressed later during this meeting. The group adopted the financial report.

Acquisitions Committee – Scott Smith, Chair of the Acquisitions Committee, presented the report through a conference call connection. In advance of the meeting the committee supplied council members with List #23 of the committee’s recommended acquisitions (with Friends funds) totaling \$40,117. As usual titles are being purchased in disciplines across the college and conservatory curricula. The list of acquisitions the committee recommended were chosen from a longer list of possible purchases totaling \$69,388. Scott noted that the mix of items supporting areas of the Oberlin curriculum was a bit different this year, i.e., acquisition of only one title in music was proposed since this is a costly (\$7,702) item.

Jessica highlighted the online version of the *Times of India*, newspaper file, 1838-2003, as a particularly rich resource that will serve the English, history, religion, and other departments. She also noted the online journal backfile of the American Geophysical Union, 1896-1996, is another important resource, recommended for Friends funding to permit Oberlin long term access (we have been “renting” access on an annual basis) to an essential body of geological research. Both items will be funded over a two-year period by the Friends and the Library acquisitions budget.

Ed Vermue then displayed Item #4 from List #23, a 15th century manuscript of Latin poet Martial’s *Epigrammata* and *De Spectaculis*, an Italian codex recently damaged during Hurricane Sandy, that Oberlin has on approval from a dealer. The asking price for this item is \$19,500, and the Friends were asked to contribute \$5,000 towards this purchase. There are only 8 manuscripts of Martial’s works in the U.S. and Canada, and the classics department is planning to offer a course on Martial in the future. The Friends therefore have a rare opportunity to rescue a venerable manuscript (in danger of being cut up and sold as single pages) and support a new course in classics. The committee’s recommendations for all items on Friends List #23 were approved for purchase unanimously.

Program Committee – The Program Committee provided council members before the meeting with a chronological listing of the past year’s and upcoming Friends events. Minutes of the committee’s meetings of January 23 and July 15, 2013 were also distributed. Dan Goulding, Chair of the Program Committee, was absent from this meeting so Ray English presented the report. Ray described the year’s programs as a variety of notable events. Upcoming programs include the November 7 Jantz Lecture on the Monuments Men who rescued works of art from the Nazis. On November 13 Professor Sheila Jager will present a talk about her new book *Brothers at War: the Unending Conflict in Korea*, and on December 5 Professor Drew Wilburn will speak about his new book *Archaeology and Magic in Roman Egypt, Cyprus, and Spain*.

The proposed Speaker for the 2014 Annual Friends Dinner is Jeremy Denk, a Conservatory graduate and celebrated pianist (Denk just received a MacArthur genius award) who is also a noted blogger (Think Denk) and commentator on all things musical. We don't yet know if Jeremy will be able to join us next year.

Jack Glazier then proposed a correction to the Program Committee minutes of the July 15, 2013 meeting. Page one, 2nd paragraph from the bottom, 2nd line: the name of the sociologist recently publishing a book on Filipino migration is Rich Baldoz (not Barnes). This correction was gratefully accepted.

Membership Committee – In the absence of Peter McCracken, Committee Chair, Celeste Feather presented this report. She reviewed 2012-13 membership statistics distributed in advance of the meeting, characterizing them as very encouraging. Regular membership this year rose to 558, the highest number since 2007-08. Total membership is now 766 (also the highest since 07-08 with 778 members). Celeste noted that library rather than the development office, handled membership renewal mailings this year, a productive change in procedure. She also said that JSTOR online back files of many important journals are now available to Oberlin alumni (thru the Alumni Portal) thanks in part to Friends of the Library support. Thelma Morris commented that she plans to give more library tours in the coming year (than last year), particularly for Kendal at Oberlin residents.

Nominating Committee – Jan Zinser, Committee Chair, presented this report. The terms of four Council members expire this year: John Elder, Herb Henke, Nick Jones, and Thelma Morris. All these individuals have graciously agreed to serve second terms on the council and have been nominated for these terms. Mike Haverstock is retiring after his 8th consecutive term expires in 2013, and we need to replace him. Robert Taylor, a current Kendal resident, was nominated to replace Mike. A motion to accept all 5 nominations was made, seconded, and approved unanimously. Current officers: Bob Longsworth, President; Maxine Houck, Vice President; and Eric Carpenter, Secretary all agreed to serve in these offices for 2013-14. A motion to accept all three of these nominations was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Honorary Memberships: Robert Taylor and Ted Nowick were nominated for Honorary Memberships. Both live at Kendal at Oberlin and have designated an extraordinarily generous charitable remainder trust to create a major endowment (one of the library's largest) for the Special Collections and Archives to acquire special collections and archival materials in all curricular areas. They have also expressed willingness to provide current support for special collections purchases during their lifetimes. Finally, Robert, the author of four novels and a short story collection, has also pledged his professional papers to Special Collections. His papers include manuscript drafts, correspondence with editors, research information, and materials related to book and cover design.

New Life Memberships: Clyde Owan, Class of 1979, has made a generous multi-year pledge to the Lanyi endowed library fund honoring the memory of former Professor of Politics George Lanyi and his wife, Susi. His pledge will, when completed, substantially

increase the income from this endowed fund, providing support for new curricular areas related to politics, including the Middle East and North African Studies as well as Peace and Conflict Studies. Mr. Owan has also been generous annual donor to both the Friends of the Library and the Library Special Book fund.

Virginia Luce, Class of 1963, has made a major gift that has been used to purchase a 1699 edition of a French opera score *Amadis de Grèce* for the Conservatory Library. This work premiered in that same year at the Paris Opera and it represents French opera in its nascent stage. The opera is based on a libretto by Antoine Houdar De La Motte, which later was adapted for Handel's *Amadigi di Gaula*. Ms. Luce's gift has also enabled the library to purchase an online resource entitled *Early Encounters in North America: Peoples, Cultures, and the Environment*. It provides important primary resources to support courses taught by a new faculty member in the History Department specializing in Native American history.

Mike Haverstock has also been nominated for a Life Membership. Mike has given unparalleled service to the Friends of the Oberlin College Library. He just completed his eighth three-year term on the Friends Council. Normally council members are limited to two three-year terms, but the council has always made an exception in Mike's case due to his continuing service as the Secretary of this group. Mike's involvement with this organization dates back a full quarter century. He worked with former Director of Libraries Bill Moffett on early efforts to establish the Friends organization. And he has for years sent letters to – and done follow up correspondence with – the relatives of deceased Oberlin alumni informing them that the Friends of the Library was placing bookplates in memory of their loved ones in recent books purchased for the library's collections. Mike was also well known for generating many creative ideas for Friends activities. Jan also noted that Mike authored *Friends of the Library*, an interactive novel that received favorable notice on Amazon.com.

A motion to approve the two honorary and the three life memberships was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

Student Friends of the Library – Jesse Gamoran, a second-year student, and Reference and Instruction Department student assistant and coordinator of the Student Friends of the Library, introduced himself and presented the report. He also distributed copies of two issues of the Student Friends Newsletter for September and October 2013. His goal as coordinator is to encourage students to experience more of the library than they do while studying in it, or merely passing through. He reported on Student Friends activities, both current and scheduled for the future. Currently there is a scavenger hunt in progress that leads students to encounter the RAE board, the reference desk, the faculty publications shelf, and the letterpress studio. A student TGIF book sale was held in Wilder Bowl in October that attracted student buyers who discovered both good books and the Student Friends organization. Ed Vermue led a student tour of Carnegie Library and organized a linoleum block carving event. The movie *Helvetica* was also shown to students on October 29th, and a Halloween display of scary movies and books was mounted in Mudd Center. A Trick or Treating at the Library event was also held in the Academic

Commons in Mudd on Halloween Thursday, October 31 at 7:00 p.m. Students, some in costumes, enjoyed a welcome study break.

A Life of a Book tour has been designed to guide students through the processes a book takes from selection through acquisition, cataloging, labeling, and shelving. A similar Life of a Musical Score tour in the Conservatory Library is also being designed for conservatory students. At the end of the conservatory tour students will perform the musical score. Next semester a student book collecting competition will be held. An event at the art museum is being planned (tentatively in February 2014) to help students understand relationship between the Allen Art Museum and the library. It will be designed to demonstrate the connections between a particular art work and books. In response to a question, Jesse noted that the Student Friends mailing list currently has 40 names and varying numbers of students have attended each event. Jesse was praised for his great ideas and enthusiastic work organizing all these activities.

Library Developments. Ray was asked about recent library developments. He said that a library trends working group is gathering information on trends in use patterns. The overall picture is complex. In general, use of online resources (especially journals) is way up and circulation of printed books is in a decline. The current generation of students is very attracted to online rather than print resources (a trend across the country). Video circulation is high. A Faculty-Staff Learning Community on Information Literacy was established through a grant from former Dean of the College, Sean Decatur. The group will look at how successful Oberlin students are at using the library and the broader online information environment and what curricular changes might be implemented to improve students' abilities. A draft report of this group will soon be considered by the EPPC. A discussion of student preference in reading formats followed. Jesse said he will consult e-books but prefers a printed version when available. Ray added that Jesse's preference is typical of today's average student, according to recent studies of student research/reading habits. It was also noted that students very much enjoy close inspection of rare books and artifacts in special collections that provide tangible connections to the past periods they are studying.

Library School Scholarship – Jessica referred to the October 21st memo on this subject distributed in advance of the meeting. A \$3,500 scholarship was awarded to Marguerite Monosoff-Richards, Class of 2011. She majored in neuroscience and worked in the Reference and Instruction Department of the Main Library. She has been working in public libraries in Greenville, SC and Ann Arbor, MI and is attending the School of Information at the University of Michigan. She plans to pursue a career in youth programming.

Student Research Awards – Ray reported on the awards (for Megan Mitchell who chairs this committee), referring to the October 21, 2013 memo distributed in advance of the meeting. Three nominations were made for the 2011-2012 academic year and the committee selected Anna Band, Class of 2013, as the winner. She wrote a paper, “Die Judische Toynebe Halle in Wien” for an advanced course, Germans and Jews, cross-

listed between Jewish Studies and History taught by Prof. Shulamit Magnus. This paper, which comprised a section of Anna's honor thesis, has been accepted for publication. There were three nominations for the 2012-13 academic year awards and two submissions. The committee recently tselected a winner for 2012-13 but Ray did not yet have the winner's name. Jessica added that faculty members make nominations for these awards, and it has been difficult to stimulate more than a few nominations. Jan suggested that faculty be asked to consider designing assignments for course syllabi that encourage students to prepare papers suitable for submission in this competition.

Flexible Support for Special Collections and Archives - Ray referred to an October 21, 2013 memo on this subject distributed in advance of the meeting. This item relates to the earlier financial report mentioning the substantial year-end fund balance in the Friends account. In consultation with Bob Longworth, Ed Vermue, and Ken Grossi, Ray developed a proposal to approve a one-time expenditure of \$10,000 to provide flexible support for Special Collections and the College Archives. The funds could be used for especially desirable purchases that become available or to assist faculty in incorporating special collections and archival resources into their courses. There would be a consultative process involving the President of the Friends before funds are expended. Jan suggested that a special effort be made to alert faculty members to the availability of these funds and Ray said he would do this. A motion was made and seconded to adopt this proposal as outlined and it passed unanimously.

Support for Winter Term Projects – In addition to the support for Special Collections and Archives mentioned above, the Friends were asked to support two Winter Term projects by contributing \$500 each – to one on letterpress printing and to one on papermaking. A memo on these projects (dated October 21, 2013) was distributed in advance of the meeting. Both projects are also funded by other sources, and the Friends contributions would provide the additional funds that balance the project budgets. A motion to approve this additional \$1,000 expenditure was made, seconded, and approved unanimously. Ed Vermue was asked if papermaking at Oberlin would be an ongoing effort. Ed said this might be possible (the East Asian Studies Program and the Shansi Memorial Association are both supporting the project), but we will know more after Winter Term.

Capital Campaign Update – Ray began by mentioning recent improvements to the Friends of the Library web pages, including creation of the Friends video channel (using Vimeo), with links to digitized videos of talks given at Friends events during the past two years. The Giving to the Library button near the bottom of the library home page leads one to the Friends page and to pages describing the Illuminate Campaign and various library needs donors can support: Endowed Library Funds, Planned Gifts, and Gifts in Kind. The campaign is progressing well, Ray concluded.

As a final note, Ray asked if council members would enjoy devoting a portion of each annual meeting to hearing him report on current trends and developments in various areas of library operations. Council members agree that that would be desirable. Adjournment was at 3:15 p.m.