

“An Afternoon with Minerva” Set for Reunion

The Third Annual “Afternoon with Minerva” will be held on Saturday, June 3, in the Standish Room, New Library. This year’s program will be MYSKANIA-generated: Jerry ’51 and Shirley ’50 Dunn, Fran Shepherd ’62, Buzz Welker ’62, and Al Smith ’66 will share memories and memorabilia held in Archives and Special Collections. Particular emphasis will be on “turning points” for the organization, such as 1946-47. The session will include a guided tour of the University Archives. To be a part of the planning group or to offer suggestions, contact Fran:

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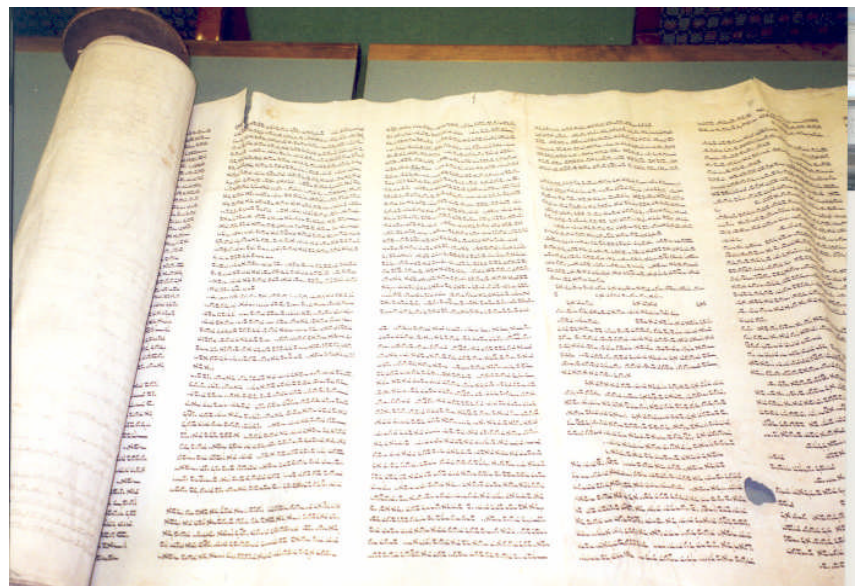
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Lost Torah Scroll Gift to Libraries, Jewish Studies

Albany’s University Libraries was the center of a celebration marking the installation of a Czech Torah scroll on November 13, 2005. The scroll is a gift to the University Libraries and the Center for Jewish Studies from Hedy ’60 and Warren Bagatelle. The event was attended by more than 100 people.

The scroll was used at the Horovice synagogue until Germany invaded Czechoslovakia in 1939. The Nazis deported the Jews in Horovice, plundered private homes and synagogues throughout Czechoslovakia, and amassed approximately 2,000 Torah scrolls. These remained in the Jewish Museum in Prague until 1948. After the Soviet Union occupied Czechoslovakia, in 1948, the scrolls were moved to Michle Synagogue in Prague, where they were hidden until 1963. The Westminster Synagogue in London learned of the Torahs, and rescued 1,564 scrolls, with the intent to distribute these Torah scrolls to Jewish communities worldwide for the cost of the repairs (\$8,000-10,000 per scroll).



Torah Scroll, Number 1204, from the town of Horovice, is now at the University at Albany. It will be displayed at the Center for Jewish Studies and alternately housed in the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives. President Kermit L. Hall accepted the gift on behalf of the University at Albany. “Thanks to the vision and generosity of the Bagatelles, future generations of students, scholars, and community members now have access to this major historical resource, and a connection to a lost yet not forgotten community.”

From Dean Frank D'Andraia

There are some exciting changes in the University Libraries, where we're expanding our core collections and strengthening the operations and services that have enabled the UA Libraries to be ranked in the top 100 research libraries in North America. Our experts in technology, collections, services, and in other units are continually coming up with new ideas to make sure we're the best at providing users with convenient and reliable access to information.



Mary Casserly, Frank D'Andraia, Barbara Via, Heather Miller

Three library leaders are featured in the picture that accompanies this article. Dr. Mary Casserly is the assistant director for the Division of Collection and User Services. Barbara Via is the assistant director for the Division of Graduate and Science Libraries and Circulation Services. Heather Miller is the assistant director for the Division of Library Systems and Technical Services. You'll hear from them directly in our publications throughout the year.

The UA Libraries offer more unmediated access to resources than ever before. Our mix of print and electronic information, complemented by an increasing number of licensed access tools, is specifically designed to connect the user with information 24/7. To insure UA students are not placed at an information disadvantage, we've made strategic alliances with other libraries which enable us to provide cost-effective, seamless access to much of the world's resources.

Most importantly, our first priority always has been to provide exceptional customer service at reference, circulation, and other library service points, ensuring that students and scholars receive professional assistance in addressing their information needs.

Thanks again for providing us with the support that enables the UA Libraries to excel.



How Hippo! 1969

Other News from Special Collections and Archives

The Marcia Brown Collection. Various paintings and other art by Marcia Brown '40 have been returned to the collection after a three-year exhibit in Japan. Ms. Brown has been a consistent donor to and supporter of the University Libraries since 1987, and the Marcia Brown Reading Room was named in her honor in 2002. Recently, Ms. Brown has contributed a substantial number of Asian art books to the Libraries.

The Jarka M. Burian Papers. Professor Jarka Burian, emeritus faculty member in the Theatre Department and acknowledged authority on Czech theatre, died unexpectedly in August 2005. His widow and longtime collaborator, Grayce Burian, donated a significant final remainder of Professor Burian's papers, to be added to the papers from his initial gift (1956-1991) in the University Archives.

The Archives of Public Affairs and Policy have recently been enhanced by the papers of **Ronald B. Stafford (1935-2005)**, who served as a New York State Senator for 37 years (1956-1993). A prominent Republican, Stafford sponsored many significant bills that became law. Among them was the legislation creating the state's Tuition Assistance Program in 1974, as well as several bills to curb acid rain damage in the Adirondacks. "This is a tremendous addition to the Archives, and it will be a source of great interest for students and scholars of modern political history," says Brian Keough, head of M.E. Grenander Special Collections and Archives. The Stafford Papers will be part of the developing collection, **New York State Modern Political Archive**, which will be the first repository in New York to develop a centralized collection that is focused solely on acquiring and providing access to the papers of Federal and state elected officials.