

In bookmaking, several sheets of paper are folded, placed inside one another, and sewn together in a "signature." Just as one book is composed of multiple signatures, Colorado State University Libraries owes its excellence to multiple supporters, each of whom leaves a unique and lasting signature.

Signatures

A newsletter for friends and supporters of the Colorado State University Libraries

Vol. 6, No. 2 Fall 2004



From the Dean

Catherine Murray-Rust, Dean
University
Libraries

Recently, CSU Libraries made headlines in Northern Colorado. When area newspapers reported on the Higher Learning Commission's (HLC) accreditation review for Colorado State University, the stories focused on the need for an expanded library.

Morgan Library receives 1.5 million visitors each year, making it by far the most utilized resource on campus. In addition, our electronic resources receive more than 1 million annual visits, particularly from graduate students involved in the University's nationally recognized research programs. With such heavy use of the Libraries comes the need for growth identified by the HLC.

The HLC called for improvements in library collections supporting graduate students and increased space in Morgan Library. Addressing these concerns will not be easy. Research libraries across the country are facing double digit inflation in journal subscription prices at the same time that public support for funding higher education is

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Water Resources Archive Welcomes Significant New Collection

"It is gratifying to know that the Delph Carpenter papers are now housed where they belong. I hope these papers can be of value to those currently engaged in understanding water issues as well as those yet to come."

—Ward Carpenter

The papers of Delphus E. Carpenter, a pioneer in the field of water law, have joined the Water Resources Archive at Morgan Library. Donated by Carpenter's grandsons, Ward and Bill Carpenter, the papers document Delph Carpenter's significant contributions to Western water development.

Carpenter is best known for negotiating the Colorado River Compact in 1922. Dan Tyler, historian and author of *Silver Fox of the Rockies: Delphus E. Carpenter and Western Water*, quotes President Hoover in a letter to Carpenter: "That compact was your conception and your creation, and it was due to your tenacity and intelligence that it succeeded."

Carpenter's papers are an important addition to the Water Resources Archive, which exists to preserve and promote Colorado's rich water history. The Carpenter collection sheds light on interstate water treaties, prior appropriation, water-rights adjudication, the role of the federal government and state sovereignty.

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Ward Carpenter visits the Water Resources Archive to review materials selected for donation.

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From the Dean *continued from front cover*

declining. And as the University experiences another record enrollment this year, students compete for seats, study rooms and computers at Morgan Library during the semester's busy times.

In response to these challenges, we are working with other academic libraries to negotiate vigorously for more content at better prices. We advocate open access on the Web to research funded by public dollars. Whenever feasible, we are switching to digital access from paper. Because shelving for paper collections is full, we are discussing shared storage in Denver with other research libraries in Colorado. The Libraries' Space Planning Task Force will produce a detailed plan in Spring 2005 covering Morgan Library, the Veterinary Medicine and Atmospheric Sciences libraries and our two storage facilities in Fort Collins.

Most importantly, we are dedicated to increasing our endowments to ensure that funds are available to meet our users' needs far into the future. Thank you, as always, for your contributions to CSU Libraries. ■



Miriam Palmer's apple paintings represent only a small portion of her work as a scientific illustrator.

Ag Archive Acquires Palmer Paintings

The Colorado Agricultural Archive, the Libraries' newest archive, recently acquired the Palmer Apple Paintings. Created by Colorado A&M professor Miriam Palmer in the 1940s, the framed paintings feature images of Colorado apple varieties and were once displayed in the University's Horticulture building. Professor Emeritus Carl Jorgensen of the University's

Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture donated the paintings to the Libraries.

Miriam Palmer was a distinguished illustrator of scientific papers and an international authority on aphids. Her work, represented in her books *Aphids of the Rocky Mountain Region* and *Aphididae of Colorado*, is still cited by contemporary entomologists. Palmer Center, built on CSU's campus in 1968, bears her name.

The Colorado Agricultural Archive (CAA) exists to enhance awareness of Colorado's agrarian heritage. Holdings represent approximately two dozen Colorado agricultural organizations and include paper records, photographic materials and oral histories. To contribute funds or materials to the CAA, please use the response envelope enclosed and select Agricultural Archive from the list of gift funds. ■



Miriam Palmer (far right) and her colleagues from the Horticulture department, circa 1922.

Book image: www.freeimages.co.uk

Germans from Russia Collection Documents Rich Ethnic History

"But as far as they were concerned, right down deep in their heart, they were Germans."

—Delbert Blehm, Fort Collins resident

When Delbert Blehm's parents came to Fort Collins in 1903, they were seeking land and a livelihood. They likely gave little thought to finding a place in history.

The Germans from Russia Collection at Morgan Library has preserved the story of the Blehms and other Germans whose ancestors migrated to Russia's Volga River region roughly a century before their descendants emigrated to Colorado beginning in the late nineteenth century.

As Colorado's second largest ethnic group, Germans from Russia have played a significant role in shaping the state's history. The group's earliest settlers contributed to the growth of Colorado's sugar beet industry. Many of the region's religious and social organizations as well owe their start to these immigrants, whose descendants remain involved in activities affecting their communities and the state.

The Germans from Russia collection tells this group's story through primary source documents such as oral history tapes and transcripts, conference papers, field reports and other research documents, clippings, slides and sound recordings. The compilation of these materials emerged from the Germans from Russia in Colorado Project, led by CSU history professor Sidney Heitman in the late 1970s. Collection contents were



Children of immigrants harvest sugar beets in a photo from the Germans from Russia Collection.

housed in the history department until the 1990s, when they became part of Archives and Special Collections at Morgan Library.

Since acquiring the collection the Libraries have designed and launched a collection Web site, supported by a grant from the Colorado Digitization Program as part of the Western Trails project. The Web site, located at <http://lib.colostate.edu/gfr/>, includes digital audio clips, oral history transcripts, a photo gallery, field reports and links to other resources for study of Germans from Russia. Since its recent launch, the site has attracted both academic and genealogical researchers, who frequently correspond with Libraries staff to request or provide additional information.

Long-term plans for the collection include transcription of several oral histories remaining in audio-only format. These transcripts, along with corresponding digital audio clips, will join the Web site when transcription is complete.

To schedule an in-person visit to the Germans from Russia Collection, please call Morgan Library's Archives and Special Collections department at (970) 491-1844 or e-mail the staff at specialcollections@manta.colostate.edu. ■

Carpenter Papers *continued from front cover*

Fundraising Underway for Collection Preservation

A review of the collection revealed several types of mold spores, remaining from flood damage where the collection was stored in the family's home. Its eradication will be a top priority for restoring the collection since the allergenic properties might have an impact on users. Expenses for an extensive cleaning process involve the need to raise approximately \$35,000.

A generous donation of nearly \$3,000 kicked off fundraising for this project over the summer. In addition, proceeds from a Nicholas Basbanes reading and booksigning (see page 4) and the Norlarco Read to Win, Win to Read program (page 7) will benefit the Carpenter collection. Watch for announcements of future fundraising efforts.

To support preservation of the Carpenter collection, please use the response envelope included with this newsletter and select Water Resources Archive from the list of gift funds. For more information, contact Susan Hyatt at (970) 491-6823 or by e-mail at shyatt@manta.colostate.edu. ■



Friends Program in Full Swing After Busy Summer

What did you do with your friends over the summer? The Friends of CSU Libraries sponsored three events introducing attendees to local and national celebrities and providing expert information on library-related topics.

On June 24, the Friends hosted its inaugural event, "The Jeopardy! Challenge" featuring CSU graduate student and Jeopardy! champion Russ Schumacher. Schumacher talked about his experience on the show and invited guests to compete in a mock Jeopardy! game using the equipment that helped him train for his appearance. As an update, Schumacher returned to Jeopardy! this fall for the Tournament of Champions, where he advanced to the final round and trumped the competition favorite to win the \$250,000 top prize.

Nationally renowned author and book expert Nicholas Basbanes addressed the Friends of the Libraries on August 5, at a lecture and book signing co-sponsored by the CSU Alumni Association and CSU Bookstore. Basbanes'

presentation, titled "Among the Gently Mad," attracted about 60 attendees and raised just under \$300 to support the Delph Carpenter Collection (see cover story). Basbanes is the author of *A Gentle Madness* and several other titles about books and book collectors.

On August 11, about 50 guests joined the Libraries' Coordinator of Preservation Services, Diane Lunde, for "TLC for Family Documents." Lunde shared tips on preserving letters, books and other print items. Guests received handouts, several preservation-related door prizes and advice for preserving specific items they brought to the presentation. In response to requests, Lunde will conduct a follow-up workshop this spring.

Don't miss the Friends' upcoming events, including:

- **Ghost Towns, Historic Sites and Lost Places of Northern Colorado** – Featuring the work of Fort Collins artist Marek Uliasz, the exhibit opened on October 28 and runs through February 28, 2005. Using a Polaroid transfer technique, Uliasz's work features such sites as the Strauss Cabin and Baker House in Fort Collins, the original Virginia Dale Church building and the ghost towns of Colorado's Eastern Plains. Photos are displayed in Morgan Library's Bonfils-Stanton Gallery, and the exhibit is free and open to the public.



Photographer Marek Uliasz says the Polaroid transfer technique "enhances the mystery and mood" of sites like the Timnath Cemetary (above) and Strauss Cabin in Fort Collins (right).



Book image: www.freeimages.co.uk



Author Nicholas Basbanes speaks to the Friends of CSU Libraries and other attendees of his lecture and book signing at the CSU Bookstore.

- **Ghost Towns, Historic Sites and Lost Places: A Lecture** – In conjunction with Uliasz's exhibit, local historian Rheba Massey will discuss the history of sites featured in the photographer's work and the preservation efforts required to save these and other historic places. Massey's lecture is scheduled for Thursday, November 18 at 5:30 p.m. in Morgan Library Room 203. The lecture is free and open to the public. Both the exhibit and lecture received support from the Lilla B. Morgan Memorial Fund.
- **John Fielder Presentation** – Members of the Friends program are invited to join CSU faculty and staff for a presentation by Colorado photographer John Fielder on Wednesday, December 1 at 4 p.m. in the CSU Bookstore. Fielder, whose work is featured in *Colorado: 1870-2000* and other popular books, is a nationally recognized nature photographer, teacher and preservationist.
- **Germans from Russia in Colorado** – In February, CSU Libraries' archivists will speak about the Germans from Russia Collection (see page 3) and the history of Germans from Russia in Northern Colorado. Watch for information regarding date, time and location.
- **Treasures of the CSU Libraries** – In April, current and former members of the Libraries staff will share stories and information about the Libraries' most valuable and popular collections. A date, time and location will be announced.
- **Extra TLC for Family Documents** – Preservation Services Coordinator Diane Lunde will present a follow-up to her workshop on preserving family documents. More information will follow on this Spring 2005 event. ■

To participate in these and other Friends activities, or for more information, please visit the Friends of CSU Libraries Web page at <http://lib.colostate.edu/develop/friends.html>. An online registration form is available, or you can respond with the envelope included in this newsletter. For information by phone, please contact Becky Reeve at (970) 491-1833.



The walls of Morgan Library tell the stories of hundreds of donors who recognize that the Libraries are central to the vitality of CSU and the wider community. Here are some of the memorable messages those donors have imparted through their engraved message stones:

I AM OLD & I WEAR PURPLE

STUDY THE PAST WEAVE FUTURES

MURRAY CALL YOUR MOTHER

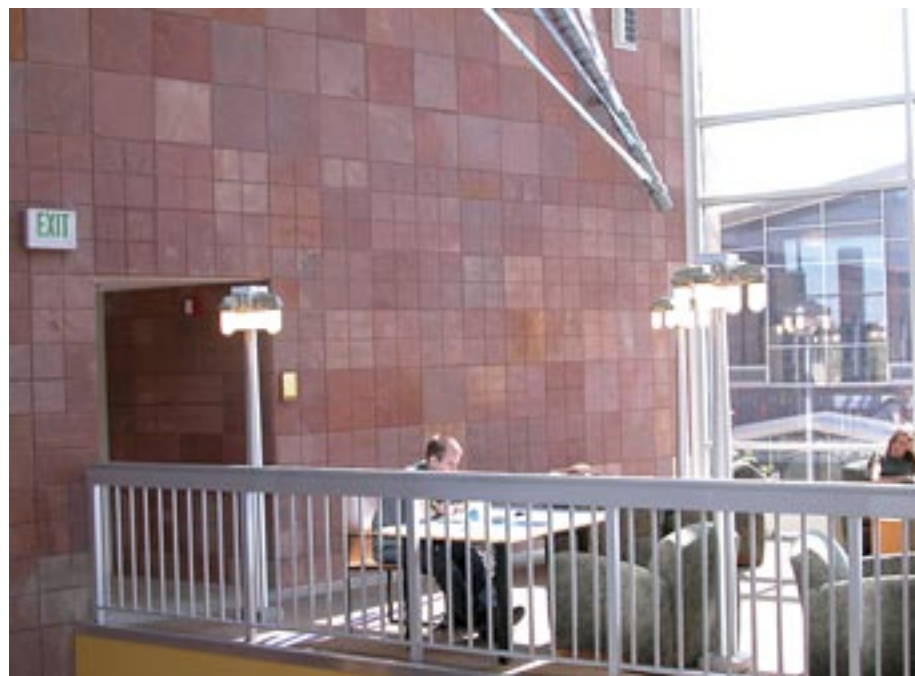
JUST SAY KNOW

EDUCATION EQUALS SUCCESS

LIFE BEGINS AT TIMBERLINE

GRANDMA BESSIE PIONEER SPIRIT

AMERICA OPENED ITS ARMS TO ME



Libraries donors have left their imprint on the walls within and above Morgan Library's entrance.

Building for the University's Future, One Stone at a Time

Students and faculty returning to Morgan Library this semester saw the writing on the wall. Two dozen recently engraved message stones recognized donors who had made sizeable financial contributions to the Libraries during the previous year. The engraving marked the revitalization of Morgan Library's Message Stone Program.

Morgan Library message stones pay tribute to loved ones, celebrate donors' memories of CSU, are lasting gifts to CSU graduates, inspire future CSU students and faculty and designate individuals, families and organizations as CSU supporters. Carved into native Colorado sandstone and prominently displayed in Morgan Library, the

personalized message stones attract the attention of students, faculty, community members and visiting scholars.

Donors of \$500 or more to the Morgan Library Endowment are eligible for one 9" x 9" stone, personalized with a message of up to 28 characters. Gifts of \$10,000 or more are recognized on 17" x 17" stones located on the major donor wall inside Morgan Library's main entrance.

To participate in the message stone program, please visit <http://lib.colostate.edu/develop/stones.html> and complete the online giving form. For additional information about the program, please contact Susan Hyatt at (970) 491-6823 or by e-mail at shyatt@manta.colostate.edu. ■

Book image: www.freeimages.co.uk

Libraries Continue to Serve Up Great Dinner Conversation

Tables of Content 2004, held at Morgan Library on June 5, was the Libraries' largest and most successful Tables of Content to date, with 110 attendees at 15 tables. Fifteen table hosts and host couples facilitated discussions about their areas of expertise. Guests enjoyed conversation on subjects ranging from environmental ethics and nature writing to public health and global relations. Norlarco Credit Union, Blackwell's Services, Swets Information Services, YBP Library Services, CSU Bookstore and The Flower Company donated

to the event. Guests and sponsors contributed more than \$10,000 to the Libraries' community outreach efforts.

In her remarks preceding the banquet, Dean Catherine Murray-Rust publicly acknowledged the family of Delph Carpenter for donating the papers of the late Carpenter, a key figure in Colorado water history (see cover story).

Guests are already looking forward to Tables of Content 2005, scheduled for June 4. Watch for more information in the Spring 2005 issue of *Signatures*. ■



Table host Brian Jones led a discussion titled "Time's Arrow: Time, time travel, the existence of life and why a week has seven days" at the 2004 Tables of Content event. Photo © 2004 Photographic Services, CSU

Norlarco Continues a Winning Partnership

Norlarco Credit Union has teamed up again with CSU Libraries, CSU Athletics and Poudre School District (PSD) to benefit area students.

Through the Read to Win, Win to Read program, Norlarco donates \$600 for every touchdown scored and \$250 for every home match victory for the CSU women's volleyball team. The money is distributed among the Libraries, CSU Athletics and PSD and is used to fund library resources, athletic scholarships and reading programs.

This year, the Libraries' portion of the Norlarco donation will benefit the Delph Carpenter Collection in the Water Resources Archive (see cover story).



Signatures

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Kim Kankiewicz, Editor

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Honors and Awards

CSU Libraries' Interlibrary Loan (ILL) department was highlighted in a study by the Association of Research Libraries. A September 2004 summary of the two-year study identified CSU Libraries as the highest performing ILL borrowing operation among 72 North American research, college and government libraries.

Jennifer Kutzik, General Professional II, was elected Secretary of the ALA Library Support Staff Interest Round Table. The round table provides an arena for addressing issues that concern library support staff and fostering communication among all library personnel.

Allison Level, Reference Librarian, has received a grant to participate in "Preserving the History of United States Agriculture and Rural Life," a project coordinated by Cornell University and funded as a National Endowment for the Humanities "We the People" project. CSU's participation in the project will involve creating a bibliography of Colorado agriculture and rural life publications published between 1820 and 1945. "We the People" encourages and strengthens the teaching, study and understanding of American history and culture, exploring significant events, themes and principles that define our nation.

Dean Catherine Murray-Rust was elected Vice-President/President Elect of the Library Administration and Management Association (LAMA) beginning in fiscal year 2005. LAMA is a division of the American Library Association.

Faculty and Staff Spotlight

Publications and Presentations

Dawn Bastian, Bibliographic Control and Electronic Services Coordinator: "Growing Our Own: Mentoring Library Science Students for Cataloging," a presentation at the ALA Annual Conference.

"Germans from Russia: Documenting the Immigrant Experience in Northern Colorado," a presentation to the Society of American Archivists.

Donnice Cochenour, Serials Librarian, **George Jaramillo**, Assistant Dean of Administrative Services, and **Michele Wilde**, Reference Librarian: "Access to E-Resources: The Implementation of SFX" in *Technical Services Quarterly*, 21(4).

George Jaramillo, Assistant Dean of Administrative Services: "Staff Development in an Academic Setting" in *Colorado Libraries*, 30(2).

Jennifer Kutzik, General Professional II: "Just in Time: Technology for Emergent Needs" in *Colorado Libraries*, 30(2).

"Gripping the Handrails: Is 'Walking the Walk' Slippery Now?" in *The Associates*, 11(1).

"COPE-3: Where We've Been and Where We're Going," a presentation at the ALA Annual Conference.

Allison Level, Reference Librarian: Co-author and chapter editor of *Information Literacy and the Technological Transformation of Higher Education* (Pierian, 2004).

A presentation about the AgNIC Wildlife Damage Website at the AgNIC Coordinating Council meeting at the National Agriculture Library in Beltsville, MD.

Michelle Mach, Digital Projects Librarian: Profile and inclusion of several online tutorials in *PRIMO: Peer Reviewed Instructional Materials Online*.

Cristi MacWaters, Borrowing Supervisor, and **Jane Smith**, Library Technician III: "ARL ILL Cost Study," a presentation at the 35th Annual ILL Conference in Boulder.

"RAPID: Peer-to-Peer ILL," a presentation at the ALA Annual Conference.

Patty Rettig, Project Archivist: "Water in Boxes: An Update on the Water Resources Archive" in *Colorado Water*, 21(2).

"Father of Colorado River Treaties: Documents in the Water Resources Archive" in *Colorado Water*, 21(4).

Sande Slack, Program Assistant I: Guest editor of *Colorado Libraries* 30(2), an issue devoted to articles about staff development in Colorado libraries.

Suzanne Taylor, Reference Librarian, with Jonathon Taylor of the USDI-USGS Biological Resources Division: "Whither Human Ecology?", a chapter in the book *Society and Natural Resources: A Summary of Knowledge* (Modern Litho, 2004). ■

Book image: www.freeimages.co.uk

From the Pages of History...

A Look Back at Library Exhibits

Photographer Marek Uliasz, whose work is currently on display in Morgan Library (see page 4), contributes his artistry to a long tradition of exhibits at the Library designed to engage students, faculty and the public at large.

In the 1920s and 30s, head librarian Charlotte Baker organized book exhibits on subjects including Shakespeare, Egypt, biographies and autobiographies, the Depression, cosmic rays and fitness. The latter clearly targeted a non-student audience, with the slogan "Fit or Fat at Forty." Nonetheless, Baker planned the majority of her displays to capture students' attention, desiring to "bring [them] in direct contact with the cultural influences of good books, . . . to open up to them vistas of reasonable and inexpensive pleasure."

In the 1940s Baker's successor, James Hodgson, added a campus twist to the Library's exhibits program. One exhibit featured "then" and "now" photographs of President Charles Lory and football coach Harry Hughes. Another display spotlighted a Sanskrit manuscript, a Babylonian clay tablet, a sixteenth-century Italian parchment book and other rare items owned by the Library. Hodgson also sought to improve the Library's permanent collection of art for display. In 1942 Professor Edward House donated a painting titled "The Retreat from Moscow," depicting Napoleon's defeat and believed to be an original sketch for an 1835 cyclorama by Henri Philippotaux. The painting became part of a collection ranging from the historically significant—portraits of campus leaders and engravings of United States presidents—to the absurd—a father-son portrait



Students peruse a book display at Morgan Library in 1966.

donated by a 1903 alum and executed on an ironing board.

By the 1960s and 1970s, the caliber of art on display in Morgan Library was several notches above painted ironing board status. Nationally renowned medieval art historian Mark Lansburgh loaned the Library his collection of illuminated manuscripts and rare books for display. The Smithsonian Institution provided the library materials for several exhibits: artistic interpretations of the national space program; the works of George Catlin; prints by Copley, Stuart, Bingham, Whistler and Pollack; and interpretive materials on Frederick Douglass and The Men and Machines of American Journalism.

In 1990, librarian Joel Rutstein combined the Libraries' decades-long mission to promote both literacy and cultural awareness among students. Rutstein arranged for five popular campus personalities to pose for humorous posters designed

to generate interest in reading. Historian Harry Rosenberg, for example, posed as a medieval monk perusing a manuscript. Proceeds from the posters, which sold for ten dollars apiece, benefited the Libraries.

Today, exhibits maintain an important place in the Libraries' outreach to the campus and broader communities. Morgan Library's renovation in the mid-1990s created several dedicated display spaces, including the First National Bank Gallery on the first floor, the Bonfils-Stanton Gallery on the second level and the Tointon Gallery on the third story. The new Friends of CSU Libraries program invites community members not only to attend exhibits and other cultural events at the Libraries, but to become involved in planning those events. Watch future issues of *Signatures* for news of upcoming opportunities. ■



Favored Companions

"A good book is the best of friends, the same today and forever."

—Martin Tupper, essayist

"Be as careful of the books you read, as of the company you keep, for your habits and character will be as much influenced by the former as the latter."

—Paxton Hood, author

Like other favored companions, great books are forever part of those who encounter them. In this column, we ask participants to name a book or books that have impacted their lives.



William E. Morgan

William E. Morgan served as president of the University from 1949-1969. During his tenure, Colorado A&M became Colorado State University. The name change was representative of a greater transformation that occurred with Dr. Morgan at the University's helm. From an institution struggling financially to provide a practical education to Colorado residents, CSU emerged under Dr. Morgan's leadership as a thriving campus with state-of-the-art facilities, an academic environment attracting undergraduate and graduate students from across the nation and a world leader in scientific research.

Dr. Morgan recently celebrated his 95th birthday and still resides in Fort Collins. It is fitting that he names Alfred Lord Tennyson's "Locksley Hall" as a piece of literature that has profoundly influenced his life. In Dr. Morgan's words:

"I was a sophomore at Texas A&M in 1927. The student body thought English literature was something you had to plow through in order to graduate in a field that interested you. I can remember hearing about the difficulties the academic faculty had in getting material into the required curriculum that expanded our academic horizons beyond the limits of animal husbandry. At least one course in English literature was required. Since it was required, all of us in the Cadet Corps looked on it with some contempt. I can still remember the name of the assistant professor who taught the required course—Plunkett. We ran through the poets, Keats and so forth, and there was one—Plunkett referred to him as Lord Tennyson and on occasion, with a certain amount of reverence in his voice, Alfred Lord Tennyson. And I remember these lines that offered some hope for what seemed to be a pretty distant future achievement:

continued on next page

Favored Companions *continued from page 10*

*For I dipt into the future, far as human
eye could see,
Saw the Vision of the world, and
all the wonder that would be;
Saw the heavens fill with commerce,
argosies of magic sails,
Pilots of the purple twilight dropping
down with costly bales
Heard the heavens fill with shouting, and
there rain'd a ghastly dew
From the nations' airy navies grappling
in the central blue . . .
Till the war-drum throbb'd no longer, and
the battle-flags were furl'd
In the Parliament of man, the Federation
of the world.
There the common sense of most shall
hold a fretful realm in awe,
And the kindly earth shall slumber, lapt
in universal law.*

It made my spine tingle now just to recite it and it did then when I was a sophomore in college."

One of Dr. Morgan's most recent reads was a biography of General Joseph W. Stilwell, chief commander of U.S. forces in the China-Burma-India Theatre during WWII. Morgan, who served in the CBI, was acquainted with General Stilwell and many of the persons and events described in the biography.

Thank you, Dr. Morgan, for an engaging interview and for your ongoing contribution to Colorado State University. ■



Morgan Library receives 1.5 million visitors each year, making it by far the University's most utilized facility.

Dr. Book, continued from back page

- Use a soft cotton or chamois cloth to wipe the disc, not paper products. Wipe from the center of the disc straight toward the outer edge, not around the disc.
- Clean the recordable or rewritable surface before recording.
- Use a non-solvent-based felt-tip permanent marker to mark the label side of the disc. Do not use adhesive labels. Do not write or mark in the data area of the disc
- Do not try to remove or reposition a label.
- Avoid CD holders that attach to car visors. Instead, use a portable container that allows CDs to remain in their cases, and remove the container when not in use to avoid exposure to extreme temperatures.

Just as important as the above factors is the viability of hardware and software needed to play CDs and DVDs. For example, while we can now buy combination CD/DVD players, soon the manufactures will offer only DVD—and then DVD in combination with the next new technology. Future access to the information stored on your discs may require purchasing upgraded versions, transferring information between formats or using emulation technology. Your best bet is to retain backups of software and hardware.

For additional information on preservation in general, please write to "Dear Dr. Book," c/o *Signatures*, Colorado State University Libraries, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1019 or visit <http://manta.library.colostate.edu/preserv/>. ■

We want your comments and suggestions about *Signatures* newsletter. Please contact:

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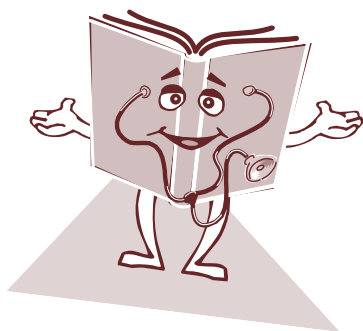
Dear Dr. Book,

I have a large collection of CDs and am beginning a collection of DVDs. I have heard various estimates on how long my CDs and DVDs will last. What is the latest estimate and how should I best keep my collection so I can continue to enjoy them?

Music Fan

Dear Music Fan:

Manufacturers test their products based on accelerated aging of the discs. Currently the consensus is that under recommended storage



conditions, CD-R and DVD-R discs have a life expectancy of 100 to 200 years with CD-ROM and DVD-ROM discs lasting from 20 to 100 years. For further information about life expectancy estimates, see *Care and Handling of CDs and DVDs* by Fred R. Byers. CSU Libraries has both a hard copy and web access, or you can find the title online at <http://www.clir/pubs/reports/pub121/pub121.pdf>.

You can maximize life expectancy by following several suggestions:

Environmental and Storage Conditions

- Store discs in an environment that is stable, cool (less than 68° F), dry (20-50% humidity) and dark.
- Do not expose discs to extreme heat or humidity.
- Do not expose recordable discs to prolonged sunlight or other sources of ultraviolet light.
- Store under clean air conditions.
- Leave discs in their packaging to minimize environmental effects.
- Do not expose discs to microwaves.

- Do not get discs wet.

Care and Handling of Discs

- * Store discs upright (book style) in plastic cases.
- * Handle discs by the outer edge or the center hole.
- * Do not bend the disc or touch the surface of the disc when removing or returning the disc from the case.
- * Return discs to storage cases immediately after use.
- * Keep the discs clean from dirt, dust, fingerprints and smudges.
- * Clean discs with CD/DVD cleaning detergent, isopropyl alcohol or methanol. Do not use solvents.

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Now you can donate to CSU Libraries online. Visit <https://advancing.colostate.edu/LIB/GIVE> ■

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Knowledge to Go Places

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