



INSTITUTIONAL SPOTLIGHT is edited  
by Paul G. Anderson, Washington  
University School of Medicine, St. Louis

## INSTITUTIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Department of Archives and Special Collections  
Alden Library, Ohio University (Athens, Ohio 45701)

By Sheppard Black and Gary A. Hunt

The Department of Archives and Special Collections of Alden Library at Ohio University (OU) holds numerous important resources for advanced research in history and literature. They include local government records, university records, a variety of manuscript collections, and several rare book and pamphlet collections.

OU is one of several repositories in the Ohio Network of American History Research Centers. Alden Library houses well over 1,000 linear feet of records created by agencies of county, city, and township government in an eighteen-county region of southeastern Ohio, from the early nineteenth century to the present. A printed *Guide to Local Government Records in the Ohio University Library* is available from the Department at a cost of \$5.00.

The OU Archives comprises nearly 5,000

linear feet of original records which document the history of the university from its founding in 1804. Of particular interest are the minutes of the Board of Trustees, OU land records, and the papers of early presidents and faculty. The history of OU is also documented in several thousand photographs.

Comprising more than 1,215 linear feet, OU manuscript collections focus on the history of southeastern Ohio, with highly significant wider ramifications. They include papers and records of individuals, families, businesses, churches, fraternal organizations, labor groups and literary and debating societies. Of particular note is a large collection of records of the United Mine Workers of America and more than twenty smaller collections from other unions in southeastern Ohio.

The largest single manuscript collection is the Cornelius Ryan Memorial Collection of World War II papers. The Ryan Memorial Collection contains original manuscripts, correspondence, photographs, and other material documenting the history of World War II, with an emphasis on the personal papers of working journalists. At the core of the collection are the papers of the author, Cornelius Ryan (1920-1974), which were acquired by Alden Library in 1981. They comprise the manuscripts, correspondence, and research files for each of his three major works about World War II, *The Longest Day* (1959), *The Last Battle* (1966), and *A Bridge Too Far* (1974). They include approximately 21,000 research files, at least 7,000 of which contain transcribed interviews and correspondence with individual participants. The files are organized into

three groups, corresponding to the three books, and are further subdivided according to the nationality of the persons interviewed. All interviews have been translated into English and in many cases are supplemented by diaries, diary extracts, and filed reports transcribed from official documents. In addition, the collection contains extensive photographic files, nearly 100 maps, and copies of Ryan's original manuscripts in various stages of revision. A detailed inventory of the collection is available for the use of researchers.

The Department is located in Room 504 of Alden Library and is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. (614) 593-2710.

**Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections  
University of North Dakota (Grand Forks, ND 58202)**

**By Colleen A. Oihus**

The Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections, a unit of the Chester Fritz Library, University of North Dakota (UND), preserves unique, rare and special historical materials with primary emphasis on North Dakota and the northern Great Plains. Six separate, yet interrelated, collections are housed in the Department: the Orin G. Libby Manuscript Collection, the University Archives, the North Dakota Book Collection, the Family History-Genealogy Room, North Dakota State Documents, and the Fred G. Aandahl Collection of Books on the Great Plains. The Department also maintains an extensive set of photographs and a small rare book collection.

The Libby Manuscript Collection, established in 1952 in honor of the late historian Orin

G. Libby, the "father of North Dakota History," is the largest of the six units in terms of the great diversity of its intellectual content as well as its linear dimension, which exceeds one mile. At the present time, the Libby Collection houses over 1100 individual collections, the largest of which have been the creations of United States senators and representatives from North Dakota, Sen. William Langer, Rep. William Lemke, Sen. Milton R. Young, Sen. Quentin N. Burdick, and, most recently, Sen. Mark Andrews. Aside from the political heritage, the variety of historical subjects preserved in the Libby Collection includes agriculture, business, women's history, immigration and migration, education, social conditions, ethnicity, the military experience, sports, religion, the judiciary, literary organiza-

tions, medicine, transportation, energy development and conservation.

The UND began creating institutional records even before it opened its doors to the students of the Dakota Territory in 1884. The informal practice of collecting and keeping records gained official status with the completion of the Chester Fritz Library in 1961. Based on recommendations of a University Senate committee, President Thomas Clifford called for an expanded archival program in 1973, designating the University Archivist (now Coordinator of Special Collections) as administrator of all UND records. As a result, an Archives-Records Committee was established to

determine policies and procedures and all administrative and academic units were requested to inventory their records.

The Department is open to the public from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 pm on Wednesday evenings during the regular academic year. No materials circulate, but copy machines are available for public use. Inquiries regarding the holdings should be addressed to the following: Coordinator, Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections, Chester Fritz Library, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota 58202. (701) 777-4625.

**North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies  
North Dakota State University (Fargo, ND 58105)**

**By John E. Bye**

Since 1950, the North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies, located in the Library of North Dakota State University (NDSU), has collected, preserved, and made available unique or rare information concerning the state. Today thousands of manuscripts, photographs, records, and publications at the Institute document the history of North Dakota.

The manuscripts of the Institute concern numerous subjects important to the history of the state. Among them are agricultural development (especially during the bonanza farming era), the everyday life of the pioneers, the era of the Nonpartisan League, and the growth of women's organizations. Also documented are the lives and work of North Dakota literary figures, major ethnic groups of the state, and the development of metropolitan Fargo.

In 1978 the Germans from Russia Heritage

Society, headquartered in Bismarck, named the Institute as its official repository. Since then the Institute has actively collected materials related to this ethnic group. The collection consists primarily of over 500 volumes as well as additional material in a variety of formats.

Photographs constitute one of the Institute's most valuable resources. Presently the collections include over 20,000 prints and 6,000 slides, the majority of which have been processed and indexed. Particular subject strengths include farms and early farming scenes, sod houses, community scenes, and social events. Particularly noteworthy are the Fred Hultstrand "History in Pictures" Collection, and the collection of the late U.S. Sen. Milton R. Young.

Another major collecting area of the Institute is published materials relating to

North Dakota. These include publications on counties, communities, churches, schools, businesses, and families, literary works by North Dakotans, and magazines and atlases pertaining to the state. In addition, the Institute maintains collections of maps, posters, newspapers, and phonograph records.

A unique finding aid kept in the Institute deserves special mention, namely, the North Dakota Biography Index. The NDSU Library acquired this index in 1980 from its compiler, Allen Petersen of Fargo. This 27,000-card file indexes more than 100,000 biographical sketches found in over 460 publications located in libraries throughout the state. The Institute has updated the index, enhancing this invaluable guide to historical, biographical, and genealogical research.

The NDSU Library is the official repository of the University Archives, which is administered through the facilities of the

Institute. The Archives maintains records dating from the founding of NDSU in 1890. Included among the holdings are administrative and departmental records, minutes, reports, periodicals, student and faculty publications, and all master's theses and doctoral dissertations completed since 1899. There are also extensive photograph collections relating to the university and its experiment station and cooperative extension service.

Anyone interested in using the resources of the Institute may visit our facility. The Institute reading room is located in the lower level of the library, and is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Although no items are allowed to circulate, photocopying facilities are readily available. All written requests should be addressed to the North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies, Library, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND 58105. (701) 237-8914.