

This issue marks completion of the first year of publication for *library friends*. We trust you have found the newsletter informative, timely (as much as a quarterly publication can be), and newsworthy. We hope, too, that we have been able to express some of the excitement of the intricate and changing world of information sharing and that we will continue to do so in the good company of our friends.



STORY ON PAGE 7

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## Newman Library Celebrates Fortieth!

Amid reminiscences, laughter, and *camaraderie*, the Friends of the University Libraries gathered May 9 to celebrate the fortieth birthday of the Carol M. Newman Library, dedicated in 1956. Guests were welcomed to the festivities by Dr. James I Robertson, Jr., Friends chair; Dr. Peggy Meszaros, senior vice president and provost of the university; and the dean of the University Libraries, Dr. Eileen Hitchingham. State Librarian, Nolan T. Yelich, brought official greetings on behalf of the commonwealth and expressed delight that upon his arrival the night before (the last day of exams), he had observed "5,000 students already celebrating Newman Library's birthday!"

Lon Savage, co-chair of the Friends, introduced the University Libraries' principal bibliographer, Dr. Paul Metz, who gave the anniversary address. Metz's remarks led briefly down memory lane, reflecting on changes, and scanned ahead to what the future might be. Excerpts from the address are shared in this issue's "From the Dean" column.

A birthday party on Alumni Hall lawn followed the formal program in Newman lobby. Guests gathered for the cake cutting and socialized to the music of the string quartet *Polevetsi*.

*More photos from the event are on page 4.*



*Lon Savage, Nolan Yelich, Paul Metz and Bud Robertson look on as Eileen Hitchingham cuts cake for Newman Library's fortieth birthday.*

## The University Libraries

The University Libraries began in 1872 with the existence of the college which was to become Virginia Tech. Composed of Newman Library and its four branches—Art and Architecture, Geology, Veterinary Medicine, and the Northern Virginia Graduate Center—the University Libraries house vast resources both traditional and high-tech.

## Friends of the University Libraries

The Friends of the University Libraries was founded in 1994 as a support and advocacy group for the University Libraries. Its purpose is to publicize the libraries' resources, promote their use, and encourage giving to maintain the libraries' excellence.

*For more information about the Friends, please contact Friends of the University Libraries, P.O. Box 90001, Blacksburg, VA 24062-9001, (540) 231-3427, or use e mail (friends@vt.edu).*

Editor, Margaret F. Shuler  
Executive Secretary, Friends

Layout Editor, Elizabeth Ackermann  
Special Collections Department

Technical Assistance: Lisa Saul  
University Printing Services

Photographs: Rick Griffiths

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# From the Dean of the University Libraries



This spring the University Libraries joyfully celebrated forty years of service to the university community in the building dedicated as the Carol M. Newman Library. As Paul Metz noted in his Anniversary Address, the years have seen the libraries play an innovative role in initiating and adapting emerging information technologies to make our resources more accessible. From the locally developed on-line catalog and circulation system, to on-line full text databases like the Dow Jones Retrieval Service, and the University Libraries' ventures into electronic publishing with the Scholarly Communications Project, the libraries have undertaken tremendous changes in the way we handle information. Metz also pointed to changes in what we acquire and how we make those acquisitions. For example, the VIVA Project (Virtual Library of Virginia), benefits its academic partners by joint purchasing of data bases, improving our electronic resources. Having more electronic resources, Metz pointed out, has also eased "one of our most urgent tasks . . . removing from this building about as many volumes as the libraries acquired from 1872 through 1961." Looking back to where we were and noting the changes we have made naturally suggests a peek at the future. I give you Metz's in his own words.

It would appear that everything has changed. Except that it hasn't. Here, without getting specific about it, is what I think we will still be doing: We will be selecting. That is, in a world of nearly infinite information resources and quite finite financial ones, someone will be playing the gatekeeper role . . . there will always be a set of distinctly academic resources which should be acquired in part because it is recognized to be a public good, not just a market success, that they be available to the university community. Not only will we still select what we want, we will negotiate the means by which we get it, just as we do today. Then we will organize it . . . finally, we will be teaching people how to deal with all this. Selection, negotiation, organization, instruction—it's an old model. It's an old bottle. But it will hold new wine. I hope that we will continue to practice it a long time—in the old building, and in this building, and in the arched, high-tech new wonder that we now know is coming. And I very much hope that when we practice it, we will do so in the company of friends like yourselves.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ellen E. Hitchmigher".

*Libraryfriends*, the publication of the University Libraries and the Friends of the University Libraries, seeks to promote the programs and interests of the University Libraries, to chronicle activities of the libraries and the Friends, and to record the generosity of their supporters. Please direct comments and suggestions to Margaret Shuler, Executive Secretary, Friends of the University Libraries, P.O. Box 90001, Blacksburg, VA 24062-9001, call (540) 231-3427, or use e mail (friends@vt.edu).

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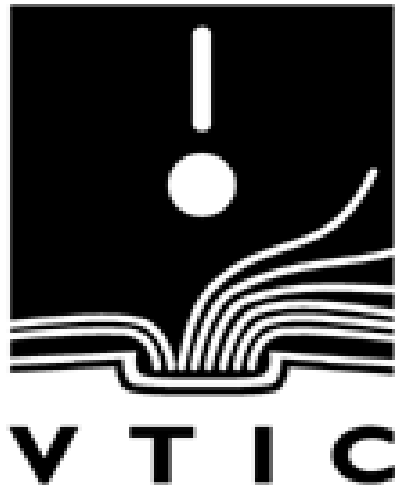
VT/240/0396/3M/962879

A woman wants to make flags with Olympic rings. Does she need to ask anyone for permission to use the design? If so, how does she get it? Someone else is interested in exporting goods to Japan. Are there regulations on exporting these goods? How can these people find this information?

The **Virginia Technical Information Center (VTIC)**, located on the first floor of Newman Library,

hasn't been stumped yet. Its mission is to promote economic development by assisting business, governmental agencies, and individuals with their information needs. Staffed by two librarians, two staff members, and five student assistants, VTIC (pronounced *vee tick*) is run as a cost recovery center, partially funded by a grant from Virginia's Center for Innovative Technology (CIT). Its operating funds are generated by services provided to VTIC's approximately 450 national and international clients, and it receives automation support from the University Libraries. VTIC is divided into two service units, Research Services and Document Delivery.

**Research Services** provides customized research. The Olympic question, mentioned above, was answered by information found on the Internet. A contact in the Department of Commerce provided the answer to the Japanese export regulation question. The two research librarians use their 45 years of combined experience to answer even the most challenging question. Using a variety of business contacts and on-line and hard copy sources, these librarians focus on the hard sciences, engineering, and business, but cover other topics as well. For example, a traveler wanted to know the warnings and



restrictions being issued by the State Department for Afghanistan; another client, to find out the number of business companies in households with school age children; and another, to find a non-copyrighted picture of a cow, not sitting or lying, but presenting a standing side view.

Most of the Center's requests involve technical or business issues. One of the most interesting was a request for general information on clay from a woman who, in walking over her land, had found quite a large deposit. After determining its composition, she wanted to know its uses. More research and negotiations with several companies resulted in the clay's being sold to a company that manufactures kitty litter. In fact, the company is building a plant near Richmond and has enticed a kitty-litter bag manufacturer to build a plant near their proposed site.

VTIC's service ethic is to provide fast and accurate service. In order to meet this promise, VTIC uses the most efficient technology for the job. Most of the customized research is delivered in electronic format. Requests may be e-mailed to [vtic@vt.edu](mailto:vtic@vt.edu).

**Document Delivery**, as the name implies, provides any type of document. One of the most interesting requests concerned a search for a Russian patent in 1995. The British Library was contacted and responded with a negative result. VTIC then contacted the World Patent Office in Geneva, where an official provided the fax number of the Russian Patent Office. A request for a copy of the patent, faxed in English, resulted, two weeks later, in the receipt of an original copy of the patent, costing only US\$7. VTIC can also fulfill requests for journal articles and

book loans, patents, standards, and gray literature such as in-house company documents, unpublished research papers, and press releases. VTIC also maintains a list of translators for client use.

Information is a commodity. Librarians have dealt with this commodity for generations and are familiar with its sources, uses, and ever changing nature. VTIC can use its resources to meet your information needs. Try us and see.

Beth Hanson

For more information:  
VTIC (Virginia Technical Information Center), 101 Newman Library,  
PO Box 10159, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0434

## Jan Carlton Receives Award

Janet R. Carlton, first director of the Northern Virginia Graduate Center library (1973-1996), is this year's recipient of the center's Distinguished Service Award. The award, sponsored by Phi Delta Kappa, is the only one given at the Northern Virginia Center and is presented annually at the graduation ceremonies.

Carlton joined the staff of the University Libraries in 1970 and is presently Electronic Resources Librarian in the Art and Architecture and Veterinary branch libraries in Blacksburg. Carlton is the thirteenth recipient of the prestigious award and the only member of the library faculty to be so honored.

# Welcome

## *friends*

Kevin W. Adams  
John A. Bartelloni  
William Bradley Beaman  
Wayne W. Campbell  
Lucille B. Carlton  
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene W. Carson, Jr.  
Elmo M. Clonch  
Whitfield Cobb  
Cecil S. Cummins  
Danny L. Gray  
Michael J. Haisma  
Ella T. Hobbs  
Janet and Jim Johnson  
Dennis P. Kelly  
Donald J. Kenney  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel D. Ludwig  
Hamilton Mabie  
Margaret G. Major  
Ralph E. McCoy  
Robert A. McCoy  
Jean A Phillips  
Robert M. Richardson  
William B. Rogers  
Melissa Ann Romas  
Frances M.H. Russell  
Lon Savage  
Dwight Dean Shackelford  
Robert Lee Smith  
Edward L. Tucker  
Janice E. Woodard

### **Class of '45**

R.N. Carroll, Jr.  
W.P. Copenhaver  
L.H. Goddin  
Philip B. Magruder, Jr.  
Edwin G. Snyder, Jr.

### **Corporate matching gifts:**

#### **Marion Merrell Dow, Inc.**

Sarah M. Weitzel

#### **Martin Marietta Corporation**

David I. Beach

#### **Virginia Power Company**

Kenneth D. Tuley



*Paul Metz entertains crowd with anecdotes of life in Newman Library*



*Friends Chair Bud Robertson and former Chair Frances Russell serve up Newman birthday cake*



*Dean of University Libraries Eileen Hitchingham welcomes guests*



*Friends Jan Carlton(l) and Harry Temple(r) chat with former University Libraries Directors Frank C. Shirk (1962-1970) and H. Gordon Bechanan (1975-1984) at the reception on Alumni Hall lawn.*

Gifts in memory of / given by:

Ruth G. Marshak

Luke W. Mo

Doris and Richard Zallen

*Benediction on the occasion  
of the 40th Anniversary  
Celebration of the Dedication  
of the Carol M. Newman  
Library  
May 9, 1996*

O Thou before whom we have to be  
completely honest,  
We confess our pride at this  
significant moment;  
But we trust it is justified, even in  
Thy sight.

Thou who transcends all knowledge  
and endeavor,  
We are limited in our gratitude for  
many things:  
For people in the university who see  
the importance of libraries  
And for those who have worked so  
hard to keep their purposes alive.

Thou, Whom we address as Creator,  
We pray now for continuing  
creativity as we strive to make our  
past accomplishments  
A mere prelude to future greatness.

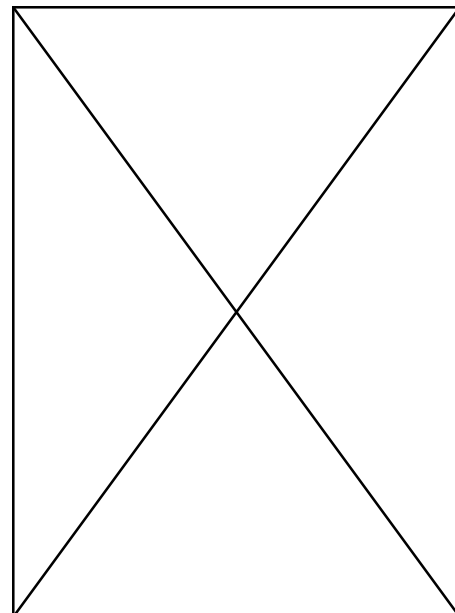
Give us the vision, courage, and skill  
To make our libraries, not only  
treasuries of the past,  
But also heralds of the future,  
Preserving valuable experiences,  
exciting ideas, and tremendous  
opportunities.

Help us to see the libraries  
As a microscope for hidden realities  
And a telescope for unlimited  
possibilities;  
For we trust that ours can be a  
human record of Thy Divine plan.

Amen.

*The Reverend Alfred C. Payne  
Counselor Emeritus of Religious  
Affairs at Virginia Tech (ret. 1981)*

# Maybe if Spielburg did the screenplay. . .



James Powell, University Libraries  
Programmer/Analyst, is the author of a new  
book *HTML Plus!* scheduled for publication  
in July. The book is a comprehensive guide  
to the HyperText Markup Language.  
Designed as a textbook for teaching Internet  
technologies, it gives students a well-rounded  
introduction to all of the technologies  
currently in use on the World Wide Web including HTML2 and the emerging HTML3  
standard. The book also contains chapters on Java, VRML, Adobe Acrobat, SGML,  
hypertext theory, and authoring for users with disabilities. The project-based, hands-on  
approach of the text offers students a chance to apply the content and presents a basis for  
practical discussion.

Powell is the University Libraries' systems administrator for "upwards of a dozen" UNIX  
servers and technical director for Scholarly Communications. With the release of his first  
book, Powell will realize one of his life goals. Looking to the future, he sees probable  
revised editions of *HTML Plus!* (due to rapid changes in technology), and possibly an  
additional book on Internet technology. "I'm really interested in moving on to fiction,"  
says Powell, "besides, who wants to see the movie adaptation of a book on HTML?"

*University Libraries*  
**Carol Newman Library**  
**SUMMER HOURS**

**July 1-Aug 10 (Second Summer  
Session)**

July 4 and 5      **CLOSED**  
Mon.- Fri.      8:00am - 10:00pm  
Sat.- Sun.      9:00am - 5:00pm

**August 11 - August 25 (Summer Break)**

August 11      **CLOSED**  
August 14      **CLOSED**  
Mon. - Fri.      8:00am - 7:00pm  
Sat., August 17      9:00am - 5:00pm  
Sun., August 18      **CLOSED**  
Sat., August 24      9:00am - 10:00pm  
Sun., August 25      9:00am - Midnight

**Fall classes begin Monday, August 26.  
Library resumes regular hours.**

**New Media Center Hours**

**CLOSED** through July 5.  
July 8 - July 31, Mon.- Fri.  
10:00am -  
7:00pm  
**CLOSED** August 1 -

August 25

Resume normal hours for Fall  
Semester

Contact branch libraries directly  
for their summer schedules:

Art & Architecture

231-9271

Geology

231-6101

Veterinary Medicine

231-6610

In Special Collections we often field questions about how to save many types of treasured media and memorabilia that patrons want to last for generations. This article is the second of a series dealing with preservation and will address issues involved in protecting photographs, videotapes and audiocassettes, scrapbooks, artwork, and textiles. While the tips given in the last issue for paper materials apply to these special memorabilia, the different media of these materials require special care to ensure their preservation.

### **Photographs:**

- ◆ Always handle photographs at the edges or wear cotton gloves. The acids in human skin oils will, over time, do permanent damage to the surface of photographs.

- ◆ Photographs, even more than regular paper documents, are susceptible to heat and humidity. High temperatures will cause the edges of photographs to swell and ripple. Moisture will fade black and white images and cause chemical reactions in color film, altering the color dyes. Rapid temperature changes will cause the emulsion to dry, crack, and chip off.

- ◆ Light will fade photographs; keep them shielded and in the dark as much as possible.

- ◆ Color photographs are less stable chemically than black and white. Consider taking a roll of black and white photographs at special events you will want to remember or have color prints reproduced in black and white.

- ◆ Store photographs in transparent sleeves made of polyester or polyethylene film (often going by the tradename Mylar). These materials are chemically stable and free of surface coatings. Never use vinyl enclosures, which will damage the images. Archival quality paper enclosures for prints and negatives may also be used. Whenever possible, store photographs individually in paper or Mylar sleeves.

- ◆ Never write on the back of photographs; ink can seep through to the image. A better option is to describe the photograph on the enclosure using a No. 2 pencil. If you must write on the back of a photograph, do so only with a No. 2 or softer pencil.

### **Videotapes:**

- ◆ Videotapes are not a long-lasting medium; each time they are played they lose some of their picture signal. Consider retaping your treasured home videos every five or ten years.

- ◆ Do not store videos near electrical outlets or on metal shelves. It is possible they will alter the electrical charge of the tape and erase the recorded images.

- ◆ It is virtually guaranteed that the machinery on which we now play our videotapes will be obsolete in the future. Whenever you buy a new machine, upgrade all of your old tapes to fit the new technology.

- ◆ Keep your VCR free of dust. Dust particles can seriously gouge the surface of videotapes.

- ◆ Always rewind videotapes to their beginning after use.

### **Audiocassettes:**

- ◆ Like videotape, audiotape is very susceptible to fluctuations and extremes in temperature and humidity. Store these tapes in areas that are cool and dry.

- ◆ To prevent an audiocassette from being erased inadvertently, break off the tab on top of the tape so that you do not tape over it.

- ◆ Always rewind audiocassettes to the beginning after use.

### **Scrapbooks and Albums:**

- ◆ Scrapbook paper is usually very cheap and acidic. Try to buy scrapbooks that are

guaranteed to have acid-free paper.

- ◆ When storing photographs in an album, use mounting corners, not self-sealing plastic which can stick to or react with pictures.

- ◆ Never glue or Scotch-tape photographs or clippings into scrapbooks; the glues will dry, crack, and attract bugs.

### **Artwork:**

- ◆ Use museum quality mats and frames to display any valuable photograph or artwork.

- ◆ To prevent fading and cracking of the image, do not place valuable artwork on walls that get direct sunlight.

- ◆ Rotate artwork on the walls of your home to cut down on the amount of exposure to light of any one piece.

### **Textiles:**

- ◆ Do not store quilts, fabrics, or special clothes (like wedding dresses) in plastic bags from dry-cleaning or other stores.

- ◆ Treasured clothing and fabrics can be stored safely by wrapping them loosely in clean cotton sheets or acid-free tissue paper and placing them in acid-free boxes.

Special products such as acid-free folders, boxes, and Mylar enclosures may be ordered through catalogs available in the Special Collections Department or through suppliers such as Light Impressions (1-800-828-6216) and Gaylord (1-800-448-8160).

Laura Katz Smith  
Manuscripts Curator  
Special Collections Department

Next issue: Tips for dealing with water and fire-damaged materials.

# University Libraries Site of VIVA's IAC Training



A special online training session sponsored by the Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA) was held March 25 at the University Libraries. The session, one of five around the state, was attended by more than thirty regional librarians who received training in the access and use of Information Access Corporation (IAC) databases that are now available over the Internet through VIVA.

The VIVA project is funded by the Virginia State Council of Higher Education and is a consortium of libraries from all thirty-nine publicly supported colleges and universities of Virginia. VIVA was created to share electronic resources and to promote electronic access to online information that supports higher education in Virginia. There are also twenty-seven private institution partners that are realizing benefits through the negotiations for statewide licenses to access online databases.

The introduction of the IAC databases into VIVA is important because over 2,000 of the journal titles indexed in the four databases currently available provide full-text articles that can be read online and printed by the user from any workstation connected to a campus network. This addition is a major step forward in the creation of a "virtual library" for the state of Virginia, a library that will increase in importance as more information of this type becomes available and is added to VIVA.

The participants were trained by an IAC representative and tested their newly learned skills in the online classroom on the second floor of Newman Library. Mary Ann Chappell, from James Madison University, represented VIVA at the meeting and answered questions regarding technical issues about accessing databases as well as about the future of the VIVA project.

Buddy Litchfield

This year the General Assembly continued the VIVA project for an additional two years at a budget of five million dollars. Through VIVA, the University Libraries at Virginia Tech have received equipment, a staff position for interloan, software, and access to several databases (First Search, Britannica Online, IAC databases with full-text journal articles, several Chadwyck-Healey databases, full-text journals in the humanities from Project Muse, and the Oxford English Dictionary).

The Interlibrary Loan (ILL) department of the University Libraries experienced an increase in the growth of interloan lending and borrowing in '94-'95 (the statics for '95-'96, the fiscal year just ending, will be available for the next issue of *library friends*) and has achieved a quicker turnaround time, usually 24-48 hours. Virginia Tech is the number one lender in VIVA, loaning approximately 30,000 items to other libraries. Of these, 18,692 have been in Virginia alone, a 45% increase, and our users have borrowed nearly 15,000 items.

## Art and Architecture Library Benefit

The Art and Architecture Library Benefit, sponsored by student architecture fraternity Alpha Rho Chi, was held March 22 in Hancock Lobby, Cowgill Hall. This annual event features the exhibition and sale of original work by students and faculty and a raffle (this year's offering, Alvar Aalto stools). Profits from the benefit will go toward the purchase for the Architecture Library of an Akari light sculpture designed by the Japanese artist, Isamu Noguchi.

## Art and Architecture Library Receives Gift

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Platt of Chappaqua, New York, recently made a gift to the Art and Architecture Library of the collection of Mrs. Platt's father, the late Walter John Butke. Butke, who taught architecture and design in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies for twenty-five years, had amassed a collection of books, prints, slides, records, and other objects.

Over 135 titles of very desirable, high quality books will be cataloged for the University Libraries, and the prints will form the core of a small lending library of prints for architecture students. Alpha Rho Chi, the student architecture fraternity, offered the books that duplicated titles already in our collection for sale "to architecture students at low prices, so they would come to the students as Walter would have wanted," according to Art and Architecture Librarian Annette Burr. They also held a "silent auction" for selected, out-of-print items. The proceeds from these activities will be used to purchase a fine addition to the library in Butke's memory.

## Bookplate

The bookplate on the cover was designed by Mark Blizzard (Arch, '86, MArch, '88) in honor of the collection of the late Walter J. Butke, associate professor of architecture. Blizzard is an instructor in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

The design incorporates the nautilus shell used in DES (descriptive environmental systems) lectures, the doorway of the Baltimore Brew House (a historic landmark and object of restoration by Professor Butke), and one of a compilation of truisms, collected by Butke, meant to evoke thought. The three elements represent the center of Walter John Butke's life as an educator.

# A Note of Thanks

We wish to thank friends of the University Libraries for their gifts of books, manuscripts, photographs, and other library materials. These donors include:

**Thomas Adriance (deceased)**

*Theatre playbills from local and international performances.*  
Inventory available <http://scholar2.lib.vt.edu/spec/mss/adriance.htm>

**Jean Aldrich**

*Photograph album of Percy Clayton Hamilton, Class of 1912*

**Maria Aubock**

*Books and papers for the International Archive of Women in Architecture*

**Rebecca Binder**

*Biographical information for the International Archive of Women in Architecture*

**L. Bane Coburn**

*Collection of seven letters by a Confederate soldier to his sister*

**Lillian S. Blackford**

*Playbills and programs (from 1937) of Virginia Tech theatrical productions*

**Katherine Diamond**

*Papers relating to the history of women in architecture*

**Paul A. Distler**

*Copies of underground newspaper Alice*

**Leroy D. Hammond**

*Historical research materials documenting the shared history of Virginia Tech and Virginia Military Institute*

**Charles E. Modlin**

*Additions to the Sherwood Anderson collection*

**Helga Plumb**

*Drawings for the International Archive of Women in Architecture*

**Libba and James I. Roberston, Jr.**

*Manuscript and typescript drafts, edited working copies, and publisher's galley proofs for three of Dr. Robertson's books, including General A.P. Hill: The Story of a Confederate Warrior; Soldiers Blue and Gray; Civil War! America Becomes One*

Nation. Inventory available <http://scholar2.lib.vt.edu/spec/mss/robertsn.htm>

**Dorothy C. Rogers**

*V.P.I. memorabilia: VPI fabric letters of Gerald E. Anderson, Class of 1935*

**Cheryll Simmons**

*V.P.I. memorabilia from the collection of Lucy Barnett*

**Carroll R. Shuler**

*Memory Book, written reminiscences, photographs, and memorabilia*

**Alison G. Sulloway**

*Collection of 412 monographs*

We note with sadness the death of Friend and patron **Ruth G. Marshak** on April 12, 1996. Her generosity in making a gift to the University Libraries of the Robert E. Marshak Collection will long be gratefully remembered.