

# Friends *Folio*

A Newsletter from the  
Friends of Ganser Library  
No. 64 Spring, 2012

## The Library at Gerhart Hall

While the library is under renovation, stop by Gerhart Hall to:

- Use computers for research & papers
- Borrow books, textbooks, juvenile items, DVDs, graphic novels & more
- Check out laptops and DVD players to use around campus
- Pick up E-ZBorrow & Request It/ Interlibrary Loan items
- Return items & pay fines
- Use course reserve items
- Print your papers
- Use small group study spaces
- Request curriculum, FOSS kits & oversized children's textbooks for pick-up at Gerhart Hall



*In the photo, left to right:*  
First row - Todd Kemmler, William Shellhamer; Second row - Ryan Kreger, Tyler Gehman; Third row - Lynn Shoemaker, Daniella Singleton, Liz Stone; Fourth row - Ramie Millar, Jon Mowery, Krista Higham, Linda Rogers, Sally Levit and Tony Sellers. Not pictured: Deborah Sowers

You can also check out the colorful U.S. map which shows the many locations around the country that have loaned materials to Millersville University students, faculty and staff. Library faculty, staff, and students are working hard to make sure you have access to materials needed for class and research projects.

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# Uncovering New Content through Digitization: The Richard Gehman Collection

by Rose Chiango

Following the death of entertainment writer Richard Gehman in 1972, his family donated a collection of manuscripts and reel-to-reel tape-recorded interviews to Millersville University. When National Public Radio's Riverwalk Jazz series devoted a program to jazz musician Eddie Condon, the producer contacted the Millersville University Archives & Special Collections, thinking that we might have some interview material available. With little information about the specific contents of the reels of 1960s recorded interviews and live jazz sessions it became clear that the recordings needed to be digitized.

Richard Gehman was born in Lancaster County in 1921, and in his lifetime wrote more than 3,000 magazine articles, five novels and 15 nonfiction books. Gehman attended McCaskey High School, and graduated in the Class of 1938.

Before graduation, he was already working for the *Sunday News* and *Intelligencer Journal*.

For the next four years, he worked for the *Lancaster New Era* and the *Philadelphia Record*. In 1942, he was drafted into the Army Corps of Engineers and stationed at the military base in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

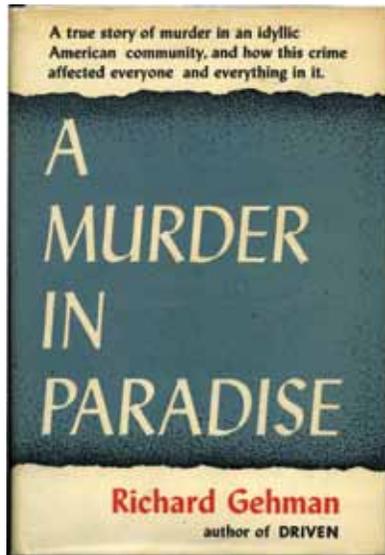
Naturally, Gehman started writing for *The Oak Ridge Journal* while he was stationed there. After the war was over, he moved to New York City and entered the most prolific period of his career, writing for magazines such as *Good Housekeeping* and *Cosmopolitan*. Afterwards, he became a freelance writer at *Newsweek* and the *Saturday Evening Post*. Gehman used pen names very liberally—it was not uncommon for him to have written many articles under different names all in the same issue of a magazine. By the late 1960s, he became known as the “King of Freelance Writers.”

Gehman's specialty was celebrities; *TV Guide* even hired him specifically for this purpose. He reportedly kept files containing intimate details of their lives, and many of his interviews show him persuading people to share things they wouldn't normally. Gehman himself was also worthy of gossip, though—he was married five times and had many children. He was married for a brief time to

Estelle Parsons, who won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress in 1967. In his later life, he taught writing at many universities, including PSU, NYU, and Columbia. However, as he aged, demand for his articles declined and he came into financial difficulties and moved back to Lancaster.

When Gehman's manuscripts and recordings were first donated, the recordings were on ¼" tape reels. The 80 reel-to-reel tapes were recorded at various speeds, and some were double-sided. Copying the contents of a reel into the computer took anywhere from a half-hour to three hours depending on the way it was originally recorded. In order to make the recordings sound new, and to maximize audio quality, intern Chris Byrne worked with Mark Mullen, IT/AV technician in the Communication and Theatre department, to record the reel-to-reel tapes into a TASCAM digital audio recorder. The files that were created from this process were transferred to a computer where the audio was edited to remove dead spaces, stabilize the audio levels and create stereo sound.

The content of these recordings is varied; there are interviews, family gatherings, radio appearances, and live music. Some of the tapes may not have been compiled by Richard Gehman himself. Some of the recordings include jumps from one interview to another without warning, which makes it seem likely that these tapes might have been an older form of preservation (possibly scraps from the editing room floor that were all taped together



Courtesy of Archives & Special Collections, Franklin & Marshall College.

## Friends Folio

*The Friends Folio* is published twice a year (fall and spring) and distributed to the Millersville University community and Friends of Ganser Library.

For more information or questions, contact us at (717) 872-3624, [Special.Collections@millersville.edu](mailto:Special.Collections@millersville.edu).

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Current and past issues of the *Friends Folio* are available on the Special Collections website: <http://mville.us/friendsfolios>

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and dubbed onto a reel). There aren't any formalities, introductions, or conclusions. Gehman would frequently talk to himself about how he wasn't quite sure how the recording device worked or if it was currently recording.

**R**ichard Gehman was recorded interviewing some of the biggest celebrities of his time. His interviewing methods at times seemed pretty outrageous, but Gehman lived an outrageous life. He was an alcoholic, and reportedly had his-and-hers gin bottles with one of his wives. The way his interviews were conducted suggested that these celebrities were more than happy to share their opinions and secrets with a man who had an audio recorder and a smooth voice.



Courtesy of Archives & Special Collections, Franklin & Marshall College.

While the Gehman collection was being digitized and organized, Special Collections was contacted by Richard's son Christian Gehman, who was able to provide a more complete picture of Gehman's family life. And more recently, we were contacted by Gus Britton, one of Gehman's grandsons, who wanted some recordings just to hear his grandfather's voice. Gehman's interviews with Eddie Condon were never used by the NPR program; however, a Condon family member, Eddie's daughter Maggie, contacted us asking for recordings of the interview that she remembered as a small child. By digitizing this collection, we have been able to connect family members and others with recordings from the Gehman collection.

We will continue to explore the vast network of people with whom Gehman interacted through his interviews,



Gehman's interviewing notebooks

and we hope to collect more information about this man who was so influential in documenting the entertainment world in the United States in the 1950s and 60s.

## Sources

Bryne, Chris. "Gehman Digitization." Via email. 5 January 2012.

Evanier, Mark. "Read More About It." Povoonline. 2 August 2009.

Gehman, Christian. "Gehman Family." Via email. 9 February 2012.

"Richard Gehman Papers at Millersville University." Millersville University Library.

"Richard Gehman Papers at Shadok-Fackenthal Library, Franklin and Marshall College." Franklin and Marshall College. Web PDF file.

*Rose Chiango is an English major at Millersville University and a student assistant in Archives & Special Collections. The notebook pages shown above were used by Gehman while interviewing and are part of the collection.*

## Library Capital Campaign

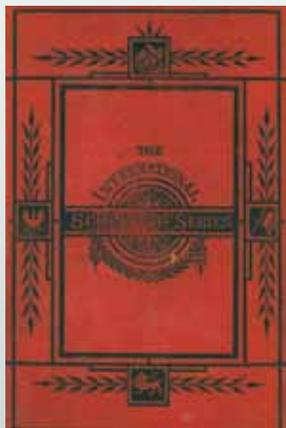
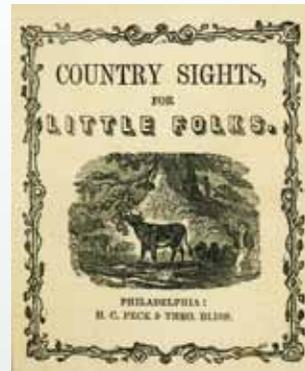
Since the campaign's inception, alumni, faculty/staff, retirees and friends have come to the forefront in committing their resources to enhance the "Library of Tomorrow," for new classrooms or other student learning spaces or through rare book and manuscript donations. The many opportunities and special features within the new library are multifaceted and will truly benefit the entire Millersville University community. New features of the library include a reading sculpture garden, student study rooms, a variety of reading rooms, faculty collaboration space, a floor dedicated to children's literature and curriculum collections, 24-hour study space with an expanded café, multimedia collaboration area, Special Collections area, and writer's room. Please join these Library Friends by making your contribution to the library capital campaign: [www.millersville.edu/soartogreatness](http://www.millersville.edu/soartogreatness).



# Recent Additions

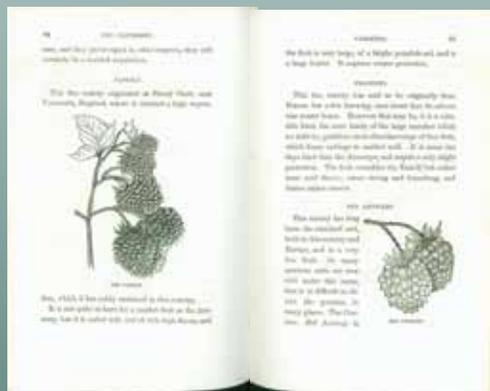
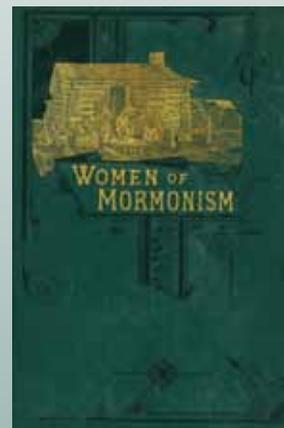
Each issue of the Folio highlights recent additions to the collection made possible through funding from the Friends of the Library or through donation. Students regularly make use of new additions like these to examine particular points of view, intended audiences, and issues of race, class, and gender.

**Country Sights for Little Folks**, published in Philadelphia by H. C. Peck & Theo. Bliss in the 1850s, contains illustrations and descriptions of common scenes from country life such as going to church, haymaking, reaping, gathering walnuts, sowing wheat, the barn yard, Indians, and rent-day. The small volume notes that Indians are a “very singular people. It is but a little more than two hundred years since all of our country, then a wilderness, was owned and occupied by them.” The chapter on rent-day describes landlords in England receiving rent from their tenants. It concludes: “Farmers in our country generally own the house they live in, and the land they cultivate—but in some cases it is rented, as in England.”



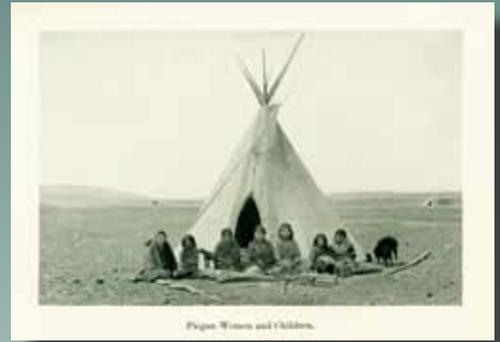
John William Draper, MD, LLD, wrote **The History of the Conflict between Religion and Science in 1875**. The publisher was D. Appleton & Company in New York. Draper was a professor of chemistry at New York University and in his later years wrote extensively on the history of ideas. This volume was part of Appleton’s International Scientific Series. Chapters focus on controversies including the nature of the soul, the nature of the world, the age of the earth, how truth can be known, “Latin Christianity in relation to modern civilization,” and the introduction of science into Europe. The impending crisis between Catholics and Protestants in terms of science and faith comprises the final chapter. A catalog of advertisements for similar works is included at the back of the volume. Due to Draper’s views, his book was put on the Catholic Church’s Index of Prohibited Books.

**The Women of Mormonism or the Story of Polygamy as Told by the Victims Themselves** was edited by Jennie Anderson Froiseth with an introduction by Frances E. Willard. The volume was published in a variety of cities in 1881 and 1882; ours was published by C.G.G. Paine, in Detroit, Michigan, in 1882. It covers the origins of polygamy, the stories of first wives, legislation concerning polygamy, and the spread of Mormonism. Written by the editor of the *Anti-Polygamy Standard*, this anti-polygamy treatise was written for the “WOMEN OF AMERICA” as a warning and from a very specific point of view.



**A Complete Manual for the Cultivation of the Strawberry; with a Description of the Best Varieties**, was published in 1856 by R. G. Pardee. Cultivation of raspberries, blackberries, cranberries, currants, gooseberries, and grapes was also covered. Pardee discusses soil, manure, transplanting, mulching, watering, renewal of beds, seedlings and classification. The volume concludes with a listing of other works by the publisher, C.M. Saxton & Co, Agricultural Book Publishers of New York.

George Bird Grinnell's ***The Story of the Indian*** was initially published in 1895 and republished in 1898 (D. Appleton and Company, New York). Part of The Story of the West series, it joined other titles such as *The Story of the Railroad*, *The Story of the Cowboy*, and *The Story of the Mine*. Grinnell was a naturalist and conservationist who helped draw up plans for the New York Zoological Park and was largely responsible for creating Glacier National Park. In 1925, he was elected president of the National Parks Association. Based on Grinnell's recollections of and conversations with Native Americans from many locations, this work describes home life, marriage, hunting, war, arts, religion, and the coming of the Europeans. Photographs of Pawnee, Blackfoot, Sioux, Navajo and Piegan men, women, children, and villages are included.



Piegan Women and Children.

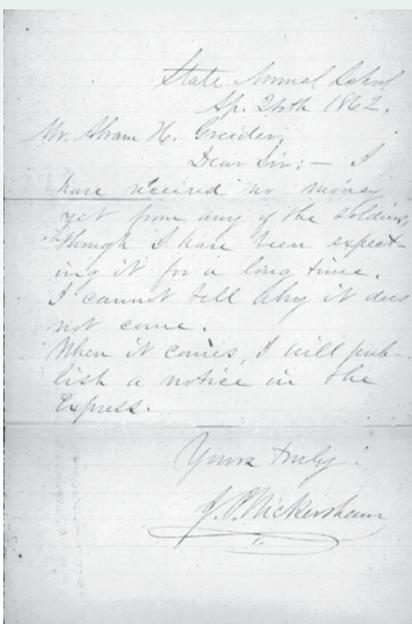


***One Hundred Recipes for the Chafing Dish*** was published by the Gorham Manufacturing Company in New York in 1894. The silver company notes that the book "is intended to give pleasure to those who enjoy using a Chafing Dish. The formulas are simple, easy to follow, and are not designed to prove that elaborate dishes can be prepared, but that many articles of food can easily be made very delicate, toothsome, and enjoyable." A history of the chafing dish is followed by recipes and illustrations of the various models of chafing dishes available to order from Gorham. This is the place to look when seeking recipes and presentation ideas for entrées such as pigs feet in butter, braised breast of quail, and venison steak with currant jelly sauce.

Mary Virginia Terhune (using the pen name Marion Harland) wrote ***House and Home: A Complete Housewife's Guide in 1889***. Published in both Philadelphia and St. Louis (P. W. Ziegler), this work covers subjects such as cottage furnishing, etiquette of family life, why washing is done on Mondays, hospitality, breakfast as it should be, what our children eat, and recipes. Under a section on the literary life of the household, the author examines representative middle class families and the types of books they should be reading.



The Mirror (1889) Miss. 1889.



Two handwritten letters by J. P. Wickersham (noted educator and co-founder of Millersville University) were recently donated by friends of Archives & Special Collections. Focused on issues related to payment for soldiers, both letters were written in 1862, before the school was closed due to "rebel invasion of the State" and the burning of the Columbia Bridge.

# Student Research Projects

Archives & Special Collections has had a busy year with many students making use of print and digital primary source materials for their coursework and research projects. History faculty members such as Dr. Erin Shelor, Dr. Tanya Kevoorkian, Dr. Jeff Prushankin, and Dr. Onek Adyanga offer opportunities for students to locate and use primary sources, and to integrate them with appropriate scholarly secondary works for their research papers. Prof. Marie Qvarnstrom (Humanities) encourages her students to explore the historical background and sociological context of Amish and other Pennsylvania German groups for their in-class presentations. English faculty members Prof.

Joyce Anderson, Dr. Carla Rineer, and Dr. Kasia Jakubiak ask their English 110 students to investigate primary source materials. Dr. Caleb Corkery's (English) University 103 students explored oral history narratives to gain new understandings of different cultures and experiences. Students in Dr. Rita Smith Wade-El's University 103



class learned about oral history methodology and interpretation for their project focused on interviewing members of the African American and Latino/a communities. Dr. Carrie Smith (Sociology) wanted her students to learn about oral history interviewing in relation to the elderly in the Lancaster community. Additional instruction/training sessions this year covered new online resources relating to Millersville history for Advancement staff, a genealogy class from LancasterHistory.org, and homeschoolers working on National History Day projects. Our growing collections of

online resources provide opportunities for students and community members to make use of primary source materials in new ways. For more information, see the Subject Guide for Millersville History at [www.library.millersville.edu](http://www.library.millersville.edu) or go to the Archives & Special Collections website: <http://blogs.millersville.edu/archivesandspecialcollections/>.

# News & Special Events

Michael Lavigne (class of 1974) will be the featured speaker at the Friends Spring Lecture on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at 7 p.m. in the Lehr Room of the Bolger Conference Center.

Lavigne's presentation is titled: *A Writer Comes*

*Home: Identity, Memory and History in Writing and Life.*



Lavigne will talk about his beginnings at Millersville, his approach to research and writing, his current book project, and his first novel *Not Me*, which tells "dramatic and surprising stories of two men—father and son—through sixty years of uncertain memory, distorted history, and assumed identity" ([www.michaellavigne.com](http://www.michaellavigne.com)) and has themes connected to the Holocaust. Lavigne will be meeting with students and will also be participating in the Holocaust Conference. The Friends Spring Lecture will also feature an update about the library renovation project and the library capital campaign.

## National Book Festival Trip

The Friends annual bus trip to the National Book Festival will be on Sunday, September 23, 2012. The Festival is held on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., rain or shine. Each year the festival features authors who write in a variety of genres, including Fiction & Fantasy, History & Biography, Mysteries & Thrillers, Poetry, Home & Family, and Teens & Children. The popular Pavilion of States represents reading programs and literary events from across the country and beyond.

Tickets are \$44 each. To reserve your seat, send your check (payable to Millersville University) and the names of each person in your party to Phil Bishop, P.O. Box 542, Ephrata, PA 17522-0542. For more information, contact Phil at 717-733-1476.

# Library Renovation Update

Library faculty, staff, and collections moved out of the building in summer and early fall of 2011. Contractors began the important work of demolition inside the building at the end of fall semester. As you travel by the building, you may notice the following:



- A construction elevator regularly takes trips between floors on the exterior of the building.
- The Millersville University sign and wall sculpture, as well as limestone sections, were removed from the curved limestone wall. This is in preparation for the new room that will overlook the corner of Frederick and George.
- A new storm drain system was put in place on the north side of the building (between the Library and Dutcher).
- The big blue box containing the cooling tower from the old HVAC system is now gone from the roof.
- Contractors are beginning the process of putting in the foundation for the expanded entrance.

Inside the building, all old ceilings, light fixtures, floor coverings and many walls have been removed to prepare for new construction. While all of this takes place, library staff, faculty, and student assistants are working hard (in many locations) to meet the needs of the university community. Check out the new library website to connect with our many resources and services—[www.library.millersville.edu](http://www.library.millersville.edu) and <http://blogs.millersville.edu/archivesandspecialcollections/>.



If you have any questions related to the renovation, please contact Marilyn Parrish at [marilyn.parrish@millersville.edu](mailto:marilyn.parrish@millersville.edu) or 717-872-3633.



# Millersville University

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## Folio by email

Sign up to receive the Friends Folio electronically. This environmentally friendly way to read the Folio also provides the benefits of earlier delivery and helps us reduce costs for mailing and printing. If you'd like to receive the Folio electronically, email [Special.Collections@millersville.edu](mailto:Special.Collections@millersville.edu) to let us know.

## Treasures of the Archives

*by Janet Dotterer*

Over the years, staff members, students, and Friends have created many exhibits from the treasures within the university archives. Exhibits have featured the history of libraries at Millersville, international students, the history of buildings on campus, snapping, and the 150th anniversary. To celebrate the hard work done by many individuals and to share our wealth, we have created a special location on our new website to highlight exhibits created since 2004.

While we are out of the building, no physical exhibits can be put together but we will try to create new ones for the website.

To view the many exhibits please visit: <http://blogs.millersville.edu/archivesandspecialcollections/exhibits/>



## Becoming a Friend

People become Friends of Ganser Library when they make a donation to Millersville University and request mailings from the Friends. Encourage your friends to become Friends of Ganser Library through their support of Millersville University. For more information, contact the Millersville University Development Office at 717-872-3820.