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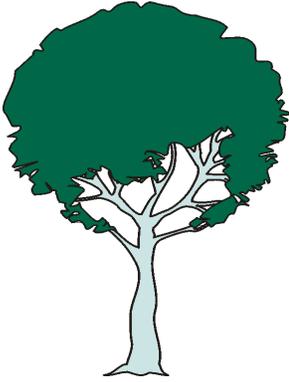


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Society for Advancement of Poynter Library

THE LIBRARY CONNECTION

University of South Florida St. Petersburg

Fall 2002

Preserving our Audio/Visual Heritage

by Jim Schnur
Special Collections Librarian



Betty Jean Miller
SAPL President

New Faces, New Plans

It's a whole new ballgame for members of the SAPL Board of Directors this year, and for the campus as a whole, with freshman now being admitted to USF St. Petersburg and adding greatly to the enrollment.

At the board's first meeting in September 2002, we heard from John Collins, the new Executive Director of Campus Advancement, who feels in so many ways that the measure of a university is its library. His enthusiasm is contagious, and he plans to make Poynter Library one of his priorities. Our new Vice-President/Campus Executive Officer Ralph Wilcox plans to be with us at our spring board meeting.

Meanwhile, Jim Schnur, Poynter Library's first official Special Collections Librarian, told us of his website, updated us on his department and outlined his plans for the future. In an effort to make the public more aware of

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The popularity of the 1929 historic film donated by Phyllis Jordan and preserved with SAPL's assistance demonstrates a growing interest in local history. Indeed, at many of the public showings, audience members mentioned they, too, had bags and boxes of old films "somewhere" in the garage, "hiding" in the attic, or "collecting dust."

Such audio/visual materials, whether they document major historic milestones or show children happily opening birthday presents, often possess a great sentimental value that may be impossible to replace.

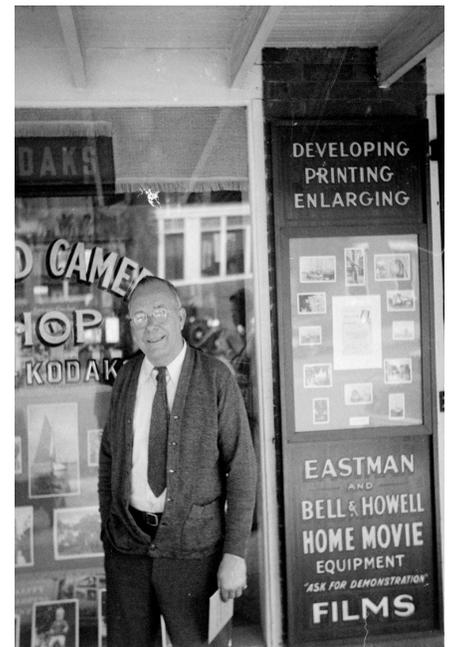
To preserve your treasures, try to strike a balance between preservation and access. In maintaining audio/visual materials, remember to keep your items in an environment with stable temperature and humidity. Items stored in a climate controlled areas suffer less damage than materials kept in the garage, attic, or shed. Exposure to excessive light or to extreme and regular fluctuations in temperature and dampness will quickly destroy films, photographs, or paper.

Remember to store items in secure and acid-free containers. If your home movies sit in metal containers, you should place them in ph-balanced, lignin-free containers available from companies that specialize in archival supplies. Also, avoid wrapping your home movies

(or reel-to-reel tapes) with rubber bands, which can "glue" themselves to film or paper surfaces as they age and become dry.

Audiocassettes and videotapes should reside in closeable plastic or other stable ph-balanced containers. Avoid placing your keepsake tape on the shelves close to the floor. Such areas are susceptible to dust and to vacuum cleaners that emit electromagnetic static that may permanently alter or damage these materials.

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Man in front of the Strand Camera Shop
Source: Earl R. Jacobs III Collection of the Photographs of Francis G. Wagner

From the Dean



Kathy Arsenault
Library Dean

Fall semester has been a busy time at Poynter Library. Enrollment has more than doubled over the past five years, to an all-time high of 3874 students. With so many new folks to serve, the library instruction lab, reserve desk, interlibrary loan and audiovisual departments are bustling places. Added to the daily tasks of a busy library, librarians and staff are also active in various search committees for 54 new faculty and administrators. Many of us participate as well on key campus governance committees that are examining current campus policies and procedures and

preparing for our future as a separately accredited university. It is definitely an interesting and challenging time to be at USF St. Petersburg!



In spite of everything, several of our staff have special accomplishments I'm delighted to brag about. Tina Neville and Deb Henry have co-authored a book on reference services for science students, and both Tina Neville and David Brodosi, from Audiovisual Department, are among the three USF St. Petersburg staff members selected this fall to participate in a university-wide leadership program. Our newest librarians, Mika Slaughter and Jim Schnur, are busy whipping their new departments into shape. Mika is establishing a

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Read the "fine print" when purchasing photo albums. Many manufacturers tout their albums as "acid free" and of "archival quality." However, such claims are as ambiguous as the "fat-free" labels placed on snacks! If you place photographs in albums, refrain from using permanent adhesives when attaching photographs to the paper. Avoid albums with plastic enclosures made of polyvinyl chloride (PVC), which can, over time, secrete acids that will damage photographic emulsions.

With the growing popularity of VCRs, many people have paid commercial outlets to transfer their home movies to video. Unfortunately, in some cases, these vendors encouraged customers to discard their original films.

In most cases, however, film offers a more stable medium and has a longer shelf life than videotape. If you decide to transfer your movies to videotapes, DVDs, or CD-ROMs, keep the "original" films as a master. Do not be per-

DVDs - Something Extra

by Jerry Notaro

So you finally went and bought that DVD player. You even got the neighbor boy to hook it up for you. Now you know why so many others have made the switch from VHS to DVD. Not only do you get easy access, great sound, and crystal clear images, but all those extras. You can choose subtitles or dubbed, wide screen or pan and scan, even the rating level. Kids watching? Zap out profanities. And now for the best news: Poynter Li-

brary's media collection has a growing list of DVD titles SAPL members may check out. The following are a few of my personal recommendations.

Lilies - An emotionally intense, suspense-laden tale of love, betrayal and revenge between men. In 1952, a Catholic bishop makes an exceptional visit to a prison to hear a dying inmate's confession. Once inside the chapel, the bishop is taken hostage by Simon, a childhood friend. With the aid of his fellow inmates, Simon's version of the

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sueded to part with your films, even if you sold that Super 8 movie projector at a yard sale years ago.

Like different brands of wine, some items "age" more gracefully than others. Most films used during the twentieth century employed the "dry gelatin" process. Please be aware some earlier versions of this process have proven to become unstable over time.

For example, cellulose nitrate film (used from the 1880s un-

til the 1950s) can rapidly deteriorate and become highly flammable. This film can often be identified by a strong acidic odor. If you notice a strong odor, wrinkles, warping, or bubbles in your home movies or photographic negatives, consult a professional for assistance.

When preserving your personal or family archives, remember this important rule of thumb: Refrain from making any changes you cannot reverse.

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our library and our local heritage, Jim presented our 1929 film of St. Petersburg at Heritage Park and will show it to Town and Gown at that organization's spring meeting. As far as selling copies of the film or making money from it in any way, possible copyright problems seem to prohibit that.

Marion Ballard, Book Fair chairman, says the annual event has been scheduled for April 4, 2003, for students, faculty and members, and April 5, for the general public. The plan worked well last year and is a go again for this year's sale. With the money accrued from this sale and other projects, the board adds to the library's collections, or supplies other necessary materials, as recommended by the staff. The acquisition of a wireless LAN (Local Area Network) computer access was suggested by Dean Kathy Arsenault, and its purchase is being investigated.

Meanwhile, Scott Hartzell, author and editor of a local historical column for the *St. Petersburg Times*, published a story on the U.S. Maritime Base located on the land where the Bayboro campus is now.

So it looks like a year of new faces and new happenings, all of which are very exciting.

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events that took place forty years earlier is reenacted. The action moves seamlessly through time between the crude prison and the actual events of 1912. The drama culminates on the tragic night when both men's fates were decided. Adapted from a popular French play, *Lilies* was one of the most successful art-house films of 1997; winner of four of Canada's Genie Awards, including Best Picture and an official selection of Sundance Film Festival.

On the Waterfront - The 1954 film won eight Academy Awards including Best Picture and Best Director. The DVD contains an interesting eleven-minute interview with director Elia Kazan, who reminisces about shooting on the Hoboken docks and working with writer Budd Schulberg and producer Sam Spiegel. The DVD contains a commentary track that features a breezy, but informative, conversation between *Time* film critic Richard Schickel and Kazan biographer Jeff Young. In their discussion, they speak only briefly about Kazan's controversial testimony before the House Un-American Activities Committee. Selected special features on the DVD: commentary by critic Richard Schickel and biographer Jeff Young; feature "Contender: Mastering the Method"; Elia Kazan interview; video

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program of library services for USF SP's distance learning students, and Jim is busy organizing special collections and serving as a wonderful ambassador to various community groups through his history talks. Karilyn Jaap, my successor as collection development librarian, is organizing a Spanish and French literature collection to support faculty and students in our new language classes.

Finally, with funding from SAPL and other library donors, Berrie Watson, our Systems Coordinator, is implementing a wireless computer LAN (local area network), so students can bring their laptops and connect to library resources anywhere in the building, whether they're sprawled on a sofa or enjoying our best waterfront views from a third floor window. Twenty years ago, SAPL's support helped us purchase some of our very first library computers. Once again, we are grateful for your help as we take this exciting step forward in technology.



Student using laptop outside of library

photo gallery; filmographies; theatrical trailers.

The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari - The tale is of mysterious showman Dr. Caligari, who arrives in a small European town at the time of its annual fair. He intends to amaze the crowds with a genuine somnambulist who knows the past and sees the future. Outside of the sideshow, however, the showman Dr. Caligari has sinister plans. Immediately a series of murders are committed in the town. Suspicion quickly falls on Caligari and his sleepwalker, Ce-

sare, portrayed by Conrad Veidt. Caligari eventually flees the town and is traced back to an insane asylum. This edition of *Caligari*, which first appeared on laserdisc and videotape in the mid-1990s, features new intertitles. The transfer has been color-tinted and color-toned and the picture image is amazingly clear compared to other prints of *Caligari*. The DVD is augmented by an eerie chamber orchestra music score composed and conducted by Timothy Brock.

Society for Advancement of Poynter Library

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University of South Florida St. Petersburg - 140 Seventh Avenue South - St. Petersburg, FL 33701

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The \$50 membership is not tax-deductible; all gifts over that amount are tax-deductible.



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