

Collections

A PUBLICATION OF THE BENTLEY HISTORICAL LIBRARY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN FALL 2014

Seeing Stars on Campus

The fight to keep the skies clear above the Detroit Observatory





On the Cover

On a crisp, clear night in October, photographer Rob Hess set up a camera at the Detroit Observatory, attempting to capture a time-lapse of the stars overhead. The task proved nearly impossible because of the bright lights all around—from streets, cars, dorms, the hospital, and more. The stars simply weren't visible. As a result, the image on the cover is a composite altered in post-production. In other words, it's been heavily manipulated. Despite the image being more fiction than fact, we kept it for the cover because it perfectly illustrates the crux of the battle in our Observatory feature on page six. Our cover was lost long before October—it went missing in 1912 with the inevitable campus expansion. But we thought it was worthwhile to imagine what could have been.

Contents

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

1 – Where Michigan's History Lives

1150 BEAL

2 – Rifle Through Our Collections
2 – In Memoriam: Nancy Deromedi
3 – Slide Over Here
4 – Abridgements

REFERENCES

18 – Framing the Future
19 – Three Michigan Architects

CATHOLEPISTEMIAD

20 – Behind the Lectern
21 – U-M Turns 200
22 – How to Finish College in an Hour

BENTLEY UNBOUND

24 – Hair We Are

FEATURES

6 – The Battle for the Heavens

On a creaking ship in the middle of the Atlantic in 1912, Professor of Astronomy William J. Hussey read a letter that would set the stage for an epic battle pitting his beloved Detroit Observatory against a growing U-M campus and its new coal power plant.

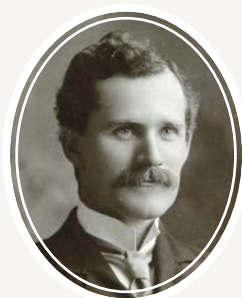
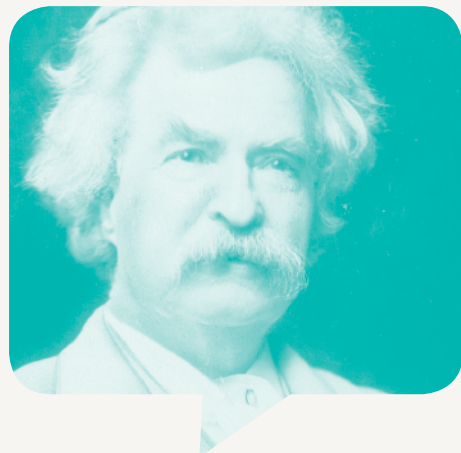


10 – Michigan's Polar Bears

After the armistice, the battles of WWI continued for a handful of soldiers who were sent into the frozen climes of northern Russia, to the far eastern front. Scores perished. The survivors banded together to bring back their fallen and to provide closure to this little-known chapter in WWI history.

14 – The Long View

Acclaimed film editor Jay Cassidy, who has worked on movies such as *American Hustle*, talks about his early years at U-M taking pictures for the *Michigan Daily*. Cassidy has donated more than 5,000 of his powerful images of a turbulent era to the Bentley.



Where Michigan's History Lives

Welcome to the first issue of *Collections*, the new, twice-yearly magazine of the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan.

Our goal in each issue is to share with you a sample of the excitement of



discovery that we experience every day in our role collecting the materials for and promoting the study of the histories of two fascinating, intertwined insti-

tutions: the University of Michigan, and the State of Michigan.

For example, did you know that...?

■ The University of Michigan's Detroit Observatory is not in Detroit, but right on the University campus in Ann Arbor. Today it is a museum operated by the Bentley because the Observatory—funded by the Detroit business community, thus the name—was the first major research instrument on the University campus...in 1854!

■ Many of the most famous of the mid-20th-century architects were working in Michigan, and the Bentley has the records of their architectural practices. One of them, Gunnar Birkerts, has made a gift to the Library to encourage the study of modern architecture in these and other Bentley collections. And one of his crowning achievements, the National Library of Latvia, just opened in August.

■ Michigan troops who served in World War I fighting against the Bolsheviks in Russia in 1918 and 1919 were part of the "Polar Bear" expedition, and the largest collection of materials on this campaign anywhere is here at the Bentley. Most of it is online, including a Russian version of the finding aid that is now attracting researchers from that country, too.

■ Distinguished Hollywood film editor Jay Cassidy began his career in the visual arts as a *Michigan Daily* photographer in the fascinating years of the late 1960s. Today, 5,000 of his photographs are at the Bentley and in its online collections.

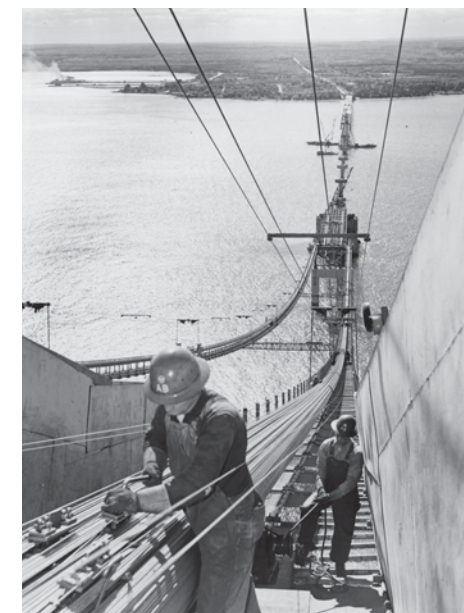
■ The best orators in 19th-century America made U-M's oratorical society a stop on their national itineraries. Frederick Douglass, Mark Twain, and muckraker Ida Tarbell all spoke from the rostrum in University Hall (the architectural predecessor to Angell Hall), which, when it opened in 1873, contained a 4,000-seat auditorium, one of the largest in the Midwest and, at the time, the largest on any college campus in the United States.

Our 10,000 archival collections—including books, maps, photographs, and 45,000 linear feet of documents—are the heart of what we do. They are the source of the amazing discoveries that we, along with all of our patrons, make every day. The Bentley is open to the public as well as faculty, staff, and students of the University.

So *Collections* is about...our collections! Michigan's history truly lives at the Bentley Historical Library.

Read on and see what we mean.

Terrence J. McDonald
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor
Professor of History and Director



Our 10,000 archival collections—including books, maps, photographs, and 45,000 linear feet of documents—are the heart of what we do. They are the source of the amazing discoveries that we, along with all of our patrons, make every day.

The Paul Bunyan Bridge Builders construct the Mackinac Bridge, which was opened on November 1, 1957.

Rifle Through Our Collections





There are more ways than ever for the avidly curious to discover what we're all about

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Collections*, the magazine of the Bentley Historical Library. Every spring and fall, *Collections* will give you an insider's look at the exciting content from the Bentley's vast archives, as well as Bentley news including information on new acquisitions, fundraising highlights, events, and the latest on U-M's Bicentennial celebration.

Collections isn't the only way the Bentley is sharing its news, however. This fall, the Bentley launched a new website at bentley.umich.edu. We hope you'll pull up our new site and browse through our streamlined and redesigned pages. And if you ever miss an issue of *Collections*, the magazine will be on the new website as well.

Please also look for the Bentley on social media. You can find us on Facebook and Twitter:

 Facebook | BentleyHistoricalLibrary  Twitter | @UmichBentley

We look forward to connecting with you!

The Ann Arbor Trust Building at the corner of South Main Street and West Huron Street in Ann Arbor was also once the First National Bank Building. This image comes from the Bentley's postcard collection, which dates back to the 1890s.

The Loss of a Distinguished and Beloved Colleague

The Bentley says goodbye to Associate Director Nancy Deromedi



It's with a heavy heart that the Bentley Historical Library shares the loss of Associate Director Nancy Deromedi, who died this past October after battling cancer.

Nancy led a distinguished career at the Bentley Historical Library as an expert curator of digital archives, establishing new best practices of consequence to the entire archival

profession. From her undergraduate coursework as a history major at the University of Michigan, she developed an interest in the archival evidence of the past. A graduate degree followed, in 1997, from U-M's School of Information.

Nancy rose through the ranks of the Bentley to become Associate Director for Curation this past July, having designed and developed an impressive series of new

practices for preserving complex digital collections. Her innovative ideas for solving some of the profession's most complicated challenges were supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the National Historic Publications and Records Commission, and the University of Michigan Information and Technology Services. Her work inspired a new publication series of the Society of American Archivists titled *Campus Case Studies*, and her reputation led to invitations to present at professional conferences and seminars as far away as Beijing, Copenhagen, Paris, and Vienna.

Because of Nancy's commitment to preserving the Bentley's records of modern architecture, the Library has opened a Deromedi Fund devoted to this purpose. Anyone wishing to contribute to this fund may contact Diane Tracy at dtracy@umich.edu or call 734-277-4994.



Slide Over Here

A new old way to see U-M

BY MELISSA HERNÁNDEZ-DURÁN

Before PowerPoint presentations, before the development of overhead projectors and transparencies, even before 35mm film, there was the lantern slide.

Invented in 1849, just 10 years after the advent of photography, lantern slides were used to project a photographic image onto a surface, thereby enabling a group of people, not just an individual, to view a single image. The photographic image was imprinted on a light-sensitive glass slide, covered with another slide, and then sealed together with tape around the edges.

Hundreds of these unique and fragile glass transparencies are part of the Bentley's collections, and the 3¼ by 4-inch glass slides depict a range of scenes: student life, an early University of Michigan campus, scientific research, advertisements, and entertainment.

A number of the slides showcase campus buildings no longer standing, such as University Hall, a structure completed in 1873 that served all three of the University's departments at the time. University Hall had an auditorium, a chapel, office space for the three departments, and lecture halls.

The slides also document University research. The Detroit Observatory captured images of Halley's Comet during its 1910 passage. And the Department of Physics captured cyclotron research (particle acceleration) at the University.

The slides highlight other aspects of University history, including campus traditions and student life. The records of the Michigan Union contain examples such as the first-year versus sophomore tug-of-war across the Huron River and early football games. Even faculty members are documented through caricatures in additional slides from the Wilfred B. Shaw photograph collection.

These unique images can be viewed either in their original or digital form, but the library also has the capacity to recreate the original experience. In a recent accession from the Department of Physics, the Bentley acquired a lantern slide projector. Two slides fit within a wooden frame, which is then inserted into a space between the light source and the projecting lens. The image doesn't project very far, but it's an early example of photo sharing, long before Flickr and Instagram.



(Top) The first lantern slides were projected using oil lamps for light. "Modern" projectors include a model in the Bentley collections that was designed with portability in mind: It converts into a case and, when opened, extends to about two feet long.

(Middle) First- and second-year students at U-M would battle annually in a tug-of-war across the Huron River. This lantern slide from 1916 is labeled "After math [sic] of the tug of war."



(Bottom) U-M alumnus Wilfred B. Shaw drew scenes of campus life, including this caricature of Professor Alfred H. Lloyd, which can be viewed through a lantern slide. The caption reads "A Didactor of Catholepistemia," which is a reference to universal science, one of the original areas of study at the University.

1150 BEAL

Abridgements

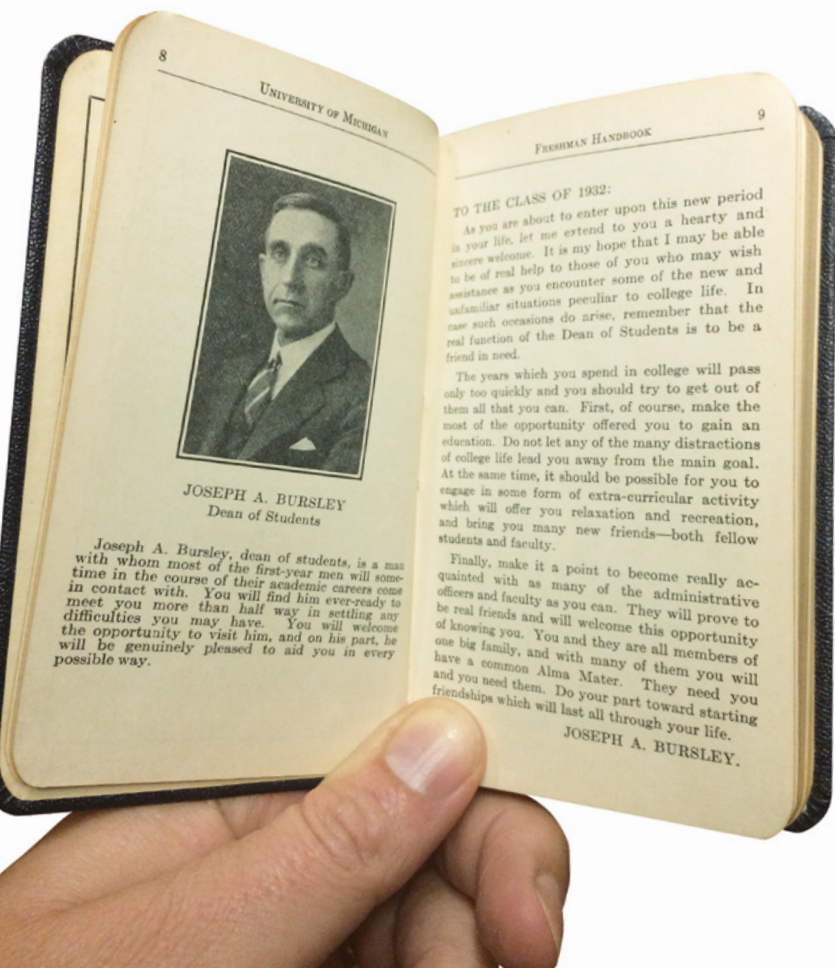
@UmichBentley Come by to see our new exhibit about the early history of #sports on the #umich campus! #LSAsport #GoBlue #Victors

@UmichLSA: A cool vintage postcard to show even more love for #AnnArbor today, via @umichBentley #tbt



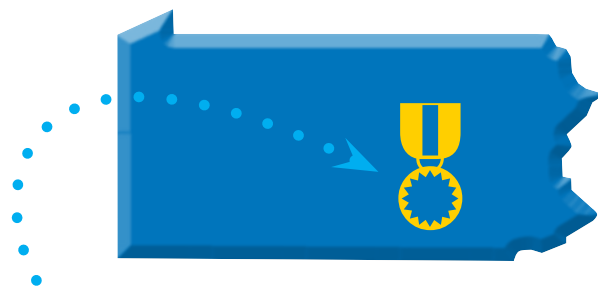
“Do your part toward starting friendships which will last all through your life.”

Dean of Students Joseph A. Bursley penned these words in the 1928-1929 *Freshman Handbook*. The Bentley recently added to its collection of these handbooks, which date as far back as 1886 and were published by the Student Christian Association.



Osler Metcalf Brigham

Three Michigan architects featured in Bentley Associate Director Nancy Bartlett's October 5, 2014 keynote at the University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA) symposium. The lecture was the capstone to UMMA's "Three Michigan Architects" exhibit, a collaboration between the museum and the Bentley Historical Library. (Read more about these groundbreaking architects on page 19.)



Hershey, Pennsylvania

Location of the Society of Automotive Historians' 2014 banquet, where they honored the Bentley Historical Library as the recipient of the James Bradley Distinguished Service Award.



3 Number of Olympic gold medals presented to the Bentley Historical Library by the U-M Swimming and Diving Team when they stopped by the Bentley for a special visit this past September. The Olympic medals were from two former U-M Swim and Dive Team members: Richard Degener, who took home gold in 1936 in diving; and Bob Webster, who won the gold in diving in 1960 and 1964.

Number of photographs that researchers took of materials in the Bentley's reading room this past September.

9,721

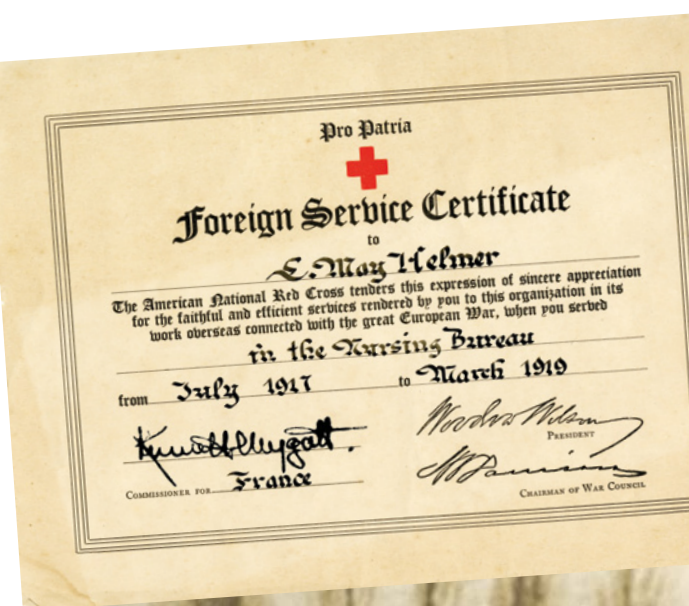
A sample of classes that have visited the Bentley to conduct research as part of their coursework:

Modern Michigan Architecture
A Global History of Student Protests
Japan, Asia and World War II: Culture, History, Memory

Date of some of the earliest phone books recently donated to the Bentley by the Yellow Pages (YP). "The directories have been housed in YP facilities for many years, but as space becomes limited we are looking for ways to preserve these historical directories," said Debbie Slavin, YP VP-Real Estate and Facilities. The phone books are a treasure trove of research resources for genealogists, real estate planners and designers, and social historians who study ethnic communities and business.

Delphinus. Tarazed. Sualocin.

The names of stars you can see using the historic Fitz telescope at the Detroit Observatory, located on central campus at the University of Michigan. The Observatory is open for campus and community members alike for regular star-gazing every month. (Read more about the Observatory and its incredible history on page six.)



“Whatever the work is, I am here for it.”

L. May Helmer penned these words in 1917 in France, where she was a nurse during World War I. After the war, she came to U-M to study dental hygiene at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry. The Bentley recently added to its collections her letters, photos, and a diary relating to her WWI service.

THE BATTLE FOR THE

HEAVENS

When U-M's president and its Board of Regents decided to build a coal power plant to fuel a growing campus, its campus neighbor, the Detroit Observatory, fought to keep the skies clear of black smoke. Letters between the warring factions show the tension between a burgeoning campus and faculty who were desperate to save their research.

By Rob Havey

(Opposite page) The original Observatory, far right, and its adjacent classroom building in 1921. In the background is the smokestack for the "Cat Hole" power plant, a much-contested addition to the rapidly expanding campus. Today, the Observatory still stands in its original location, fully restored, though the classroom building was razed in 1974 due to extensive termite damage.

(Top) Professor of Astronomy William J. Hussey became director of the Detroit Observatory in 1905.

(Bottom) Harry B. Hutchins served as interim U-M president twice when James Angell went abroad, then was appointed president in 1910, holding the post until 1920.

In 1912, on a creaking ship bound for Argentina, U-M Professor and Director of Astronomy William J. Hussey read a letter from the Board of Regents informing him that a power plant was to be constructed less than a mile from the University's own Detroit Observatory.

Within months, one of the best observatories in the nation was to be beset by plumes of coal smoke that would block sight lines of the telescopes, clog instruments, and otherwise ruin the exacting measurements required for astronomical research. At least Hussey felt this was the case.

His reply to U-M President Harry B. Hutchins—penned when Hussey reached La Plata, a sister city to Buenos Aires and the location where Hussey would be researching dual stars for the next few months—was scathingly direct. He condemned the "great mistake" Hutchins and the Board of Regents were making, blasting not just "the disastrous effect which it will have on the Observatory" but also the damage the plant would have on "a considerable number of innocent people of Ann Arbor."

The letter set off a chain of impassioned correspondence on both sides. The notes sent from Ann Arbor to South America and back again, from regent to regent, and from Hussey's wife to Hutchins, highlight the tension between the inexorable expansion of a growing University, the reach of its administration, and the particular needs of its faculty researchers. The stage was set for an epic battle between the forces of progress against the protectors of tradition, all revolving around a small white building on an isolated hill on the outskirts of U-M's burgeoning campus.

WILLIAM J. HUSSEY

HARRY B. HUTCHINS

A STATE-OF-THE-ART-OBSERVATORY

At the time, the Detroit Observatory was the cornerstone for scientific research at the University of Michigan. The Observatory was built in 1854 when U-M's first president, Henry Philip Tappan, wanted to transform Michigan from a small Midwestern liberal arts college into an elite research university.

Tappan secured funding for the Observatory from major donors in Detroit (hence the name). A site was chosen on a remote hill northeast of campus. Tappan spared no expense, contracting the world-renowned telescope manufacturer Henry Fitz to grind a lens for a new refracting telescope. When the completed telescope was installed in 1857, it was one of the largest in the world.

Shortly after the Detroit Observatory's construction, Tappan was able to recruit Franz Brünnow to Ann Arbor to

“THIS COSTLY EQUIPMENT, IF IT IS TO SERVE ITS PURPOSE, MUST HAVE THE BEST CONDITIONS, FOR A GREAT OBSERVATORY SHOULD BE A PRIDE NOT ONLY TO THE UNIVERSITY BUT ALSO THE TOWN IN WHICH IT IS LOCATED.”



be the first director of astronomy and also the first member of the University's faculty with a Ph.D.

In the 50 years before Hussey was appointed director, the astronomy department thrived. Measurements made at the Observatory were used to calibrate precise timepieces for local banks and rail stations, making Ann Arbor run on “Detroit Observatory Time.” Faculty members discovered and named more than a dozen asteroids. Brünnow started the University's first academic journal, *Astronomical Notices*, in 1858.

Hussey built on all this success as the Observatory's director, beginning in 1905. He oversaw the expansion of the department from 12 students to more than 100. He secured large donations from his college friend Robert Patterson Lamont for new equipment, including a 37½-inch reflecting telescope.

He was also deliberately kept out of conversations as multiple sites for the new coal plant were considered.

GRANDIOSE ARGUMENTS

Opinions about the plant's location were solicited from a group of New York engineers as well as U-M's Dean of Engineering, M. E. Cooley—but not Hussey.

Regent William L. Clements wrote that he did “...not feel like accepting altogether as conclusive what [Professor Hussey] would say on the subject.” Instead, the plan was to find “some man other than Prof. Hussey, whose opinion we would all accept as conclusive as the effect of this location upon the Observatory.”

President Hutchins wrote Hussey to reassure him about this decision: “In regard to the location of the heating plant, I am very sure that the regents will not do anything that will imperil the Observatory.”

The plans to move ahead with the plant were approved on June 24, 1912, while Hussey was in the middle of the Atlantic.

The chosen site was a swampy ravine that ran from North University Avenue to the Huron River. It was completely undeveloped with just a shallow pond in the southern end called the Cat Hole. (The origin of the name “Cat Hole” is unknown, but a popular myth at the time held that the name came from a practice that medical students had of discarding their used dissection specimens in the pond.)

The Cat Hole was probably the most logical place to anyone looking at a map of Ann Arbor in 1912. Most of the land west of campus was already developed. The city was growing rapidly and the last empty fields were between the Diag and the river. The Cat Hole was also the site closest to

the hospital and therefore would be much more efficient for delivering power.

Perhaps the Board of Regents knew all too well the grandiose arguments Hussey would make in defense of the Observatory. This wasn't the first time Hussey railed against the encroachment of industry. In 1908, he successfully argued against a proposed road closure that would have diverted traffic right past the Observatory and brought all the accompanying dust, noise, and street lights with it. “The glory of an observatory,” he argued, “is not in being a unique thing to look at, but in the work which it can do. Dust, smoke, and traffic by day, and the arc light by night, are its enemies, and I should be recreant in my duty if I did not attempt to safeguard the site in every way.

“This costly equipment, if it is to serve its purpose, must have the best conditions, for a great observatory should be a pride not only to the University but also the town in which it is located.”

Work at an observatory in 1912 required precision and patience from astronomers. All the instruments were extremely sensitive and needed to be set by hand. The Fitz telescope had intricate clockwork to adjust each axis of its orientation as well as a drive system for the telescope to follow the stars' subtle motions across the sky. All of this needed to be done in complete darkness while every setting and measurement was recorded in a log book, all by hand.

JUDGES OF MEN

Ethel Hussey, accompanying her husband on the trip to Argentina, also sent a letter to Hutchins and was unafraid of getting angry and personal in her response to the decision about the power plant. Not waiting for the ship to reach port (her letter was addressed “At Sea, Approaching Rio de Janeiro”), Ethel Hussey's letter fell just short of accusing Hutchins and the Board of Regents of approving the Cat Hole construction solely out of spite for her and her husband. She claimed, “There are reasons why the Heating Plant went in the Cat Hole, but they are not engineering ones.”

(Opposite page) William J. Hussey and his wife, Ethel (both circled), pose in this undated photo. The description reads “Professor and Hussey with colleagues.” Hussey would leave the University in 1926 for the Lick Observatory in California, where he studied comets and double stars.

(Right) Photo of Observatory dome interior today.

She closed her letter, “As some of you have said, you are not judges of engineering, but you can hardly escape the responsibility of being judges of men, for it was a question of that after all.”

In the end, the power plant was built on the Cat Hole site and Hussey was forced to focus his ambitions on expanding the astronomy department's reach to the southern hemisphere. The worldwide trend in astronomy was to build observatories on rural mountain tops far away from the polluting light of cities.

Shortly before his death at age 64, Hussey planned to build an observatory in South Africa to continue his research on double stars. He fell ill and died suddenly on a ship to Bloemfontein, South Africa, in 1926. The Lamont-Hussey observatory was open from 1928 to 1972. It was recently converted into the only digital planetarium in South Africa.

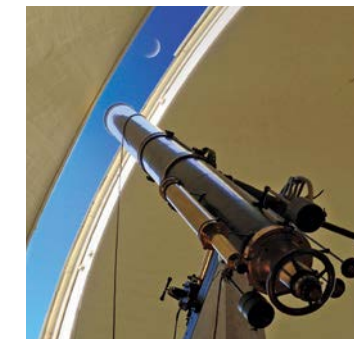
The Detroit Observatory eventually fell into disuse as the campus flourished around what was once an isolated hill. Research stopped altogether in 1963 when the astronomy department moved to the Dennison Building.

In 1994, U-M President James Duderstadt, along with his wife, Anne, helped spearhead an effort to preserve the Observatory. Renovations began a few years later, restoring the building to its original 1854 condition.

The Bentley Historical Library took over Observatory operations in 2005. Now, a three-dimensional archive with original instruments and logbooks available for viewing, the Detroit Observatory is the second-oldest building on campus and the oldest in its original condition.

Regular viewings are held at the Observatory today. One can climb up to the original dome and peer into the 1854 Fitz telescope. There is no electricity in the room except to power a single red bulb. In the dark of night, it is possible to look through the 150-year-old lens and become that much closer to the stars.

Numerous Bentley sources inspired and informed this article including: *The Harry Burns Hutchins papers*; *the Walter H. Sawyer papers*; *the Hussey Family papers*; and the *Ann Arbor News*, June 28, 1909. Sources outside the Bentley include the *University Lowbrow Astronomers Out of the Blue* episode 211: “Astronomy & Detroit Observatory.”



THE OBSERVATORY ISN'T JUST A THING OF THE PAST.

You can still visit it today! Come peer through the Fitz telescope or view the log books and instrumentation of astronomers past. The Observatory has public viewing nights each month, as well as tours on select Sundays between 1:00pm – 4:00pm.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT BENTLEY.UMICH.EDU

Michigan's Polar Bears



THE GREAT WAR WAS OVER, THE ARMISTICE SIGNED. *But for one group of soldiers, the battles continued when they were sent to the far eastern front, to the frozen climes of northern Russia. Scores died. Ten years later, a group of Michigan veterans banded together to bring the fallen back to the United States, and to commemorate this little-known chapter in World War I history.* **BY LARA ZIELIN**

On January 19, 1919, the snow was piled waist-deep outside the remote Russian village of Nijnaya Gora. A raw wind was blowing across enormous drifts, plunging the temperature to negative 45 degrees Fahrenheit. The sound of exploding artillery shells and gunfire filled the air as 46 American soldiers from the 339th Infantry, Company A, fought a losing battle against 800 enemy troops—Bolshevik revolutionaries—sneaking through the snow dressed all in white.

The battle took place nearly two months after the armistice of November 11, 1918. Most American soldiers had already headed home. Those now actively fighting on the eastern front were bewildered by their predicament.

These fresh-faced soldiers—largely from Michigan and Wisconsin—had only just finished basic training the previous summer. In September 1918, they'd shipped out to England thinking they'd soon be fighting in France. But suddenly the 5,000 soldiers were issued Russian weapons and equipment, then sent via the White Sea to Archangel, a port 600 miles north of Moscow. They were told their mission was to help reopen the eastern front since Russia had left the war. Once the armistice was signed, the mission grew in complexity, ostensibly becoming one

to fight the Bolsheviks who, in 1917, overthrew the Russian Provisional Government. The mission was nicknamed the Polar Bear Expedition.

"Soon it will be over, I hope, and I shall be back in the good old United States," wrote Stillman Jenks, a corporal in the 339th, Company A, in a letter home to his family in Michigan. "I hope I never return to Russia."

Overcome with Fatigue

Jenks was killed in what would be the most casualty-heavy battle of the Polar Bear Expedition, perishing along with 40 other men in the January 19 skirmish. Only six would make it out alive. Scores of bodies were left behind that day in the red-stained snow, and American casualties were scattered throughout northern Russia, according to the account of Walter F. Dundon, first sergeant of the 339th.

"We had lost a number of men killed and wounded," he wrote. "Some wounded were sent back on [a] hospital ship; a number of dead were brought back when the troops returned in the summer of 1919, and about 100 other dead were buried in remote places scattered over an area covering hundreds of miles."

The precise goal of the Polar Bears' mission was never made clear. Prior to



"SOON IT WILL BE OVER, I HOPE, AND I SHALL BE BACK IN THE GOOD OLD UNITED STATES. I HOPE I NEVER RETURN TO RUSSIA."

CPL. STILLMAN JENKS

the armistice, the French and British governments felt the war was at a deadlock, according to a letter by Newton D. Baker, U.S. Secretary of War from 1916 to 1921. The French and British wanted to try for small military successes away from the heart of the war in Europe, in order to rally morale. Baker cited the capture of Jerusalem by General Allenby as an example of a successful side campaign. "President Wilson directed our participation in [the Russian campaign]...in a spirit of co-operation with our Allies in a matter about which they felt very deeply," Baker wrote.

However, this letter wasn't sent until 1924, when it was delivered to

(Opposite page) A patrol from the 339th Infantry makes its way through the dense North Russian forest in the midst of a blizzard near Obozerskaya in January 1919.

(This page) Corporal Stillman Jenks, a member of the 339th Infantry, Company A, was born in Michigan in 1895 and would perish in on January 19, 1919, outside the Russian village of Nijnaya Gora.

soldier Walter McKenzie from the 339th, trying to retrospectively explain the rationale for the Russian campaign. At the time, the soldiers had no such information to alleviate their bewilderment. Confusion depleted morale, and “troops were described as ‘thoroughly overcome with fatigue,’” wrote Richard M. Doolen in *Michigan’s Polar Bears: The American Expedition to North Russia* (University of Michigan, 1965).

In the summer of 1919, eight months after the Great War had officially ended, the surviving men were finally taken out of Russia. When the troopship at last pulled into Boston Harbor, “a mighty cheer [went] up from the ship. It is all over now, we’re home,” wrote Clarence G. Scheu, a member of the 339th, Company B.

Bringing All Our Boys Home

Three years later, the veterans of the expedition formed the Polar Bear Association, which met for the first time in Detroit’s Hotel Tuller on May 29, 1922. The stated purposes of the organization were to “preserve and strengthen comradeship” among its members, and to “perpetuate the history of our expedition and the memory of our dead,” according to *A Compendium of the Life of the Polar Bear Association*, published in 1958 by the association.



Another goal, if not explicitly written in the charter, was to recover the bodies of American soldiers lost on the Russian battlefield. Dundon helped organize and participate in a commission appointed by Michigan Governor Fred W. Green to return to Russia for precisely that purpose.



He was backed by Michigan Senator Arthur Vandenberg, who called the Polar Bear veterans “faithful and unforgetting buddies” of the fallen. On July 17, 1929, Dundon left Detroit and was on a steamship the next day, sailing across the Atlantic toward Soviet Russia. With him was Michael J. Macalla, also a member of the 339th, whose meticulous diaries showcase how—once the group made it back to the remote Russian villages where many of the battles took place—they needed to work with locals to find and exhume bodies.

In this entry, dated August 1929 from the village of Ust Padenga, Macalla described how locals led them to mass graves:

“[Seventeen] men...missing in action... nobody knew what became of them. Our men found out from people in village. [One] man who took part in attack against them and woman where they were billeted. All said they were killed and taken about two miles down Padenga River from Ust Padenga about ¼ mile from churches on the right back of Padenga River. Found two big graves, one of [Bolsheviks] and the other Americans.”

Language barriers, culture shock, and exhuming bodies made for grueling work. In his diaries, Dundon illuminated the day-to-day difficulties and triumphs of finding soldiers’ remains:

August 17, 1929: *“Today we dug for the first American. Finally found a button, it was English. All the people in the village, men women, and children, are watching us.”*

August 22, 1929: *“We did find two American crosses at [Seletskoye] yesterday and believe others are buried there.”*

According to Dundon’s papers, 86 bodies were recovered and brought back to the United States.

Hearts at Rest

Newton’s 1924 letter to McKenzie cautiously acknowledged that the military campaign in northern Russia after the war was a strategic mistake. He wrote that someday, “when we come to understand the situation better and have more of the facts at our command,” he hoped that the United States would know with certainty that the service of the soldiers who perished was not in vain and was “in proportion to their numbers.”

In the meantime, the Michigan Polar Bears honored their fallen. Forty-one bodies were reburied with honors in the Polar Bear Memorial at White Chapel Cemetery in Troy, Michigan, on Memorial Day, 1930. In subsequent years, 15 additional soldiers would be laid to rest there.



Senator Vandenberg presided over the memorial dedication, having only a few months prior petitioned the Senate to print in the *Congressional Record* the names of the fallen. “There was little romance to soften the hard duty befalling these ‘Polar Bears,’” he said in October 1929 on the Senate floor. “It was desperate business amid the bitterest exposure. It was patriotism under acid test. If ever homage was deserved, it is by such patriots as these.”

The Vice President answered readily: “Without objection, it is so ordered.”

On that bright May afternoon in 1930, Dundon watched as the men he’d gone back to Russia to find were finally given full military honors.

“At the service, I was approached by a small elderly lady, who asked if I was the man who recovered her son’s body,” Dundon recalled in his typed reminisces. “I told her I had recovered all the bodies....She pulled my head down and kissed me through her tears and said, ‘This is the first time in 13 years my heart is at rest.’”



ACCORDING TO
DUNDON’S PAPERS,
86 BODIES
WERE RECOVERED
AND BROUGHT BACK
TO THE UNITED
STATES.

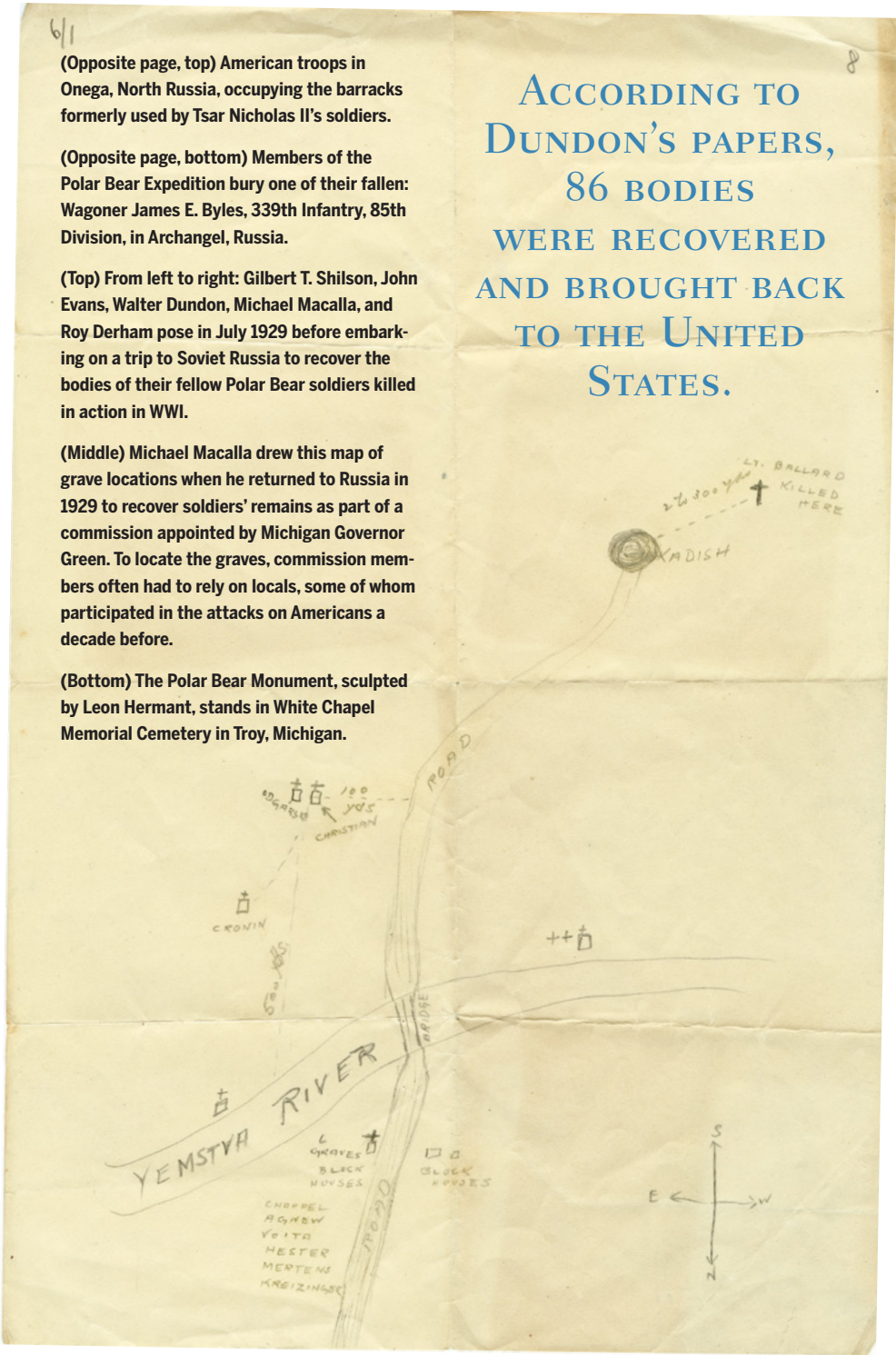
(Opposite page, top) American troops in Onega, North Russia, occupying the barracks formerly used by Tsar Nicholas II’s soldiers.

(Opposite page, bottom) Members of the Polar Bear Expedition bury one of their fallen: Wagoner James E. Byles, 339th Infantry, 85th Division, in Archangel, Russia.

(Top) From left to right: Gilbert T. Shilson, John Evans, Walter Dundon, Michael Macalla, and Roy Derham pose in July 1929 before embarking on a trip to Soviet Russia to recover the bodies of their fellow Polar Bear soldiers killed in action in WWI.

(Middle) Michael Macalla drew this map of grave locations when he returned to Russia in 1929 to recover soldiers’ remains as part of a commission appointed by Michigan Governor Green. To locate the graves, commission members often had to rely on locals, some of whom participated in the attacks on Americans a decade before.

(Bottom) The Polar Bear Monument, sculpted by Leon Hermant, stands in White Chapel Memorial Cemetery in Troy, Michigan.



For more than 40 years, the Bentley Historical Library has actively collected the personal papers of officers and enlisted men involved in the Polar Bear Expedition. This includes Corporal Stillman Jenks’ photo, as well as the diaries, papers, and photos of Walter Dundon, Clarence G. Scheu, Walter McKenzie, and Michael J. Macalla. The Bentley also has Michigan Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg’s papers, as well as many other Polar Bear photographs, maps, and printed materials, all of which are available to the public, and much of which is online.



THE LONG VIEW

Esteemed film editor Jay Cassidy's gift of 5,000 photos to the Bentley brings to life the turbulent, defiant, electric period of the late '60s.

BY KATIE VLOET



“The great thing about the *Daily* at that time is that it was a forum for the process of questioning. It was raising its voice on issues that were a little difficult for the U to deal with.”

JAY CASSIDY

T

hrough Jay Cassidy’s lens, the era of the late ’60s was a kaleidoscope of fervent war protests, a grinning Robert F. Kennedy just three weeks before his assassination, counter-culture, radicals, and riots.

It was also a time of The Doors at the IM Building, the football team upsetting Ohio State, and students kissing under the Diag Arch. It was Kurt Vonnegut and Joan Baez and Allen Ginsberg.

Cassidy—now a three-time Academy Award-nominated film editor—first gave about 50 of his photos to the Bentley, along with pictures given by other former *Michigan Daily* staffers, in 2007.

He discovered that “my negatives were in very good shape. The envelopes that were holding them were not,” recalls Cassidy (’70). “I hadn’t done anything to preserve them.”

He decided to give them to someone who would. In 2010, he added the remainder of his *Daily* photographs to what would become the Jay Cassidy Photograph Collection at the Bentley—some 5,000 images in all. The Bentley has archived the photos and created a searchable online database that can be accessed by historians, researchers, and the general public.

Cassidy is pleased that the material has been made broadly available, rather than staying hidden in non-acid-free envelopes inside storage boxes at his house. In the 44 years since he graduated from U-M, Cassidy has been the editor of more than 40 films, notably *American Hustle* and *Silver Linings Playbook*. He collaborated with Sean Penn on *Into the Wild*, as well as all the other films Penn has directed. But he still is aware of the formative role that his *Daily* career played in the development of his vision of the world, especially given the tumult of the period. The world was electric, and he was on the front lines—both as a student at a university with a strong leaning toward activism, and as a photojournalist.

“The great thing about the *Daily* at that time is that it was a forum for the process of questioning,” he says. “It was raising its voice on issues that were a little difficult for the U to deal with.”

Student protests dotted the campus. “It was a time of an unraveling of society’s belief in what they were being told by the government,” he says.

His *Daily* assignments took him off campus, such as his assignment to cover the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago. “Everybody felt the tear gas,” he says, recounting one of his images that is most emblematic of the time period. In it, a cloud of tear gas rises in the air next to a group of protesters. Dan Biber (’71) is pictured kneeling

after National Guard members sprayed tear gas directly in his face, *The Michigan Daily* reported at the time. “No reporter in Chicago last week could have avoided being sickened by the whole damn mess, the bastardization of democracy and the disregard of human rights,” Daniel Okrent (’69)—who would go on to become an award-winning author, historian, and editor—wrote in the *Daily* at the time.

“It was quite a stressful experience to go through,” Cassidy says, adding that he still remembered the feeling of profound discomfort when he looked through the photographs years later.

He photographed Robert F. Kennedy’s visit to Detroit—Kennedy shaking hands with supporters, Kennedy with a toothy grin. Such a happy day, such a positive energy—yet Kennedy was to be assassinated just a few short weeks later. “This was a slice of his life; he had no idea that it was all going to be gone in a couple of weeks,” Cassidy says. “That’s one of the photographs that really moved me, looking back. There’s something very poignant about it.”

Another set of images that caught his attention all these years later involved his coverage of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) meetings. At the time, he saw rooms full of revolutionaries. Later, he saw them differently. “Everyone was just a baby,” he says. The passage of time “makes you look at it all from a very different perspective.”

When he was a student, Cassidy was conscious of the fact that he was learning and working during an exceptional period in the nation’s history. Even so, he did not see each frame, every contact sheet, as something precious or valuable.

“At the *Daily*, you take all these pictures, and you barely look at them; you run one, then throw the rest in the envelope,” he says. “With the majority, I looked at them once and didn’t consider anything other than the obligation at the moment.”

Cassidy hopes that his donation helps to remind people that archives are dynamic things, always being added to, rather than unchanging collections. And he points out that a person’s estate isn’t the only source of archival material for libraries; other living people can donate, just like he has.

He also likes that his initial gift of 50 photos didn’t end up being his entire submission. “It was hard to determine 40-some years later what was important, and what wasn’t,” he says. “It’s best to let historians of the future editorialize and decide what was most significant.”

(Lead photo) On a hot, muggy day in August 1968, democrats gathered in Chicago for the 35th Democratic National Convention. They were joined by thousands of antiwar protesters, as well as staff from the *Michigan Daily* including Jay Cassidy, who photographed protesters’ clashes with Chicago police.

(Opposite page) Cassidy captured images of Robert Kennedy campaigning in Detroit, just a few short weeks before Kennedy’s assassination on June 5, 1968.

Framing the Future

Architect Gunnar Birkerts' impact in the U.S. and abroad

BY NANCY BARTLETT

As a young immigrant from Latvia in 1949, architect Gunnar Birkerts boarded a Greyhound bus to travel from New York to Birmingham, Michigan. He hoped to secure employment in the office of the famous architect Eero Saarinen. While at first he was politely turned away, Birkerts ultimately did achieve his dream, working for Saarinen in the epicenter of modern architecture during the height of its popularity, and eventually starting his own company, Gunnar Birkerts and Associates.

Throughout his career, Birkerts designed award-winning buildings typifying modern architecture, including the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City, Missouri, and the U.S. Embassy in Caracas, Venezuela. And at 89 years old, Birkerts shows no signs of retiring.

On August 29, 2014, Birkerts celebrated the grand opening of his National Library of Latvia. The sweeping and inspiring new building will house Latvia's collection of national literature, ensuring its safe storage and long-term access.

At the Bentley Historical Library, more than 12,000 of Birkerts' original drawings illustrate his impressive productivity and leadership in innovative design. Sally Bund, who has worked on the Birkerts papers as an archivist and a volunteer at the Bentley for the past 20 years,

has become a friend of Birkerts in the process. "This is an exceptional experience for an archivist," she says, "to be able to know and work with a donor of such brilliance and generosity over this amount of time." She calls the National Library of Latvia a "breathtaking capstone in a remarkable career."

Birkerts taught at the University of Michigan for more than 30 years, imparting to his students what he practiced in all of his architectural design for buildings worldwide: that "design was thinking," and then it was drawing.

Last spring, Birkerts established the Gunnar Birkerts Endowed Fund, which supports the Gunnar Birkerts Fellowship in Architectural History as well as the preservation and digitization of the Gunnar Birkerts Collection at the Bentley. The Fellowship will be awarded following an international competition for scholars working on studies of architectural history in the 20th century, anchored in the collections of the Bentley.

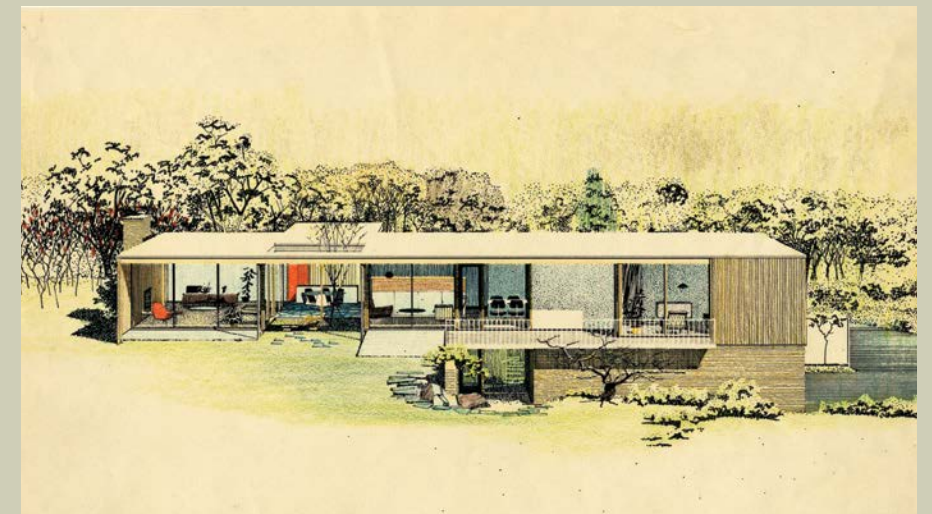
(Opposite page, top) Gunnar Birkerts circa 1970.

(Opposite page, middle) One of Birkerts' concept drawings for the National Library of Latvia clearly foretells the eventual form of the landmark building built on the Daugava River in Riga, Latvia.

(Opposite page, bottom) Birkerts' University Reformed Church in Ann Arbor.

(Right) An architectural drawing for the Dr. and Mrs. Edmund S. Botch house in Ann Arbor, Michigan, by Robert C. Metcalf.

(Bottom) The completed design for the National Library of Latvia.



Brigham, Metcalf, and Osler

Preserving the work of three famous architects

A trio of recent exhibits at the University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA) has brought heightened attention to the Bentley's modern architectural archives. Architects George Brigham, Robert Metcalf, and David Osler are household names to homeowners in Ann Arbor who prize mid-century modernism. The architects' archives at the Bentley mirror their buildings: the original drawings, photographs, and correspondence illustrate both imagination and fine construction.

A recent "Three Michigan Architects" exhibit at UMMA, co-curated by UMMA Director Joseph Rosa, showcased holdings from the Bentley's archives and concluded this past October with a symposium that brought together faculty from U-M's Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, with leading figures from UMMA as well as Bentley Associate Director Nancy Bartlett.

Bartlett gave the keynote address at the symposium panel examining the role archives play in architectural preservation. "Without the past, we can't protect the present," she says. "These three architects have had such an impact on design locally and beyond. It's incredible to be able to sift through all their materials at the Bentley and see how they moved from concept to reality."

TEN LANDMARK BUILDINGS BY GUNNAR BIRKERTS

University Reformed Church,
Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1964

Tougaloo College Library and Dormitories,
Tougaloo, Mississippi, 1972

Contemporary Arts Museum,
Houston, Texas, 1972



Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis,
Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1973

IBM Corporation Office Building,
Southfield, Michigan, 1979

Corning Museum of Glass,
Corning, New York, 1980

University of Michigan Law Library
Addition, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1981

St. Peter's Lutheran Church,
Columbus, Indiana, 1988

Kemper Museum of Contemporary
Art, Kansas City, Missouri, 1994



National Library of Latvia, Riga, Latvia, 2014

Photos (this page, top to bottom) BL003606, BL003564, Art, Architecture, and Engineering Library 06-04028, (opposite page) HS6217

Gunnar Birkerts' transformative gift is part of the Victors for Michigan fundraising campaign. The Bentley's \$10 million campaign goal will enrich the powerful historical experiences possible at the Library now, while supporting the next generation of historical researchers and patrons. Please use the magazine's giving envelope to support the Bentley today.

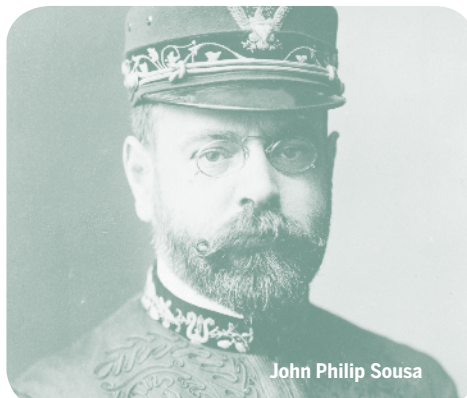


VICTORS FOR
MICHIGAN

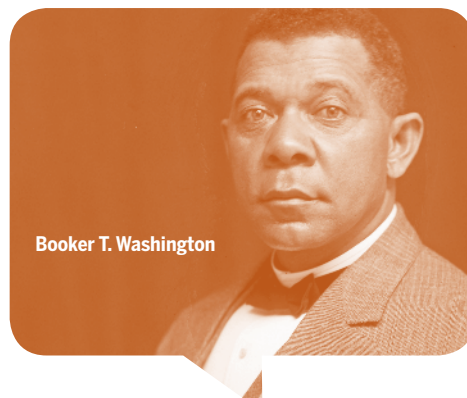
CATHOLEPISTEMIAD



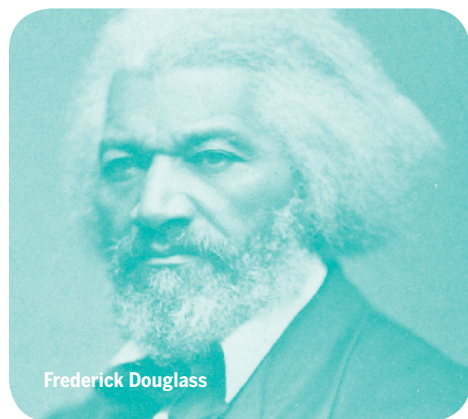
Ida Tarbell



John Philip Sousa



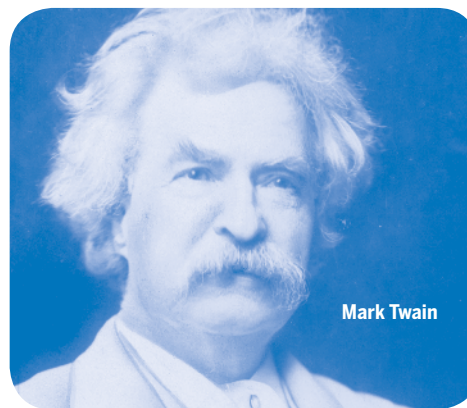
Booker T. Washington



Frederick Douglass



Eleanor Roosevelt



Mark Twain

Behind the Lectern

From Frederick Douglass to Mark Twain, one group brought renowned speakers to U-M

BY ELISE REYNOLDS

“We are happy to be able to announce that our city is no longer to be behind the times in the matter of ‘popular lectures,’” announced the *Michigan Argus* on November 24, 1854. The newly created Student Lecture Association, or SLA, was dedicated to inviting guest lecturers to U-M. During its first season, the program featured education reformer Horace Mann, the first of many notable names to visit campus.

Abolition, the Civil War, and women’s suffrage were all prominent topics during the first decades of SLA’s history. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, a leading figure in the women’s rights movement, discussed “Our Young Girls.” Frederick

Douglass spoke on “The Sources of Danger to the Republic.” And Ralph Waldo Emerson lectured on “Social Aims.”

Originally, the lectures were held in local churches but were moved to University Hall upon its completion in 1873. Over the years, SLA hosted academics, politicians, foreign dignitaries, explorers, scientists, writers, musical groups, clergymen, activists and reformers, artists, actors, and actresses.

Guests included Mark Twain, President Benjamin Harrison, composer John Philip Sousa, and British politician Sir Winston Churchill, whose first

lecture was on his experiences in the Boer War. The future Prime Minister was said to have “a keen way of characterizing men and events and making apt comparisons that made up for a certain lack of grace in delivery,” according to the *Michigan Daily*.

In 1912, due to financial difficulties, SLA was taken over by the Oratorical Association and relocated to Hill Auditorium.

Polar exploration was a popular topic, as were world events such as World War I and II. Not that every lecture was serious—nor every lecturer necessarily well behaved.



Marcel Marceau

A Sampling of Campus Lecturers

(multiple years represent multiple visits)

Horace Mann, education reformer: 1855, 1856

Ralph Waldo Emerson, poet: 1856, 1860, 1862-1863, 1866

P.T. Barnum, entertainer: 1863

Frederick Douglass, social reformer: 1867, 1868, 1869, 1893

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, women’s rights advocate: 1869

Mark Twain, author: 1871, 1884

Benjamin Harrison, former U.S. president: 1895, 1897

Booker T. Washington, orator and author: 1896, 1898, 1907, 1912

John Philip Sousa and Band: 1898, 1900, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1910

Winston Spencer Churchill, British statesman: 1900, 1932

Ida Tarbell, journalist and social reformer: 1909

William H. Taft, former U.S. president: 1920

Roald Amundsen, polar explorer: 1925

Admiral Richard E. Byrd, polar explorer: 1926, 1934, 1947

William Butler Yeats, poet: 1932

Edna St. Vincent Millay, poetess: 1933

Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady: 1939, 1948, 1950, 1958

Ogden Nash, poet: 1953

Tyrone Power, actor: 1953

Marcel Marceau, mime: 1960

For example, when heartthrob actor Tyrone Power came, he asked the University for a date to the homecoming game. According to a later *Detroit Free Press* article: “The coed [Maryanne Peltier] confided later she wasn’t sure how the game ended.”

By the late 1950s, competing lectures and entertainments on campus led to the decision to close the program. The final season was held in 1960-1961 and featured the famous mime, Marcel Marceau, who performed 14 impersonations. Finally, after 107 years of lectures, the series closed on March 12, with actor Basil Rathbone, known for playing Sherlock Holmes, presenting “The Best from My Bookshelf.”

U-M Turns 200

1817 - 2017

In 2017, the University of Michigan will celebrate two centuries of existence since its founding in Detroit in 1817. The Bentley has a wealth of materials and history to help mark this milestone event, and is partnering with other units around campus to share resources and information. The Library’s new website has a page dedicated to Bicentennial stories, including a series on Michigan “firsts,” such as U-M’s place as one of the large universities in the country to admit women. Please visit www.bentley.umich.edu to read more about Michigan’s incredible history and to find out more information about upcoming celebrations of its 200 years.

How to Finish College in an Hour

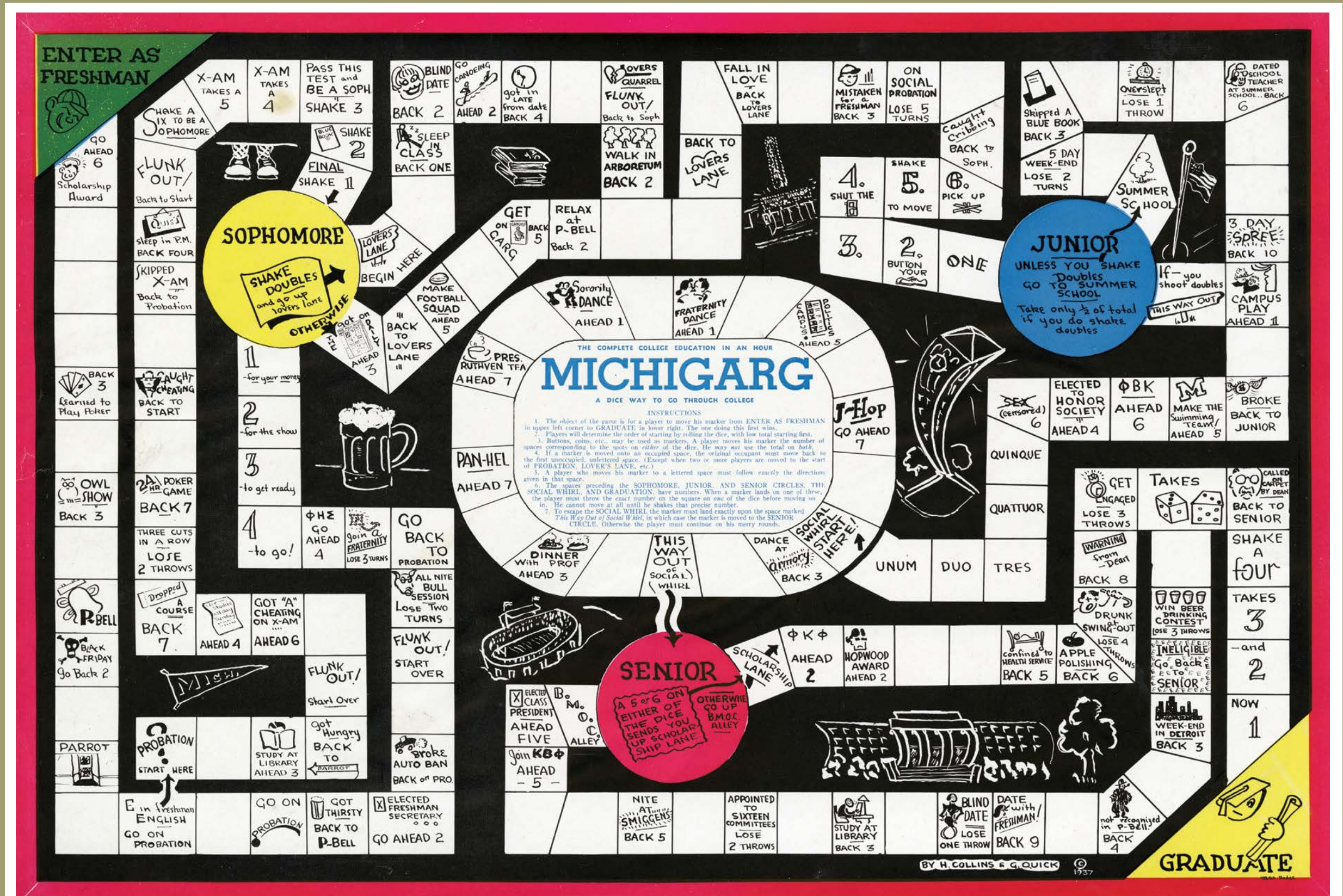
by Lara Zielin

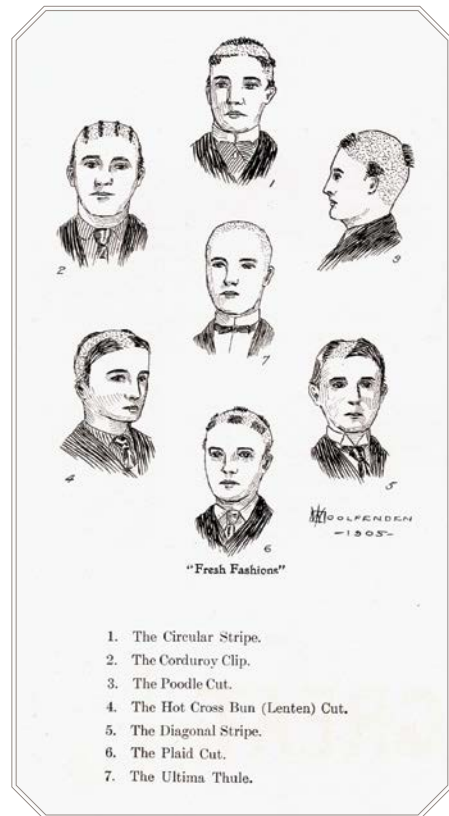
Winning a Hopwood Award can advance you two places, but dating a freshman can set you back nine. Welcome to "Michigarg," the game that takes players from their first day at U-M all the way to graduation. Printed in 1937 for the *Gargoyle*, U-M's student-run humor magazine,



the game is a glimpse into the campus of that day, where automobiles were prohibited (breaking the ban will move you back three), the Pretzel Bell could help you wet your whistle (setting you back eight), and U-M's President Ruthven held teas to which students were welcome (moving you ahead seven).

You can play Michigarg by following the directions, which are located in the center of the game and advise using buttons and coins for markers or playing pieces. The Bentley Historical Library has archives of the *Gargoyle* going back to its founding in 1909.





A Freshman's Complaint

*I passed her on the street
my lady fair;
She smiled, and quick my
heart leaped from despair,
(But joy, alas, was erelong
turned to grief)
I saw she smiled, because
I'd lost my hair*

— Poem pasted in Hoyt. G. Post's
scrapbook, attribution reads "E.M.H."

(Above) The 1905 *Michiganensian* printed these "hair-cutting fresh fashions" that included the Ultima Thule, a term coined by Virgil meaning a far-away place or unattainable goal (in this case, a completely shorn head).

(Right) A page from Hoyt G. Post's scrapbook, including a small envelope with hair. Inscribed on the envelope is the name of the student who lost his hair, James D. Fleming, as well as his class year of 1906, and his hometown of Chicago.

Hair-Razing Memories

A new scrapbook at the Bentley "locks" down a campus tradition

BY MELISSA HERNÁNDEZ-DURÁN

Much Hair is Shorn; Sixty University of Michigan Men Said to Have Lost Their Locks," reads one of the many headlines on alumnus Hoyt G. Post's scrapbook pages. "Bald Heads a Pride at Ann Arbor" and "Hair Cutting War Continues" read others.

Post's scrapbook documents campus hazing in 1903, when first-year students were captured by sophomores, who sheared chunks of hair from the first-years' heads. Post's scrapbook, which came to the Bentley this past spring, is one of hundreds of student scrapbooks in the Bentley's collections, but it's unique in its documentation of this peculiar act of hazing with actual...well, hair.

Scraps of hair are preserved in envelopes with the date the locks were obtained, as well as information about the victim including state, school, class year, and, in some cases, his name.

In just one night in 1903, Post and other sophomores sheared the heads of 19 young men.

Hair-cutting had become part of class rivalry traditions at the University of Michigan during the turn of the century. Each spring, the first-year class would hold its annual Freshman Banquet. This event became a chance for the sophomore class to initiate first-year students. Sophomore students made it their goal to kidnap first-year class officers, particularly the toastmaster, and clip their hair to prevent their attendance at the grand event. First-year students then would try to avenge their classmates by targeting sophomores for the same treatment. Women did not usually participate.

The 1903 hair-cutting spree at the University of Michigan resulted in about 100 sheared heads, of both first- and second-year students, according to the news clippings. This tradition came to an end, at least officially, around 1906 after these incursions took place in the library and the University's administration put a stop to it.

Collections, the magazine of the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan, is published twice each year.

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Michigan Daily
photographer Jay
Cassidy snapped
this image of Muddy
Waters performing
at the first Ann Arbor
Blues Festival in
1969. View more of
Cassidy's images
from a vibrant, often
turbulent era in U.S.
history on page 14.