

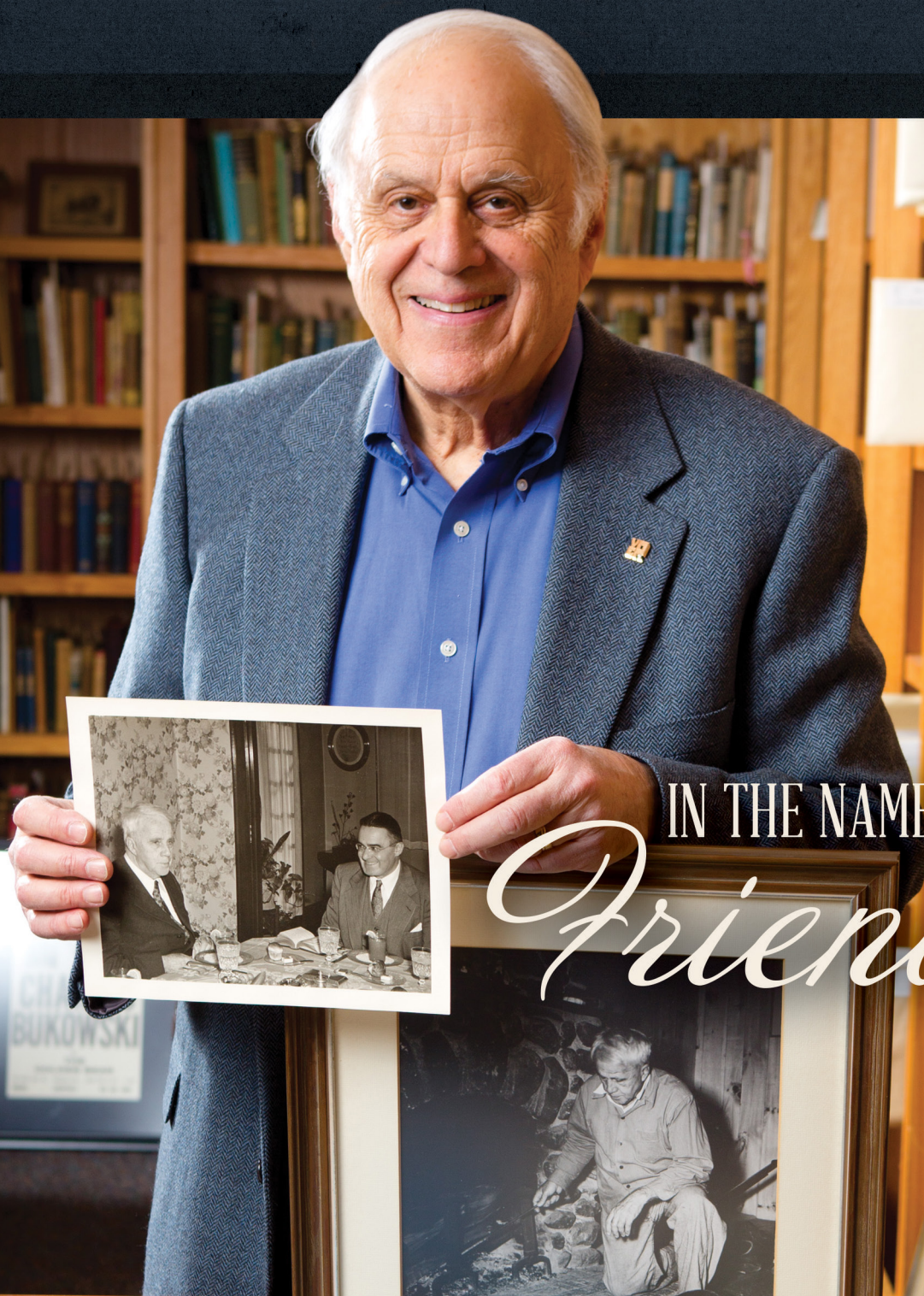
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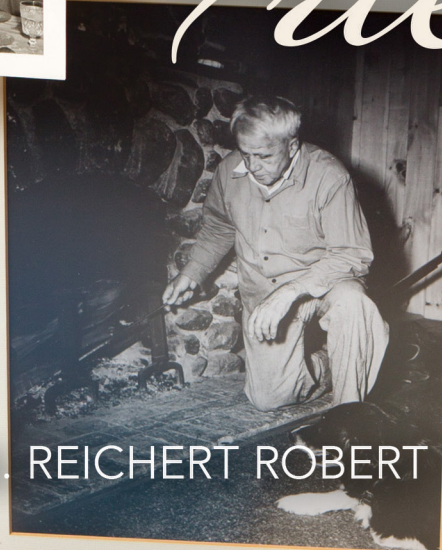
UB LIBRARIES today

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IN THE NAME OF
Friendship



THE VICTOR E. REICHERT ROBERT FROST COLLECTION

UB Libraries Today is published by the University at Buffalo Libraries for alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends.

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DID YOU KNOW?



T.R. McConnell
UB Chancellor,
1950-1954

We've digitized the University Archives Oral History Collection. You can listen to interviews originally recorded between 1968 and 1993 with former UB administrators, alumni, faculty, staff, and UB Council members at:

digital.lib.buffalo.edu



Dear Friends,

It has been an exciting spring semester for the University Libraries. The semester began with the opening of the Victor E. Reichert Robert Frost Collection in January, a collection that has created tremendous interest throughout the University at Buffalo and the larger scholarly community we serve. This remarkable collection, the generous gift of Dr. Jonathan Reichert, UB physics professor emeritus, chronicles a 24-year friendship between Frost and Reichert's father, Rabbi Victor Reichert. The story of how Reichert's collection of Frost materials – filled with personal letters, photographs, audio tapes and more – passed from father to son and ultimately found a permanent home in the Poetry Collection of the UB Libraries, is the focus of this issue's feature article.

Complementing the description of the Reichert Frost Collection is a narrative self-portrait of our Poetry Collection Curator, Michael Basinski. Widely acclaimed for his original visual poetry, Basinski was instrumental to Jonathan Reichert's decision to donate his father's collection to the Poetry Collection. In these pages, Basinski shares personal reflections on a career spent in the "realm of the poem."

This issue of *UB Libraries Today* also includes an overview of our popular UB Sports History Collection, an update on the repair of the beautiful stained-glass lamp that has graced the Libraries' Polish Room since 1955, and descriptions of two distinctive digital collections developed by UB librarians in collaboration with University at Buffalo faculty members. Both of these digital collections – the Welch-Ludwig Collection and the Jan Williams Collection – contain unique images that reflect the scholarly pursuits of their faculty contributors. Accessible to a global audience, both collections offer exciting possibilities for research and instruction, and serve as wonderful examples of the Libraries' continuing commitment to scholarship and open access.

Collaborative partnerships are also the focus of another current Libraries' initiative that we highlight in this issue. The University at Buffalo Institutional Repository (UBIR) is a digital repository in which we collect, preserve and provide access to scholarly works and research data produced by UB faculty, staff and students. A work-in-progress, the UBIR offers tremendous potential for increasing the visibility and accessibility of our colleagues' research accomplishments and creative achievements.

In our daily work, the University Libraries reflect the best of UB – an innovative spirit, dynamic community partnerships, and a commitment to education and research across the disciplines. I offer my heartfelt thanks for your continued support and look forward to talking with you about the University Libraries and its directions.

With sincere best wishes,



H. Austin Booth

Vice Provost for University Libraries

Repairing a Treasure

In recent months, the Polish Room, Room 517 of Lockwood Memorial Library, has been the scene of renovations, including the repair of a unique stained-glass and wrought-iron chandelier that was originally crafted by Polish-American artist Jozef Mazur and donated to the Polish Room in 1955.

This impressive fixture, featuring vibrant images of Chopin, Mickiewicz, Paderewski and Slowacki, had developed several large surface cracks, and although initial repairs had been made, additional treatment by a skilled stained-glass artist was needed.



Happily, Fran Matusak of Jacobs Stained Glass in Buffalo recently repaired the lamp's Adam Mickiewicz panel, and although cracks are still visible, the piece has been stabilized and remains true to Mazur's original artistic vision.

The University Libraries appreciate the generous support provided by the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo, along with support from individual community members, to help restore this beautiful lamp. "We're working to make the Polish Room a more welcoming space for all those interested in Polish history, language and culture," says Molly Poremski, Curator of the Polish Room, "and the lamp is a visible symbol of the connection between the Libraries and all those

interested in Polish language and culture." For additional information on the Polish Room, please contact Ms. Poremski at poremski@buffalo.edu

Institutional Repository

As more federal granting agencies require data management plans and open access to scholarship, UB researchers need to consider how they will disseminate the results of their work. One option for UB researchers is the **University at Buffalo Institutional Repository (UBIR)**, a digital repository for research and scholarly materials created by UB faculty, staff and students. Administered by the University Libraries, in cooperation with UB's Computing and Information Technology department, the UBIR provides long-term access to and preservation of this material, making it easily discoverable by a global audience.

Currently, the UBIR houses over two million public and private files including journal articles, book chapters, working papers, datasets, audio and video files, and theses and dissertations. A wide range of projects are represented in the collections including genomics data, architectural and urban planning reports on the Buffalo region, recordings of the Onondaga language and the WBFO archives.

We invite you to visit the UBIR and take advantage of the enterprise-level preservation and global discoverability that it offers.

library.buffalo.edu/repository

Jan Williams

Jan Williams, a musician who has been recognized as one of the world's pre-eminent percussionists, came to Buffalo in 1964 as one of the first Creative Associates in UB's Center of the Creative



Jan Williams conducting Elliott Carter's Double Concerto at the Pfeiffer (Center) Theater, 1979. Photo: Irene Haupt

and Performing Arts. As a member of the UB music department faculty from 1967-1996, Williams influenced generations of percussion students and shaped performances of musical compositions by many of the most prominent composers of the second half of the 20th century.

Williams donated his collection of musical scores, as marked by him for performance, to UB's Music Library in 1994, along with his personal papers and hundreds of photographs, slides and other images documenting his career. Most of these images are accessible online in *The Jan Williams Digital Collection of Images*. Were it not for the detailed information provided by Williams, countless facts related to these collections would remain unknown. His ongoing provision of knowledge and willingness to share his scholarly

expertise have helped to ensure accurate identification and helped to provide many levels of context for the donated materials.

Since making his original donation, Williams has unsparingly continued to share his wealth of knowledge about events documented in the Music Library's collections, and to assist music researchers and students with their scholarly endeavors. John Bewley, Music Library Archivist, terms it a "rare privilege" to have the opportunity to learn from Jan Williams. As Bewley so aptly notes, "Jan and other donors, who continue to give of themselves long after their initial gifts are made, support our collections and services immensely, and deserve our sincere gratitude."

library.buffalo.edu/jan-williams

Dr. Jonathan Reichert,
UB Physics Professor Emeritus.

Photo: Douglas Levere



IN THE NAME OF
Friendship

THE VICTOR E. REICHERT ROBERT FROST COLLECTION

Dr. Jonathan Reichert, UB Physics Professor Emeritus, Donates His Father's Robert Frost Collection to the Poetry Collection

by: JAMES MAYNARD, Associate Curator, The Poetry Collection

In 1939, the American poet Robert Frost (1874-1963) gave a poetry reading in Cincinnati, Ohio, where in the front row sat Rabbi Victor E. Reichert (1897-1990). Although Reichert, whose own favorite poet had been Edwin Arlington Robinson, had only attended the event at the encouragement of his wife, Louise, afterwards he and Frost immediately struck up an enthusiastic conversation. That moment began a remarkable friendship between the poet and the rabbi, whose Robert Frost collection is now available to the public for research in the Poetry Collection of the University Libraries, thanks to a generous donation from his son, Dr. Jonathan Reichert.

Victor Reichert was a rabbi with a passion for poetry just as Frost was a poet concerned with spiritual questions, and over the years their relationship deepened. At Frost's invitation, the Reichert family spent many summers vacationing at the Schoolhouse cottage near Frost's home in Ripton, Vermont. As rabbi of the Rockdale

Avenue Temple in Cincinnati from 1938 to 1962, Victor Reichert invited Frost to present a sermon on October 10, 1946, the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles. This Frost did with just a day's notice.

In the sermon, which Reichert recorded and published, the poet offers anecdotes of his personal religious experiences, and begins by stating that he stands in the rabbi's pulpit "in the name of friendship and in the name of more than friendship—affection." In

1960, Reichert was instrumental in awarding Frost an honorary Doctorate at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. The story of their friendship, as remembered by Reichert, is the subject of Andrew Marks's *The Rabbi and the Poet: Victor Reichert and Robert Frost* (1994).

Reichert and Frost remained close until the poet's death in January of 1963, two years after reading his poem, "The Gift Outright," at John F. Kennedy's presidential inauguration. During that time, Rabbi Reichert wrote several essays on Frost's work, often quoting him in his sermons, and the two spent many occasions together discussing poetry and religion. In one noteworthy

exchange, Frost read aloud a draft of *A Masque of Reason* (1945), and afterward Reichert, a Biblical scholar who published several commentaries on the Old Testament and other religious studies, replied that it should be received as an additional chapter of Job. To Reichert's amazement, he later opened up the pub-

lished version of the book to find that Frost had inserted his remark as its last line: "(Here endeth chapter forty-three of Job)." In 1957, Frost inscribed the first volume of his *Complete Poems* to Reichert, writing: "You and I Victor 'have multiplied visions and used similitudes' as Hosea would have us. Thank you for showing me the Bible of it."

In addition to what he received directly from the poet, Victor Reichert collected hundreds of Robert

This collection was my father's treasure. It was never really mine. It is a small, but not insignificant, part of American literature. It is a pebble in the great pyramid. Now it has a permanent home, where it will live for all to examine, to study, to interpret, to debate, and to learn. That's where it belongs.



Robert Frost in Ripton, VT.
ca. 1950s

Frost-related materials and was an active correspondent with other Frost scholars. After Victor Reichert's death in 1990, his Frost collection passed to his son, Dr. Jonathan Reichert. Dr. Reichert knew Frost growing up, and when summering in Vermont would sometimes bring him brook trout as a means of getting a private audience with the poet. A Professor Emeritus who taught in the UB Department of Physics from 1970 to 1998, Dr. Reichert is now retired from teaching but continues to serve as the President of TeachSpin, a company producing hands-on laboratory equipment for upper-level physics classes that he founded in 1992. Although other institutions were interested in his father's collection, Dr. Reichert donated it to the Poetry Collection in December 2012.

To celebrate the opening of the collection for research, the University Libraries'

Poetry Collection, in collaboration with the University Art Galleries, organized an exhibition of selections from the Victor E. Reichert Robert Frost Collection in the UB Kaveeshwar Gallery. On view from January 31 through May 15, 2013 in 501 Capen Hall, the exhibition attracted numerous visitors from Western New York and beyond. More than 170 people attended the opening reception, a record for the small gallery located outside the office of UB President, Satish K. Tripathi.

During his remarks at the opening event, Dr. Reichert explained his rationale for donating these significant materials to the Poetry Collection, singling out the attentive and enthusiastic care he received from the curator: "It is, however, really important for everybody here to know the reason why this collection of my father's...is at UB. The reason is Michael Basinski." For

two weeks, Basinski, curator of the Poetry Collection, and Dr. Reichert worked closely together six to seven hours each day, inventorying sixteen boxes of unsorted material, examining signed first editions, letters, family diaries, newspaper clippings, old audio recordings, and much more. Often, in order to preserve the historical and personal contexts of these items, Basinski digitally recorded Dr. Reichert as he described them. Addressing the overall scholarly value of the Victor E. Reichert Robert Frost Collection, Dr. Reichert concluded his remarks by emphasizing its future significance as one of the Poetry Collection's many public research collections:

This collection was my father's treasure. It was never really mine. It is a small, but not insignificant, part of American literature. It is a pebble in the great pyramid. Now it has a permanent home, where it will live for all to examine, to study, to interpret, to debate, and to learn. That's where it belongs.

Given Frost's status as one of the most well-known American poets of the twentieth century and the religious nature of his relationship with Reichert, the Reichert Frost Collection has already generated a great deal of attention. After being profiled on the front page of the *Buffalo News*, the story has been covered from different angles by *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Paris Review*, *Cincinnati Enquirer*, and *Union Leader*, with an Associated Press article appearing in news outlets across the country. It was also the subject of a report on NPR's Morning Edition on January 29, 2013, the fiftieth anniversary of Frost's death.

Scholars, too, have taken notice. Carole Thompson, founder and director of the Robert Frost Stone House Museum in Shaftsbury, Vermont, has already been to Buffalo twice to help organize the material. And Donald Sheehy and Mark Richardson, coeditors of a forthcoming volume of Frost's correspondence, have requested research copies of Frost's letters to Reichert, as have others. Undoubtedly, this collection will be examined, studied, interpreted, debated, and learned from for years to come.

About the collection

Documenting the longstanding friendship and interfaith dialogue between a rabbi who loved poetry and a poet concerned with



Robert Frost and Victor E. Reichert at the Reicherts' home in Cincinnati, ca. 1960.
Photo: Jonathan Reichert

spiritual questions, the Victor E. Reichert Robert Frost Collection features:

- a number of Frost publications, including several books of poetry, many of which are signed by the poet and inscribed to Victor Reichert
- many examples of Frost's annual limited edition poem chapbooks, published as holiday greetings by Joseph Blumenthal's Spiral Press, spanning nearly thirty years
- a handwritten draft of Frost's poem "A Milkweed Pod," inscribed to Victor Reichert
- four letters from Frost to Reichert
- many of Victor Reichert's diaries, and the notes and drafts of his writings on Frost
- audio recordings of Frost's 1946 sermon at Rockdale Avenue Temple
- materials relating to Frost's honorary doctorate at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion
- photographs of Frost in Cincinnati, Ohio; Ripton, Vermont; and elsewhere
- more than 500 Frost-related letters from critics such as Stanley Burnshaw and biographer Lawrance Thompson
- more than 600 news and other clippings documenting Frost's popular and critical reception
- several of Frost's magazine appearances
- other Frost memorabilia

A digital collection and select images from the Reichert Frost Collection are available through the Poetry Collection and the UB Libraries store: library.buffalo.edu/robertfrost.

Help support this collection by making a Reichert challenge gift

In order to establish an endowment to help support the Poetry Collection's Victor E. Reichert Robert Frost Collection, Dr. Jonathan Reichert has challenged the Poetry Collection to raise \$15,000, which he will then match with a \$50,000 gift of his own. Once in place, the new endowment will fund future acquisitions of books, literary magazines and papers as well as an annual lectureship. Anyone interested in making a donation towards this challenge gift should contact:

Donald Elick, Director of Development, at (716) 881-8206 or donelick@buffalo.edu.

UB SPORTS HISTORY

DIGITAL COLLECTION

To visit the unique digital archive go to:
library.buffalo.edu/ub-sports

UB sports history is filled with memorable moments. The earliest moments date back more than a century to 1894 and the founding of the University of Buffalo Athletic Association and UB's first football team. In 1897, the team, led by head coach, C.W. Dibble, and captain, Billy Bott, compiled a perfect 7-0 record, the first undefeated football season in UB history.

A photograph of Bott and his UB varsity football teammates from the 1897-98 season, is one of many images featured in the UB Sports History Collection. This unique digital archive, filled with photos and other images drawn from UB student yearbooks and newspapers of decades past, showcases many of the athletes, teams, coaches and fans who were part of UB athletics during the period 1894-1969.

One of the earliest images found in the collection is that of Peter McPherson, UB Varsity Football team halfback during the 1899 and 1900 seasons (uniforms looked very different then!). An iconic photo of Willie Evans, a member of the 1958 UB Bulls football team, is also featured in the UB Sports History Collection. That year, the team posted an 8-1 record, and won the Lambert Cup – the trophy for the top-rated small school in the East. UB's 1958 team members made history when they unanimously declined a post-season bid to the Tangerine Bowl after being told they couldn't bring Evans and another black teammate because of a rule of the host Orlando, Florida school district prohibiting blacks and whites from playing on the same field.

Another photo from 1962, features Buddy Ryan with starting UB tackles Gerry Philbin (#73) and Kevin Brinkworth (#71). Ryan joined UB varsity football coach Dick Offenhamer's staff as the defensive line

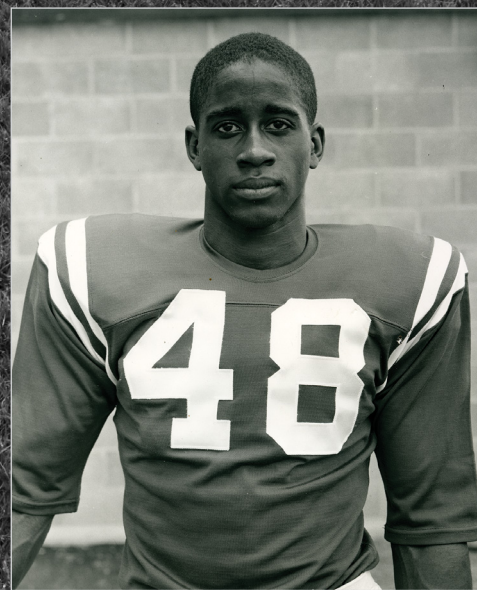
coach in 1961, and later enjoyed a long and distinguished coaching career with the New York Jets and other NFL teams. Philbin went on to play football with the NY Jets and was a member of the Jets 1968 Super Bowl team; Brinkworth, a successful Buffalo-area lawyer and businessman, is a member of the UB Athletics Hall of Fame.

These are just a few of the many UB student athletes and coaches whose legacy is reflected in the UB Sports History Collection. Cur



Peter McPherson, UB Football, 1899, 1900 and 1901 seasons.

Photo: University Archives



Willie Evans, UB Football, 1959-1960 season.
Photo: University Archives

rently, the collection covers the early years of UB football, basketball and hockey. It is part of the Libraries' ongoing commitment to digitize significant content from its most notable archival print collections. The UB Sports History Collection will continue to grow in phases, and will eventually encompass all UB intercollegiate sports teams from their beginnings to the present.

The University Libraries welcome gifts in support of the UB Sports History Collection and our other Digital Collections. For information on supporting the UB Libraries, please visit our website at:

library.buffalo.edu/support or contact:

Donald J. Elick
Development Director, University Libraries
(716) 881-8206 | donelick@buffalo.edu

Michael Basinski

Curator, The Poetry Collection

Michael Basinski, Curator of the Poetry Collection, received his Ph.D. from the UB Department of English and is a SUNY Chancellor's award recipient for his outstanding achievement in professional service. He has authored more than 40 books of poetry, including *Learning Poem About Learning About Being A Poet* (PressBoardPress, 2012) and *Trailers* (BlazeVox, 2011). He performs his work throughout the United States as a solo poet and in ensemble with BuffFluxus. His visual poetry has been exhibited at Buffalo's Burchfield-Penney Art Gallery, the 23 Sandy Gallery in Portland, Oregon, and in 2011 at the Albright-Knox Gallery. His critical essays, book reviews, performance works, visual poetry, prose, and poetry have appeared in numerous publications, including *Deluxe Rubber Chicken*, *Rampike*, *Western Humanities Review*, and *Poetry*. He is the Robert Graves Society's Vice President for the Americas, and this spring he is the University of Coimbra, Portugal's Monsanto Writer-in-Residence. The following are Basinski's reflections on how he "came to be" in the Poetry Collection.

"It all began a long time ago when I oddly came upon 'Love's Philosophy' by Percy Shelley: 'The fountains mingle with the river.' I was stung and my imagination was christened. It was all over that fast, and I committed myself to poetry. This was really not the easiest thing to do in working-class Cheektowaga. I read about Beatniks and Jack Kerouac in *Mad Magazine*. I ate plain yogurt and, whenever possible, drank espresso. There were few poets in the neighborhood and a lot of folks who knew how to change spark plugs. I persevered.

At some point, I thought I should head off to college to study poetry, to be a poet. UB's English Department was in its first golden age, and then there was the lure of San Francisco! San

Francisco State rejected my application. It was a form letter. As a poet, one gets used to form letter rejections. So I worked the line at Buffalo China during the day and became a UB Night School, Millard Fillmore College student. The first class I walked into was Jack Clarke's Modern Poetry. It was one of those 'never looked back' moments. In Clarke's class in the early '70s, we read Denise Levertov, Robert Creeley, Robert Duncan and Charles Olson. Olson proved to be of immense use. When I first appeared in the UB Poetry Collection as a disheveled graduate student looking for campus work, I was able to quote Olson, 'I have had to learn the simplest things last. Which made for difficulties.'

I got the job. I never left. It's a lifestyle! I still don't know how to change a sparkplug. However, I have come to understand that poetry is the universal resource for all creative thinking; of this, I am convinced and committed. It was and is wonderful to spend each day immersed in all facets

of the realm of the poem, with poets, and in the midst of all poetry, in 'the temple of the book,' as Thomas Lockwood, UB's great library benefactor once said, and in 'the workshop of the imagination,' as Charles Abbott, originator of the Poetry Collection, once wrote.

Each morning, and this is true, I hope that I can approach the ideals set forth by these UB library pioneers. It's been near 30 years since I first walked into 420 Capen, but it only seems like 30 minutes!"



Photo: Lukia Costello



Jeannette Ludwig and
Claude Welch, Lockwood
Memorial Library.

Photo: Douglas Levere

CLAUDE WELCH & JEANNETTE LUDWIG

by: CHARLES D'ANIELLO, Associate Librarian, University Libraries

Claude E. Welch, Jr., SUNY Distinguished Service Professor in the UB Department of Political Science, and Jeannette Ludwig, associate professor in UB's Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, live very busy lives. Married in 1981, Welch has taught at UB since 1964 and Ludwig, since 1977. Welch is a human rights and African politics expert and Ludwig teaches languages and religion. Usually together, but sometimes separately, they have visited every continent except Antarctica and Australia at least once.

The digital memories of their travels are available to the world as the University Libraries preserve, organize and present the couple's photographs in the Welch-Ludwig Collection. Welch took all but a few of the 1,563 photos currently available. The online collection is very much a work in progress, and Welch and Ludwig are currently providing data and descriptions to accompany each photo. Both scholars often use these images in their instruction and other activities, and they invite others to do the same.

While there are many striking images of buildings and landscapes, the Welch-Ludwig Collection is distinguished by the couple's fascination with people: how people use the land, how and where they worship, and how they interact with one another in a diversity of associations and situations, including markets and work sites. Agriculture and the preparation and presentation of food across the globe are also common subjects.

Although the images, singularly or in topical or geographical groupings, are instructive and transport one across time and space, it is the stories the

couple associate with them – from explaining the significance of a photograph or relating the circumstances under which it was taken – that often make an image even more compelling and evocative. Among the diverse images available are photographs of a market in Old Delhi. Ludwig recalls the guided tour she was taken on deep into the market as one of the best days of her life. Welch singles out photographs of Dalits (formerly known as Untouchables) at work in India and an intimate shot of worshipers at the Western Wall (Wailing Wall) in Jerusalem.

As more images of trips completed are added and more journeys are made and more photographs are taken, this dynamic collection will certainly grow. Next on the couple's agenda is a trip to France, and looking into the future, Welch has a longing to visit the Galapagos Islands, made famous by Charles Darwin, as well as the dizzying heights of Peru's Machu Picchu. When completed, the Welch-Ludwig Digital Collection will be searchable by subject terms, and the juxtaposition of images across time and place that this will make possible will add to its richness.

The University is fortunate to have Claude Welch and Jeannette Ludwig as its ambassadors to so many lands. Thanks to their collaboration with the University Libraries, everyone can now see a little of what they've seen, and be enriched by what has enriched them personally and given their instruction the authority of "having been there."

To visit the digital collection go to:
library.buffalo.edu/welch-ludwig

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LIBRARY store

Selected images from the UB Libraries Digital Collections (including those pictured here) are now available for purchase as posters or prints from our Library Store. You'll find photographs of famous individuals associated with the University at Buffalo, vintage renderings of Niagara Falls, 1901 Pan-American Exposition prints, children's storybook lithographs, cover art from early UB student publications and more. Visit the Library Store, choose your favorite item, and have a print or poster shipped directly to your address.

library.buffalo.edu/store

