We are happy to announce that The Maine Forester has joined the Yearbooks Online and the Maine Town Reports on the growing list of digital collections available from Fogler Library. Our partner in this endeavor is the School of Forest Resources who provided full print sets for us to scan in order to preserve this unique publication and provide online access. The Maine Forester is a hybrid publication that has served as both a traditional yearbook with requisite student and faculty photos, but also includes selected research papers from the School. There are amusing sketches and the occasional ode to life in the Maine woods as well. An excerpt from one of the latter in the first volume published in 1923, The Forestry Guy:

A knightly figure amid the green,
In khaki instead of mail,
A face of bronze, eyes quick and keen—
Swift hoofbeats on the trail;
A home in the saddle through the summer days,
A bed 'neath the evening sky;
Who is it travels the silent ways?
He's only a forestry guy.

In viewing the volumes online you will get a sense of how the tenor of the publication changed over the years. Sparsely published in the 1920s and 1930s it appeared annually starting in 1936 through 1941, taking a significant hiatus during the years of World War II. Late in the 1950s the design shifted toward a considerably larger format very similar to the University’s Prism yearbook. Special articles continued to be a hallmark however. One example in the 1971 edition is a guest article written by Senator Edmund S. Muskie. In 1969 the beautiful new building we now know as Nutting Hall was proudly featured on the cover as the facility opened to students. There is also a special edition published in 2003 in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the Forestry School.

All of the volumes are keyword searchable. Most volumes were commercially published but several hand typed volumes proved to be a challenge for text recognition. The more recent editions of the digitized volumes are served online in several sections. This is because the file size of the image-intensive content is so large and the division improves the web browser load time to an acceptable level for patrons.

Throughout the 80 year history of the publication wonderful photographs of the Maine woods and waterways have been captured and a number of these grace the cover. On our web site we have the opportunity of featuring a sampling of these as part of our navigational guide.

We encourage you to explore these pages online and send us your feedback. (http://library.umaine.edu/forester)

For more information about this and other digitization projects, visit our Gateway to Digital Collections at http://libraries.maine.edu/gateway/
Message from Dean Joyce Rumery

The spring semester is always full of promise and this year is no different. We are making plans for the future and are including the faculty and students in our conversations. We hope to continue to provide the resources and services needed by our users and to move the library forward in all areas. To work towards those goals, we look both to technology and partnerships. As we create our local digital collections and work with other libraries, we do so with our mission to support the university community in mind.

We are continuing to scan materials from our collections, including Maine histories, and future scanning projects may include Canadian histories and government publications as well as other materials from collections in the state. Our partnership with the Maine State Library is ongoing with the addition of more Maine Town Reports to that collection. Our goal is to create online collections that will be useful for the public and the university community as well as ensuring the preservation of the original material. We are also working on ways to more effectively use the resources we have and as one aspect of that work we are partnering with seven libraries in the state on a grant that will create a way to coordinate responsibilities among the libraries for maintaining our print collections and incorporating our electronic collections. This collaborative collection management strategy will allow the libraries to control their collections and services in a more sustainable manner. We are excited about this potential since it is a way for us to strengthen our resources.

I do expect a fulfilling and exciting semester for both the library staff and the university community and although each year brings challenges, we hope to take advantage of all opportunities that come our way to make the library a center for the university community. We would love to have you visit us, please let us know if you are planning to visit and I would be delighted to give you a tour of the library so you can meet the staff and see the changes we have made. I hope you are pleased with what we are doing and you will continue to support us into the future. Thank you for your support.

Frank Wihbey

Francis “Frank” Richard Wihbey, 65, died Wednesday, January 13, 2010, at Torrey Pines State Reserve, California. An avid outdoorsman and lover of nature, he suffered a fall while hiking. He was born October 20, 1944, in Waterbury, CT. His undergraduate work was at the University of Connecticut. He earned a master’s degree in library science at the University of Southern Maine.

Frank joined the Library staff in May 1978 to become the Reference Librarian for Science, just then established as a full-time position. That was a watershed year in library service as it marked the introduction of online searchable bibliographic databases and Frank was the first reference librarian to offer this service to our users.

Frank was also one of the first librarians to get an email account, to use laser printers for improved document quality, to introduce digital/optical hybrid microform readers and to employ videoconferencing for inter-campus library meetings. He was the founder of the Maine Nature News, a weekly public natural observations journal, an early example of a web-based periodical. He was an amateur naturalist, an endless tinkerer with gadgets and an astronaut, whose passionate interest in the stars began when he was a boy.

He is survived by his wife, Karen, his children and their spouses John and Carrie of Cambridge, Mass., Lynn and Shon of Riverside, Calif., and Kristina and Tristan of Philadelphia. He is also survived by brothers, Gary and Wayne; and his sister, Jane “Blackbird.” A memorial service was held at Wells Commons on January 18th.
Papers of Former Press Secretary Added to the Cohen Collection
by Desireé Butterfield-Nagy, William S. Cohen Papers Archivist

I
don't have any real contribution to make in Washington anymore except bitterness,” wrote Thomas Bright, a man who had been press secretary for William S. Cohen since 1975. His parting thoughts were offered in a November, 1979, article written for the Washington Post. Despite having many fond memories of his ten years in D.C.—a place he had called home since the age of 17, where he had met and married his wife, and where their son had been born—the mounting anti-government sentiment of the American people had finally cost him his faith; having held on as long as he could to a belief that government could do real good, he now counted himself among those desperate to get out, “depressed at being outnumbered and powerless in this brave new Washington.”

“The capital has always been the butt of jokes and complaints from the countryside,” he wrote, “but now the mood has soured. The jabs at government have grown more acid. The country has found itself confronted with problems—energy shortages, inflation, economic stagnation—that seem to defy government solution. Chappaquiddick, Watergate and the disgrace of innumerable congressmen from Wilbur Mills to Herman Talmadge have left bare the failings of once respected leaders and institutions.” He concluded that he had “ample reason to abandon Capitol Hill for the more humble pleasure of life in a New England suburb,” where he had met and married his wife, and where their son had been born—the mounting anti-government sentiment of the American people had finally cost him his faith; having held on as long as he could to a belief that government could do real good, he now counted himself among those desperate to get out, “depressed at being outnumbered and powerless in this brave new Washington.”

“Before turning them over to the library, he said that he spent some time going back through them and on reflection, realized they were “interesting stuff.” Those of us who may wonder whether any sense of nostalgia has replaced his disillusionment may simply have to go on wondering. His final comment was, simply, “I’ve had a good time on this project, but I’m happy to get two more boxes out of my attic.”

Anyone interested in accessing the Thomas Bright subseries of the William S. Cohen Papers may contact Desiree Butterfield-Nagy at 207-581-2665 or desiree_butterfield@umit.maine.edu.
Hannibal Hamlin and the University of Maine
by Brenda Howitson Steeves, Special Collections Department

Hannibal Hamlin Hall on the campus is of course named in honor of Maine’s only native son to serve as vice president of the United States. With the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of both Abraham Lincoln and Hannibal Hamlin in 2009 and with the sesquicentennial of the Civil War fast approaching, it is time to reflect on one of Hamlin’s other roles, his involvement in the founding of the University of Maine.

Hamlin served as vice president during Lincoln’s first term of office but failed to be re-nominated for a second term. He left office on March 4, 1865, returning to Maine where his chief duties, according to a biography written by his grandson, “were to take care of his little farm ... he fell naturally into the life of a country squire, and repeated his old time saying, that when he entered politics he ‘spoiled the making of a good farmer.’ ” Hamlin seems to have been a bit modest in his assessment of his activities as he was also at this time advocating for the establishment of a new college of agriculture and mechanic arts in Maine, one that would be supported by the provisions of the Morrill Act signed into law while he had been vice president. Although he had not attended college himself Hamlin had served for many years as a trustee at Colby College, two of his sons had attended Colby and one had attended Bowdoin College. Still he thought there was room for another college in the state, one that perhaps would prepare its graduates for more practical fields of endeavor than the so-called classical institutions.

The legislation establishing the new State College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts was passed in 1865 and it listed Hannibal Hamlin as one of those to serve as trustees of the institution, one member coming from each county in the state. The first meeting of the new board was held in Augusta on April 25, 1865, with Hamlin present. At this meeting, he was elected president of the board, a role in which he would serve until resigning early in 1866. The first order of business for the trustees was to secure funding and a location for the new college. Hamlin was appointed to a committee of three to confer with the governor on the sale and disposition of the land scrip granted to the state under the Morrill Act, the proceeds of which would establish an endowment to fund the college. But the issue of where to put the new institution remained an open question. Minutes of the meetings of the trustees in April, May and June show the trustees receiving offers of land and farms in Orrington, Fairfield and Topsham; Hamlin is recorded as visiting many of these farms along with his fellow trustees. Finally on January 25th, 1866, at a meeting in Augusta, an 8 to 7 vote of the trustees chose the White and Goddard farms in Orono as the site for the new campus, Hamlin voting in favor of the Orono location. Later in the same meeting, Hamlin tendered his resignation from the board thus ending his official association with the newly-established college. Other duties called him: at the recommendation of Charles Sumner, he had been appointed collector of the port of Boston in August 1865 and had assumed his post in September. He went on to serve again in the U.S. Senate from 1870 to 1881, then Designed by Boston architect William Hart Taylor in the Collegiate Gothic style, Hannibal Hamlin Hall was to be one of the best equipped dormitories at any college in Maine.
was appointed minister plenipotentiary to Spain from 1881 to 1882. After that he returned to Bangor, living there until his death in 1891.

In 1909 a new men’s dormitory building, later to be named Hannibal Hamlin Hall, began to be planned on campus in response to the urgent need to accommodate an increasing number of students. Designed by Boston architect William Hart Taylor in the Collegiate Gothic style, the building was to be one of the best equipped dormitories at any college in Maine. The contract for the new building, awarded to Smith & Rumery Co. of Portland, called for a four-story brick structure with suites for students containing two bedrooms with an adjoining study room. A dining room large enough to seat 300 was planned for the basement with the first floor having an apartment for the professor in charge of the building and rooms for the university’s Y.M.C.A. chapter. A feature noted at the time was the installation of fireproof walls that would divide the building into three parts with connecting corridors that could be closed if necessary. The building was finished and fully occupied in 1911; the trustees’ report for that year notes that “as an expression of the great honor and respect in which we hold the name of Hannibal Hamlin, we have dedicated and named for him the new dormitory completed during the last year ... in recognition of the great service of this illustrious son of Maine.”

By 1944 Hannibal Hamlin Hall was serving as a dormitory for soldiers in the Army Specialized Training Program put together by the Army and the American Council on Education. On the night of February 13, 1944, a fire broke out in the north section of the building, home to some 73 student soldiers. Two students died in the fire and a third was seriously injured. Despite rumors of arson that circulated immediately after the blaze, the investigation held to determine its source found no evidence of such and reported “cause or causes unknown” as its official finding. The fireproof walls dividing the building seem to have prevented an outcome that could have been much worse. In May 1944, a contract was awarded to repair the damage: the north section of the building was not to be rebuilt but smoke screens on stairways and fire doors were to be installed.

Hannibal Hamlin Hall continued to be used as a dormitory for many years after the disastrous fire. It currently serves as home to the Intensive English Institute, the Office of Multicultural Programs and the university herbaria. Hamlin himself would no doubt be proud of the various needs the building has filled and especially of the multi-faceted university that has resulted from his service as trustee so many years ago.

Fogler Library and the Bangor Historical Society Acquire Cassidy Family Papers

by Richard Hollinger, Head, Special Collections Department

In a unique collaborative venture, Fogler Library and the Bangor Historical Society have jointly acquired the papers of the Cassidy Family of Bangor, a collection comprising approximately 420 cubic feet of records and constituting what is probably the largest archival collection pertaining to the Bangor area. Because of the size of the collection, the two institutions will share responsibilities for housing and providing access to the papers, with parts being held by each repository. Currently they are trying to raise the approximately $7,000 that will be required to organize the collection and re-house it in archival folders and boxes, in preparation for making it available to researchers. The papers were generated by John Cassidy, who immigrated to Bangor from Nova Scotia in 1859, and his son, J.W. Cassidy. Within ten years of his arrival, John Cassidy had begun acquiring timberland in northern Maine. He also invested in several ships, Katahdin Iron Works, a sawmill in Stillwater, and was one of the founders of Eastern Banking and Trust. Before his death in 1918, he had amassed more than 200,000 acres of timberland; subsequent land acquisitions by his son brought this total close to 300,000 acres.

The collection will significantly strengthen Fogler Library’s archival holdings relating to the logging and lumber industry in northern Maine, which are already substantial. Since the Cassidy’s were involved in most of the major industries in the Bangor region, however, this may represent one of the most important sources documenting the history and economy of the region in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
Maine Town Reports Update

Whether you are interested in historical data on local budgets, infrastructure or education there is a wealth of full text searchable information to be mined from the Maine Town reports web site. A recent update to the Town Highlights feature provides a quick look inside the history of Presque Isle, the largest city in Aroostook County. We learn that early settlers to the area included Dennis Fairbanks, who settled on the Aroostook River in 1828. However, because both the United States and Canada claimed ownership of the territory, it was not heavily settled until after the 1838-1839 “Aroostook War,” a bloodless confrontation which led to the 1842 Webster-Ashburton Treaty, which formally set the boundary between Maine and New Brunswick.

Presque Isle takes its name from a French word meaning “peninsula,” referring to the peninsula created by the Aroostook River and the Presque Isle Stream. It was incorporated as a town in 1859, it annexed the town of Mayfield in 1883, and in 1940, it incorporated as Aroostook County’s first city.

Potato farming is a major industry in the area. The city is also home to the University of Maine at Presque Isle, which was established as the Aroostook State Normal School in 1901.

Currently holdings from 42 towns are available from the Town Reports web site, representing a range of geographic, cultural and business interests across the state. We invite you to visit the site at: http://library.umaine.edu/townreport

Around the Library

New Cohen Archivist

Desirée Butterfield-Nagy has been a member of the staff for six years, but moved to the Special Collections Department to take on the role of Cohen Archivist on September 14, 2009. Her duties include preservation and management of the collection, providing reference service, planning outreach activities, displays, and a biennial forum to discuss topics related to the papers, including an event tentatively planned for this fall on the topic of transparency and open government. Desirée’s background includes teaching at the secondary and college level, and experience in marketing and public relations. She completed her bachelor’s degree at Utah State University, a master’s degree at Northern Arizona University, and is working toward an M.L.S. degree through the University of South Carolina.

She may be reached at desiree_butterfield@umit.maine.edu or at 581-2665.

Librarian Guests on Radio Show

Ask a Librarian took on a new meaning on February 4th when Fogler Business Librarian Stephen Fadel was one of the guests on Doing Business (http://www.umext.maine.edu/Waldo/Radio/), a radio show hosted by Associate Extension Professor, Jane Haskell on station WERU (http://weru.org/). The topic of the live call-in show was market research. Fadel was joined by other guests from the local business community.

Maine Town Reports Update

A Day at the Library

On September 30th, Fogler joined other libraries around the state in Maine Libraries Snapshot Day. The goal of the initiative was to capture a record of what happens on a typical day at a Maine Library. During the 16 hours Fogler Library was open on the 30th, we welcomed more than 6,000 people into the building, answered more than 200 reference questions, and circulated almost 800 books and electronic reserves. Statewide, Maine libraries welcomed 37,582 people and answered 3,513 questions. Not bad for a day’s work.

Totals and slide shows from the statewide snapshot are available on the Maine State Library web site: http://www.maine.gov/msl/snapshot/results.htm

Photograph shows Fogler’s Information Desk on the morning of September 30th.
UMaine Celebrates the Maine Landscape

Many of us have likely driven past a number of Maine’s private estates, parks, gardens, cemeteries, golf courses, and campuses without really understanding the story behind them, or the extensive efforts on the part of a landscape designer and the vision of one of the state’s renowned benefactors that made them possible. On October 22nd, the Office of the Vice President for Administration and Finance, Raymond H. Fogler Library, and the University Bookstore hosted “Designing the Maine Landscape,” an event that brought together authors and speakers who shared the stories of historic architecture and landscape design projects within the state of Maine. This day-long event was held in the Wells Conference Center from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Event organizers were inspired by the recently published book, Designing the Maine Landscape, a collaborative effort between the Maine Olmsted Alliance and Down East Books, co-written by Theresa Mattor and Lucie Teegarden. “This is an incredible book,” noted Gretchen Gfeller, Public Relations Specialist for Fogler Library as she prepared for the event, “and the more we thought about it, the more we realized that there was potential for inviting the authors and also discussing ‘landscape’ in the broadest sense, to include buildings and structures that also contribute to our environment. We will be looking at how we see, value, and preserve our landscape.”

In their book, Mattor and Teegarden draw from a ten-year survey of Maine’s historic landscapes while celebrating the history and legacy of projects throughout the state, including locations from Saco to Caribou, Rumford to Bar Harbor. Among the many featured are the grounds of the University of Maine in Orono, the Mount Hope Cemetery in Bangor, and the Asticou Terraces, Asticou Azalea Garden, and Thuya Garden in Northeast Harbor.

The authors shared the day with a focus on the University of Maine, whose Campus Planning Committee members have been working diligently on strategic landscape planning for the University. With the help of the Getty Foundation’s Campus Heritage Grant award, the University’s Historic Preservation Master Plan was written in 2007 largely by Malcolm Collins. Collins, now an associate at WBRC Architects Engineers, is working with the Campus Planning Committee to preserve the historic buildings on the University’s campus in context with the potential expansion of its National Register Historic District. Earle Shettleworth, Jr., State Historian and Director of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission joined Collins for a discussion of historic architecture and the importance of the National Register Historic District.

Another featured speaker during the day’s events was Greg Havens, a principal at Sasaki Associates, who worked collaboratively with the Campus Planning Committee in creating the University’s Campus Master Plan. The Campus Master plan, under Haven’s direction, recently received the Merit Award for Excellence in Planning for an Established Campus by the Society for College and University Planning.

The day opened with a keynote address by University of Maine President Robert Kennedy and also included remarks from Vice President for Administration and Finance Janet Waldron and Library Dean Joyce Rumery.
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and Brenda Howiston Steeves.

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