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Connecting Readers and Ohio Writers

June 2014

A SPECIAL LIBRARY COLLECTION

We've had some school visits here at the library during the past three months—nearly 100 students! As the librarian, it was my job to explain to the students what our library does and how (and why) it's different from their local public library. I hear questions from adults about this too: What kinds of materials do we have in our collection? Why don't the books circulate? Below is a brief overview of Ohioana's collection: how items are selected and acquired, how they're stored, and how they're used.

What kind of library is Ohioana?

Ohioana is a special library. Although we do enjoy working here, we're not making up this term! Special libraries may serve a specific user group (like a corporate library), or may have collections based on a special area of interest (like a music library). Ohioana falls into this second category; our goal is to collect, preserve, and celebrate Ohio literature.

What types of items does Ohioana collect?

Like many libraries, Ohioana has a written collection policy. In our

case it's a seven-page document adopted by our Board of Trustees.

- Ohioana collects materials by Ohioans (defined by our Board as someone who was born in Ohio or lived here for at least five years) or about Ohio or Ohioans.
- Ohioana does not currently collect e-books (this is a hardware and preservation issue), self-published or author-subsidized books (this is primarily a space issue), textbooks, or reference books.
- Although books make up the majority of our materials, Ohioana's collection also includes 8,000 pieces of sheet music; 20,000 biographical files; and archival items such as manuscripts, correspondence, personal papers, photographs, and scrapbooks—all related to Ohio or Ohioans, and generally with a literary connection.
- We do not collect artifacts; these are better suited to a museum or historical society. We primarily collect works on paper.

How are collection items selected and acquired?

An important part of my job as librarian is to research upcoming

The Director's Chair

Dear Friends,

Every writer is first a reader.

One of the most popular panels at the annual Ohioana Book Festival is called "Mentors & Muses: Literary Influences." In this panel, several authors talk about the writers and books that inspired them, who fired the creative spark that made them want to be writers, too.

On May 28, poet and author Maya Angelou, one of the most celebrated and influential American writers of the past fifty years, died at the age of 86. News of her passing brought tributes from public figures around the world.

As a young girl growing up in a difficult environment, Angelou found a refuge through books and reading. Among the authors whose works she loved was Ohio poet Paul Laurence Dunbar. In 1969, when Angelou was preparing her first autobiography, she chose a line written by Dunbar as the title—*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. The line appears in the poem "Sympathy" from Dunbar's

books by Ohio authors and request copies from publishers. Ohioana does not have a budget for purchasing books, so collection copies are donated—usually by publishers or authors. These copies may be “advance reading copies” (not completely finalized) or books in final form. We generally receive one or two copies of each book. One copy is added to our collection; if we receive a second copy, it is sent to volunteer book reviewers.

Why would publishers send us free books? Because one of our main goals is to share information about Ohio writers and their works. Each book we receive gets an annotation in this newsletter and in the *Ohioana Quarterly*, and as many books as possible are sent out for review. Once publishers learn about Ohioana and its mission, they often start sending us books with an Ohio connection automatically.

How are collection items stored?

Ohioana has “closed stacks,” meaning the collection is kept in a separate room; visitors can’t walk among the shelves and browse like they can at a public library. We do this to keep the collection safe and intact; unlike public libraries, we generally only have one copy of a given book.

Because heat and humidity can speed the deterioration of works on paper, temperature and humidity levels in the collection room are carefully controlled. Even in the summer, most of the staff don’t leave home without a sweater!

Some people describe special collections as “book museums.” Unlike public libraries, Ohioana does not weed older items out of its

collection to make room for newer ones; all materials are preserved for use by visitors.

How is the collection used?

Because we generally only have one copy of each item, Ohioana’s collection doesn’t circulate. (This is another way to help ensure the collection is preserved for future users as well as current ones.) However, anyone can use the collection at the library during regular business hours at no cost. We’re also expanding our online presence to help “take the collection out of the library.” In 2013 we posted scans of some archival items on the [Ohio Memory website](#) and started a blog and newsletter to share collection information; later this summer we’ll launch a redesigned website that will include online exhibits and will make information about the collection and Ohio authors and illustrators easier to find.

So what’s the point of the Ohioana Library when someone could check out a book by an Ohio author at their local public library? The public library is your best bet if you want to take home a relatively new book by an Ohio author. But at Ohioana, you can learn *which* new books are written by Ohio authors; easily find biographical information about those authors and meet them at our spring book festival; see which books are voted the best of the year at our fall book awards; and view rare books, first editions, and autographed copies. And, twenty years from now, the book you wanted to read may no longer be at the public library, but will still be preserved at Ohioana as part of Ohio’s literary heritage.

anthology *Lyrics of the Hearthside*. (The Ohioana Library has an 1899 copy of the book in its collection.)

Dunbar inspiring Angelou is just one example of an Ohio writer’s influence. Dawn Powell influenced novelist and playwright Gore Vidal. Humorist James Thurber influenced Kurt Vonnegut and fellow Ohioan Erma Bombeck. Sara Paretsky, author of the popular *V. I. Warshawski* detective series, was influenced by the *Nancy Drew* mysteries of Mildred Wirt Benson (Carolyn Keene).

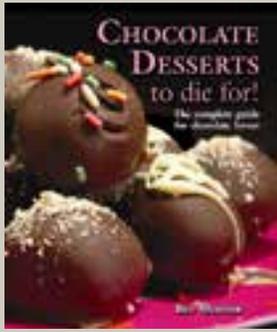
At a dinner for the Ohioana Book Festival’s featured authors, I mentioned that this year is Ohioana’s 85th anniversary. Although 85 years from now none of us will be here, the books those authors brought to the festival will still be part of Ohioana’s collection, inspiring and influencing writers who may not even be alive yet, just as Ohio writers of the past have done.

Every writer is first a reader. Connecting readers with Ohio writers is what Ohioana is about.

David E. Weaver
Executive Director

REVIEWS

Just in time for those upcoming summer picnics...



Shaffer, Bev. *Chocolate Desserts to Die For! The Complete Guide for Chocolate Lovers*. Pelican Publishing (Gretna, LA) 2013.
Reviewed by Charlotte L. Stiverson

If you are a chocolate lover or someone who enjoys creating chocolate treats for family and friends, this is the book for you. In the introduction Shaffer provides a mini-course on chocolate, explaining the differences between various chocolate types from cocoa powder to milk chocolate and providing information about working with and storing different chocolates.

The recipes range from classic cookies and brownies to more elaborate dishes such as a white chocolate and brie cheesecake. This reviewer tested the buttermilk chocolate bread recipe (made into muffins) and the crispy chocolate snaps; both were a hit. Creative touches are added to some of the presentations, such as individual hot chocolate cakes that are baked and served in Mason jars. Photographs of the finished creations ensure that readers will enjoy looking through the cookbook to decide what to make next.

NEW BOOKS

The following books arrived at the Ohioana Library in May. Look for them at your local library or bookstore!

Nonfiction

Brooks, Michael E. *The Ku Klux Klan in Wood County, Ohio*. The History Press (Charleston, SC) 2014. PB \$19.99.

The Ku Klux Klan appeared in Wood County in 1922. At its peak in the 1920s and 1930s, its nearly 1,400 members included elected officials and nearly 40% of the ministers in the county. Author Brooks chronicles the Klan's rise and decline in one Ohio county.

Chenfeld, Mimi Brodsky. *Still Teaching in the Key of Life: Joyful Stories from Early Childhood Settings*. Redleaf Press (St. Paul, MN) 2014. PB \$11.95.

This collection of twenty heart-warming stories will remind readers why teaching is important in the lives of young children.

Hand, Becky. *The Spark Solution: A Complete Two-Week Diet Program to Fast-Track Weight Loss and Total Body Health*. HarperOne/HarperCollins (New York, NY) 2013. HC \$26.99.

This two-week program jump starts weight loss by providing an eating plan with recipes, workout plan, and daily motivation from people who have lost weight and kept it off.

Schmiel, Eugene D. *Citizen-General: Jacob Dolson Cox and the Civil War Era*. Ohio Univ. Press (Athens, OH) 2014. PB \$26.95.

Although Jacob Cox was in poor health and the father of six children at the outbreak of the Civil War, he joined the Union Army as an Ohio volunteer. He later became governor of Ohio, Secretary of the Interior, and a university president. However, he is best known as the foremost participant-historian of the Civil War. Schmiel presents a thoroughly researched biography of this general drawn from the ranks.

Fiction

Davis, Ed. *The Psalms of Israel Jones*. Vandalia Press/West Virginia Univ. Press (Morgantown, WV) 2014. PB \$16.99.

Aging rock star Israel Jones has begun to act unstable onstage, inciting his fans to violence. When Israel's son, Reverend Thomas Johnson, hears of the trouble, he joins the concert tour to see for himself. The journey gives him one last chance to reconnect with the father who abandoned him—and possibly his wife, his congregation, and God as well.

Gebben, Claire. *The Last of the Blacksmiths*. Coffeetown Press (Seattle, WA) 2014. PB \$16.95. Michael Harm is a farmer's son in Bavaria who jumps at the chance to travel to America and apprentice with a Cleveland blacksmith. Surviving the trip is just the beginning as Michael experiences a harsh master, anti-immigrant bigotry, the Civil War, and the beginning of a machine age that threatens to render his livelihood obsolete.

Harper, Karen. *Dodelig Vann (Down River)*. Harlequin (Stockholm, Sweden) 2010. PB. When Lisa Vaughn is accidentally plunged into the rapids of an Alaskan river, she is left for dead. When lodge owner (and Lisa's former fiancé) Mitch Braxton finally finds her, they must not only fight their way out of the Alaskan wilderness, but also fight to survive against a killer on the loose. (Swedish edition.)

Harper, Karen. *Skjulte Farer (Below the Surface)*. Harlequin (Stockholm, Sweden) 2008. PB. When Briana Devon surfaces from an ocean dive, her twin sister and their boat are gone. After swimming to a small barrier island, Briana struggles to understand what happened—and what her sister was hiding. (Swedish edition.)

Harper, Karen. *Verloren dochter (Return to Grace)*. Harlequin Holland (Amsterdam, Netherlands) 2012. PB. Hannah Esh fled her Amish community with a broken heart and dreams of a singing career. When she returns for a secret visit with friends and one is killed, the investigation brings long-buried secrets to the surface. Hannah must bridge two cultures to stop a killer—before the killer stops her. (Dutch edition.)

Welsh-Huggins, Andrew. *Fourth Down and Out: An Andy Hayes Mystery*. Swallow Press/Ohio Univ. Press (Athens, OH) 2014. HC \$26.95. Columbus private investigator Andy Hayes thought the job would be easy: erase an embarrassing video from a certain laptop. When someone else with a claim on the computer ends up dead, Andy must

convince the police he's not responsible while finding out who is.

Poetry

Jenike, Lesley. *Holy Island*. Gold Wake Press (Boston, MA) 2014. PB \$14.95.

Ranging in setting from Europe to Maine, the poems in this collection show both observation and introspection as Jenike explores the concept of dwelling both in a place and in one's self.

Smith, Larry. *Lake Winds: Poems*. Bottom Dog Press (Huron, OH) 2014. PB \$18.00.

Although the poems in this collection don't shy away from suffering and injustice, they also recognize the peace that can be found in small, everyday moments.

Young Adult

Tracey, Scott. *Darkbound: The Legend of Moonset Book Two*. Flux (Woodbury, MN) 2014. PB \$9.99. Malcolm desperately wants to be free of his life as a witch in the hated Moonset coven. Then a demonic prince offers him a deal: if he can solve a twenty-year-old murder, the prince will sever the magical bond. Malcolm jumps at the chance to be free, but soon realizes the prince's bargain is not what it seems...

Middle Grade & Children's
Borden, Louise. *Across the Blue Pacific: A WWII Story*. Houghton Mifflin (New York, NY) 2006. HC \$17.00.

In 1944, Molly is in fourth grade, and her neighbor Ted has spent the past three years in the Navy. When Ted is given a new assignment on

a submarine in the Pacific, Molly must find a way to live with the uncertainty and reality of war. This book is based on the WWII experiences of the author's uncle.

Burke, Zoe. *Charley Harper's What's in the Rain Forest? A Nature Discovery Book*. Pomegranate Kids (Portland, OR) 2013. HC \$14.95. Animals and insects from Charley Harper's painting *Monteverde* are paired with rhyming text to help children explore the Costa Rican rain forest. The complete painting appears on a fold-out page in the back of the book, along with a key for identifying each creature.

Burke, Zoe. *Charley Harper's What's in the Woods? A Nature Discovery Book*. Pomegranate Kids (Portland, OR) 2013. HC \$14.95. Animals and plants from Charley Harper's painting *Birducopia* are paired with rhyming text to guide children through a walk in the woods. The complete image is shown in a fold-out page at the end of the book, allowing readers to locate their favorite animals.

Coates, Doug. *Pitching for Success: Character Lessons the Joe Nuxhall Way*. Orange Frazer Press (Wilmington, OH) 2014. HC \$16.95.

When eleven-year-old Dominic has trouble with both his Little League pitching and his temper, his father teaches him that sportsmanship and compassion are more important than the final score.

Flower, Amanda. *Andi Under Pressure*. Zonderkidz (Grand Rapids, MI) 2014. PB \$10.99. Andi and her best friend Colin are excited to attend science camp at the local university. However, when

a series of pranks is blamed on the janitor, Andi is suspicious. When one prank goes too far and injures the science professor, Andi and Colin must find the truth before the camp is closed for good.

Mackall, Dandi Daley. *The Secrets of Tree Taylor*. Knopf Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$16.99.

In the summer of 1963, thirteen-year-old Tree Taylor has two goals: (1) to experience her first real kiss, and (2) to write an article that will

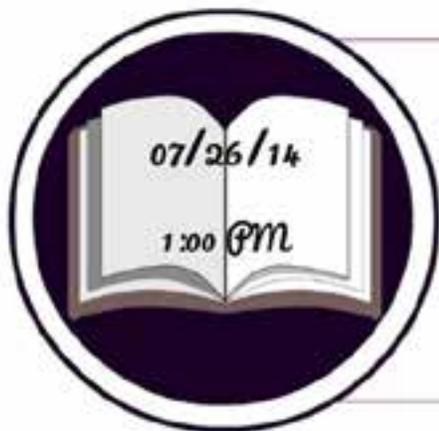
get her a spot on the high school newspaper. When a gun goes off across the street, Tree believes she's found her story. As she digs deeper, though, she must decide whether keeping a secret is more important than exposing the truth.

Zimmer, Tracie Vaughn. *Steady Hands: Poems about Work*. Clarion Books (New York, NY) 2009. HC \$16.00.

This collection of nearly forty poems explores jobs from dog walker to filmmaker.

Collection Note

You may have noticed that three non-English titles are included with our new books this month. Although we don't actively solicit foreign language versions of books in our collection, we do accept them. Our thanks to author Karen Harper for donating these to Ohioana's collection!



1 Day. 12 Authors. Your Books. Your World.

PPL YA Author Fest.

Our first YA author fest gives you the chance to talk to your favorite authors, about your favorite books. Get the inside scoop on writing—straight from the authors!

Saturday, July 26, 2014 @ 1:00 PM

COMING SOON

Thurber House Summer Literary Picnics 2014 Season continues in July at Thurber House.

Enjoy good food on the Thurber House lawn as you listen to great authors with an Ohio connection. This month's picnics feature Andrew Welsh-Huggins (July 9) and Claire McMillan (July 23). Visit the [Thurber House website](#) for more information and to order tickets.

Pickerington Public Library YA Author Fest July 26, 2014 at Pickerington Public Library

PPL's first YA Author Fest gives you the chance to meet and talk with your favorite young adult authors. No advance sign-up is required. Doors open at 12:30 p.m.; the event starts at 1:00 p.m. Visit PPL's [website](#) to see participating authors and find out more.

Ohioana Book Club meets August 13, 2014 at the Ohioana Library

The book for August is *A Killing in the Hills* by Pulitzer Prize winner Julia Keller. The club meets in the Ohioana reading room at 10:00 a.m. If you would like to attend, please e-mail us at ohioana@ohioana.org.