Hail and farewell

By Stanley Marcus, Neiman Marcus CEO Emeritus

The retirement of David Farmer from his post as librarian of the DeGolyer seems as an unlikely occurrence as the conversion of the DeGolyer to a college tavern for SMU Greek society members. I, amongst other friends, thought that David was as permanent as the steep steps at the DeGolyer’s main entrance.

These were the first reactions that rattled through my brain when I heard the rumors of his impending departure, but I dismissed them as collegial gossip. He had talked to me on numerous occasions about the house that he and Carol were planning to build in Taos. I did not take him seriously until he pulled out a roll of blueprints for his new home with a forecast of the completion and occupation dates.

It finally dawned on me that I had not been listening carefully enough to what he had been talking about for the past three years. Of course, I’ve known for years that David is a man of great capacity, a harbor for multiple interests that his work at the library never gave him opportunity to fully explore, and that in his role as librarian he had been forced to defer many things until free time became available.

He not only has a host of friends among his colleagues on the faculty of SMU, but so many friends among bookdealers, printers, and fellow librarians that he will now have the freedom to establish even deeper relations with them.

There are many history-making characters in the book trade he has had barely the opportunity to meet. I’m sure he’s promised himself and them, that once retired, he will be free to discuss why things sometimes happened in the past that defied good reason, and, being a very remarkable man himself, he will undoubtedly get them to reveal some of the historical puzzles that have been waiting for him to have the time to leisurely explore.

He will go into retirement, but not to retire from life. He is too respondent to the excitement of life to ignore it. If I know David, as I think I do, he will be occupied 12 months a year with duodecimos, octavos, and quartos, as well as with his many friends, collectors, printers, and fellow librarians. May he find a wonderful new life in historic Taos, where he can dream at night of 16mos, folios, maps, cartouches, printers, and pressmen.

Ave atque vale!

Map helps former schoolteacher fulfill great-grandfather’s wishes

Murdine Berry has spent more than 25 years searching city, county, and state records for information to legally restore land from her great-grandfather’s farm to her family. Last fall, her persistence paid off. She found her ancestor’s name on a 100-year-old map in the Edwin J. Foscue Map Collection at SMU’s Science and Engineering Library.

Sam Street’s Map of Dallas County, Texas, lists Berry’s great-grandfather, James Morney, as owner of the 119-acre farm in Hutchins in southern Dallas County. The map, dated 1900, records Dallas County property and its owners.

James and Kathy Morney, former slaves, bought the farm in 1876 with several bales of cotton and six years of savings. They raised their eight children there, and the local school for black children was named for them.

As Morney wished, family members have continued to live on the farm, but portions of the land were illegally divided in 1932.

Berry, a retired Dallas schoolteacher, was awarded clear title to 80 acres of the farm in 1989 after a three-and-a-half year court battle involving more than 90 defendants. But family memories convinced her that the original farm was larger. “I knew the original farm was far more than 80 acres,” she says, “and there is no record of the rest of the farm ever being sold.”

After a fruitless search of records at the Dallas City Map Department, an employee suggested she contact Steve Short, government documents librarian at SMU. Short helped her find the historic Dallas map containing the evidence she sought.

The Sam Street’s Map is rare, says Short, but its authenticity as a resource is verified in The Handbook of Texas, an encyclopedia of the state’s history, geography, and culture.

“This map will tell the story,” Berry says. “We plan to get the land back.”

Sam Street’s Map is among 250,000 maps in the Foscue Collection of historic, topographic, political, navigation, and military maps. They are stored flat in large gray filing cabinets.
Map continued from page 1

in the Science and Engineering Library.

The collection is named for the late Edwin J. Foscue, a faculty member in the Geography Department at SMU, which was eliminated in the early 1970s. He created the collection after returning from his post with the U.S. Army Mapping Service in World War II. Foscue acquired more than 25,000 captured German war maps, which form a core part of the collection, as well as U.S. war maps.

The collection also includes an 1848 map of the Oregon Territory, a 1776 battle map outlining the attack on Fort Washington by "His Majesty's Service," and early maps of Texas and Dallas.

Geologists, archaeologists, and engineers rely on the library's extensive collection of topographic and geologic maps. A recent gift from ARCO expanded the library's collection to include hard-to-find international topographic maps.

Dawn Youngblood, a library specialist who assists in the map library, used a geologic map of the Dallas area to reassure one worried homeowner that her home was safe. "She was very concerned about what was under her house," Youngblood says. "Because the map showed the kind of bedrock in the area and its depth, we determined that her house was built on something completely harmless, 258 feet of calcium carbonate, or limestone."

With the exception of rare historic maps, the maps are checked out to SMU students and faculty only, but members of the community often come to the map library seeking answers to their myriad questions.

"I found exactly what I needed," Berry says.

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Strategic plan to guide libraries through changing environment

Willingness to embrace change is crucial to the future success of SMU's libraries, says Gillian M. McCombs, Central University Librarian.

"Information technology is changing libraries incredibly quickly," McCombs says. "The way we deliver services and the resources we provide to our users were not crucial issues even five years ago."

Library users and their expectations also have changed, McCombs says. "Users work in Internet time — they want all resources quickly, not just electronic resources. When they request a print-out of a document, they want it scanned and e-mailed to them. We have to change the way we deliver services to accommodate these needs."

CUL’s recently completed strategic plan outlines a five-year strategy for change to meet its vision: "To be one of the nation’s outstanding private university library systems."

The planning process began in fall 1999 with the formation of a 23-member planning group comprising library management, support staff, faculty, University administration, students, and community members. In addition, all library staff members participated in the plan through a series of small group discussions.

Although the plan was completed only last fall, changes already are visible. The reference desks for Fondren Library and the Science and Engineering Library have merged, creating one location for users. The government document collection, formerly split between Fondren Library and the Science and Engineering Library, also merged. In addition, CUL revamped its Web pages for easier use and more access to electronic resources.

In addition, library staff volunteers began a shelf-reading initiative in high-use areas of the stacks to ensure that books are in proper order and to pull books that need rebinding. Volunteers received new shelf assignments for the spring semester.

Students also gained a new forum for communicating with library staff through a newly formed student advisory council. The council, which meets monthly, created library suggestion boxes as one of its first initiatives.

Among 25 specific goals, the CUL plans to create a vigorous preservation and conservation program, upgrade its physical facilities, and expand its fund-raising efforts.

The report concludes: "We need to be able to deliver current services while building the infrastructure to support the information needs of the 21st century."
National Civil Rights Museum. From Memphis the group will head south to the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi in Oxford and to Rowan Oaks, the home of Nobel- and Pulitzer Prize-winning author William Faulkner. Vicksburg and Natchez, Mississippi, are next on the tour. The trip concludes October 21 in New Orleans with a program on the cuisine, gardens, and literary tradition of the "Big Easy."

Reservation deadline for the tour is June 1, 2001. For more information, call Judy Searles, director of Friends of the SMU Libraries, at 214-768-3225 or e-mail jsearles@mail.smu.edu.

Librarian adds steam to his summers

Clyde Putman, media scheduling supervisor for the Norwich Center for Media and Instructional Technology, spends part of his summers restoring steam locomotives as a volunteer for the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad.

The railroad, which includes preserved track and accompanying structures of the historic Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad, features 11 steam locomotives that travel 70 miles across the mountains from Chama, New Mexico, to Antoninita, Colorado.

The trains cross Cumbres Pass at 10,015 feet, among the highest altitudes traveled by any passenger train in the world.

Putman joins volunteers who restore freight and passenger cars, locomotive engines, and buildings along the run.

But the library staff member uses more than muscle to assist the Cumbres and Toltec Railway. He gives educational talks about the railroad and assists others in research using DeGolyer Library’s Baldwin Locomotive Collection. The collection includes engineering drawings, blueprints, and photographs from the Baldwin Locomotive Company, one of the largest manufacturers of steam locomotive engines.

"It’s just so different from what I do every day," Putman says. "We’re recreating transportation at the turn of the century. Just getting a feel for what was going on then is exciting."

Books, blues, and the "Big Easy:"

Friends tour heads south

The Friends of the SMU Libraries’ Leaves and Literature tour will head south for the first time next fall. The homes of playwright Tennessee Williams and author William Faulkner, the Blues Museum in Clarksdale, Mississippi, and a literary walking tour of the French Quarter in New Orleans will spotlight the culture and literary legacy of the South.

"Leaves and Literature: from the Delta to the Bayous" will begin October 16 in Memphis, Tennessee, with a visit to the...
David Farmer's legacy of treasures enriches DeGolyer Library collection

As an undergraduate at Trinity University in San Antonio, David Farmer attended a lecture on rare books given by Dallas oilman and book collector Everett DeGolyer Jr. When Farmer approached him with a question, DeGolyer suggested they talk outside while he smoked a cigarette.

"We sat on a wall and talked for an hour," recalls Farmer, now director of the DeGolyer Library. "Our conversation made a difference in my life. I knew then I wanted to work with rare books."

Farmer will retire from SMU in May with his dream fulfilled. After earning a Ph.D. in English from the University of Texas at Austin, he has spent the better part of his career working with antiquarian books and nurturing the collection of the man who served as his inspiration. As director of the DeGolyer Library, Farmer has managed acquisitions, budget, personnel, and operations of the library, nationally recognized for its collections in Western Americana, Spanish borderlands, and railroad history.

When Farmer came to the DeGolyer in 1985 from the University of Houston, where he served as director of rare books and special collections, he knew he had found a hidden gem.

At the time, the library comprised 40,000 rare books and manuscripts collected by Everette L. DeGolyer Sr. and Everett DeGolyer Jr., two generations of a prominent Dallas family. The DeGolyer Foundation had given the collection to SMU in 1974.

Over the years, Farmer's skills and enthusiasm as a collector and director have left a significant mark on the library's standing and holdings. Today the library owns 100,000 volumes of rare and scholarly works. In addition to printed books, the library includes manuscript materials and 350,000 photographs.

The key to collecting, Farmer says, is establishing relationships with book dealers and private collectors. "Book dealers know I don't bargain," he says. "I buy regularly, and when I turn something down I let them know why; it may be beyond our budget, come close to something we already have, or be best suited for a museum."

Under Farmer's leadership, the library has acquired numerous important historical pieces and significant collections, including the Horton Foote collection, documenting the career of the Academy Award-winning playwright, author, and filmmaker. Farmer visited Foote numerous times in his Greenwich Village apartment before acquiring the collection for the DeGolyer.

In addition, the library acquired the Paul Horgan collection from California collector Betty Zaiser, office manager for the legendary bookseller John Howell. Farmer's friendship with Howell and Zaiser led to the acquisition, which illustrates the life and work of the Pulitzer Prize-winning author and artist of the Southwest.

One of the largest and most important private collections on Theodore Roosevelt was contributed to the DeGolyer Library by Lawrence H. ('51) and Doris ('53) Budner in 1988. The collection, which includes speeches, original letters, and rare books, was featured in a major library exhibit and catalog.

Significant figures in Southwest history also have donated their memorabilia, including Stanley Marcus, CEO emeritus of Neiman Marcus and Dallas civic leader. The family of J. Erik Jonsson, former Dallas mayor and founder of Texas Instruments, contributed his correspondence and memorabilia.

"These materials are important to understanding where we've come from," Farmer says. "Here they can receive the care and cataloging they need and can be accessed by future researchers."

Farmer considers the creation of the Archives of the Women of the Southwest to be one of his greatest achievements. Former SMU Provost Ruth Morgan asked Farmer in the late 1980s to create an archive that chronicled women's contributions to the history of the Southwest.

"I was concerned that we were losing the history of a generation of women who worked in the background but played
David has taken responsibility for keeping memory alive in the DeGolyer — whether it be in the form of a diary of a young woman stranded in Texas during the Civil War, or the story of a Dallas real estate magnate and the building of her company. He has proven himself to be a guardian and has instilled his infectious enthusiasm for this task in many family members.

Gillian M. McCombs, Central University Librarian

Farmer’s enthusiasm and longtime support of women’s issues convinced more than 40 prominent Dallas women and organizations to contribute their papers to the archives, Morgan says. The archives house such varied resources as the papers of Ebby Halliday, Dallas real estate executive; Anita Martinez, the first Hispanic city councilwoman in the United States; and historic family letters and diaries describing daily life in early Texas.

For his support of the Archives of the Women of the Southwest, Farmer received the prestigious Maura Award from the Women’s Center of Dallas this year. He is one of only six men to receive the award.

As Farmer enhanced and expanded the DeGolyer’s collections, he also looked at ways to attract more researchers to the library.

“The library contains the rarest of the rare — from one-of-a-kind manuscripts to books where only a few copies remain,” says David Weber, Robert H. and Nancy Dedman Professor of History and director of the Clements Center for Southwest Studies in Dedman College. “David has increased security to protect those items even as he created a welcoming atmosphere in the DeGolyer.”

Farmer extended DeGolyer’s daytime hours to one evening a week and has offered the Clements Center the use of the Texana Room in the library as a site for its lectures and monthly discussions.

Farmer’s desire to share the library’s riches and his expertise in publishing and writing led to the DeGolyer’s co-sponsorship of The Library of Texas, a series of firsthand accounts of 19th-century Texas, published by the library and the Clements Center for Southwest Studies. The most recent book in the series is Walter Paye Lane’s account, Adventures and Recollections of Gen. Walter P. Lane, A San Jacinto Veteran, with Sketches of the Texian, Mexican and Late Wars with Several Indian Fights Thrown In. Farmer and Weber edit the limited-edition series.

Other publications include DeGolyer exhibit catalogs, which are regular award-winners and provide a record and historical account of exhibits long after they are packed away.

The DeGolyer Library has staged numerous exhibits under Farmer’s direction, including “The Incredible Theodore Roosevelt,” “The Literature of Beguilement — Promoting America from Columbus to Today,” and the current exhibit, “Destination México — A Foreign Land a Step Away — U.S. Tourism to Mexico, 1880s-1950s.”

For an exhibit on the fur trade, Farmer assembled Hawkin rifles, Green River knives, trade silver, animal pelts, and rare books. “It was wonderful,” he says. “I was the guy who introduced guns, dead animals, and knives to the library.”

Farmer has presented lectures about the exhibits, the DeGolyer’s holdings, and his own research and publications to national, state, and local groups. He teaches Master’s of Liberal Arts courses at SMU and at SMU-in-Taos at Fort Burgwin Research Center.

“I admire him for many reasons,” Weber says. “But perhaps chief among them is his up-beat attitude. When I brought an idea to him, he’d always say, ‘Let’s see how we can get that done.’”

Although Farmer is widely known for his engaging personality, he also enjoys quiet moments. After new DeGolyer acquisitions are cataloged, but before they go to the shelf, they are assembled on a library cart and wheeled into Farmer’s office. In the late afternoon, when the phone stops ringing and the library is closed, he browses through what he calls “the fruits of his labors.”

The results of Farmer’s work at SMU will remain in the DeGolyer Library for future students and researchers. In the meantime, he and his wife, Carol, are beginning a new chapter in their lives. Their new home, nine miles from Taos, New Mexico, is under construction. Farmer will continue to teach summer courses at SMU-in-Taos and pursue new avenues and collections for his boundless curiosity.

“The American West will be our back yard,” he says.

David Farmer will be honored at an academic symposium at 3:30 p.m. May 4 in the Forum of Hughes-Trigg Student Center. Speakers include Farmer; Marshall Terry, E. A. Lilly professor of English Literature; and Jim Breeden, professor of history. Farmer will lead a tour of the DeGolyer Library’s Mexico tourism exhibit at 5 p.m., followed by a reception honoring him at 6 p.m. at the SMU Faculty Club, 3034 Daniel.
From barbed wire to cartoons: Libraries house more than books

Books, computer access to databases, and quiet corners for reflection are trademarks of academic libraries. As a gateway to information, however, the Central University Libraries offer a wealth of other resources. Historic letters, films, art, government documents, maps, and even barbed wire can provide unique information to scholars, says Gillian M. McCombs, Central University Librarian.

Because some items are in special collections, they are accessible by appointment only. Other items, such as videotapes, can be checked out by faculty, staff, and members of Friends of the SMU Libraries or viewed at the Norwick Center for Media and Instructional Technology (NCMIT). For more information, contact the library where items are located.

The following examples represent the variety of resources available for scholars in the Central University Libraries.

Artful words The correspondence of 19th-century French painter Rosa Bonheur and fellow artist Paul Chardin are housed in the Hamon Arts Library’s Special Collections. Bonheur’s sketches illustrate several of the 228 letters in the collection, including a sketch of her family burying its possessions in anticipation of a Prussian invasion.

Farewell to the free range Barbed wire was invented in the 1860s to fence in cattle. But fencing the plains meant the end of the free-range cattle industry. By 1890 fenced pasture-land had replaced the open range in the western United States. The DeGolyer Library includes antique barbed wire and barbed wire tools in its collection on the American West.

Cartoon misadventures World War II enlisted men learned military regulations through the misadventures of Private Snafu, an animated bumbling soldier created by director Frank Capra, then a colonel in charge of the Armed Forces Motion Picture Unit. Written by Ted Geisel, otherwise known as Dr. Seuss, and illustrated by Warner Bros. animators, the cartoons feature the character’s experiences with wartime dangers such as rumors and booby traps. Videotapes of the cartoons are in the NCMIT.

Glass fusion Angular glass tiles by Mexican sculptor Octavio Medellin are part of Special Collections in the Hamon Arts Library. Medellin’s glass work and mosaics can be found in venues ranging from churches and synagogues to the Mercantile Bank Building in downtown Dallas.

Patriotic gesture As SMU students left the classroom for World War I battlegrounds, the University librarian and assis-
Grants support preservation of Hamon films and sketches

Using funds from newly received grants, the Hamon Arts Library will preserve artwork that offers unique views of Texas history.

Seven mural studies from the Jerry Bywaters Special Collection in the Hamon Arts Library will be preserved. "These works serve as typical examples of the American muralist movement in the 1930s and ’40s," says Ellen Niewyk, curator of Bywaters Special Collection. "They also represent a geographical cross section of Texas and offer an excellent visual synopsis of the state’s history."

Bywaters was a master of the 1930s and ’40s regionalist movement in American art and a professor of art at SMU. He submitted the studies to statewide competitions organized in the 1930s and ’40s by the Public Works of Art Project in Texas. The conservation will be funded by a $7,500 grant from The Judith Rothschild Foundation in New York.

Bywaters’ murals remain in their original locations in post offices in Houston, Farmersville, Quanah, and Trinity, Texas. Now restored, the mural in Quanah is a source of great pride in the community, Niewyk says. "The mural depicts the legacy of the town, which was named for the last chief of the Comanche Indians who became a statesman and friend to the settlers."

In addition, a film from the Tyler, Texas Black Film Collection will be digitally preserved this year, creating a long-lasting copy of a historic film that was nearly lost.

The Black Film Collection includes 19 films produced by independent African-American filmmakers for segregated theaters in the 1930s and ’40s. Found in 1983 in a forgotten corner of an East Texas warehouse, the films were later donated to the G. William Jones Film and Video Collection at SMU.

A $13,500 grant from the New York Women in Film and Television Foundation will help preserve the film "Dirty Gertie from Harlem" with new digital technology.

"The foundation wants to preserve the work of Francine Everett, who was the star of the film," says David Sedman, associate professor of the Division of Electronic Media and Film. Sedman co-wrote the grant with Randy Clark, visiting assistant professor in the division. "As an actress, Everett could have had minor roles in major films, but she chose to support African-American art instead."

Preservationists will create a 35 mm copy of the film, then transfer it to DVD format, maintaining the film’s image quality, improving its sound, extending its shelf life, and increasing its portability, says Tinsley Silcox, director of Hamon Arts Library and the G. William Jones Film and Video Collection.

New databases open windows to past and present

Two new online databases recently acquired by the Central University Libraries open windows to resources ranging from treasured English literature of the past to the world’s largest electronic database of scientific, technical, and medical information. Early English Books Online (EEBO) provides an online version of original works of historic texts, such as Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales. ScienceDirect, a full-text database, offers access to more than 1,200 academic journals.

"These databases will provide valuable resources to our faculty and students," says Curt Holleman, deputy director of the Central University Libraries. "Both offer access to a wealth of information as well as the convenience of working from one’s own computer."

The beginnings of EEBO date to a time long before e-mail or the Internet. During the 1930s, the threat of Nazi book burnings and German bombs spurred a project to preserve early English books and manuscripts housed in British museums. The Rockefeller Foundation selected Eugene Power, a microfilm entrepreneur, to travel to England to make microfilm versions of the centuries-old books and manuscripts.

Over a five-year period Power photographed nearly 80 percent of all books printed from 1475 to 1700 in England or in English. EEBO is the online database of the 4,500 reels of microfilm he produced, including the books’ margin notes, printers’ marks, typography, and illustrations.

For scholars of more contemporary information, ScienceDirect offers access to the Elsevier Science journal collection, including the full text of 156 Elsevier journals received by the libraries. The journals cover a variety of subjects ranging from economics to physics. In addition, academic departments can purchase full-text articles from the 1,200 Elsevier journals at greatly reduced prices, Holleman says.

ScienceDirect also provides access to journals from scientific societies and other publishers by linking to scientific abstract and indexing databases, making more than 1.2 million articles available to researchers.
Still a mystery

The regal English woman who posed for the photograph in the “Solve a mystery” section of the fall 2000 Annotations remains unidentified. But thanks to comments from Margery Owen, librarians know she is not English actress Dame Ellen Terry as originally believed. From her home in Calverton, England, Mrs. Owen, mother of Central University Librarian Gillian M. McCombs, says Dame Terry would have been in her 60s at the time this photograph was taken, and she was living in the United States then, not England. “My family comes from a long-standing English theatre tradition,” says McCombs.

The mystery remains. Readers with clues to the identity of the 1907 photograph may contact Sam Ratcliffe at 214-768-2303.