

# the latest at the li·brar·ies

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON LIBRARIES

## BEST WISHES TO VICE PROVOST LISA CARTER



Dear Friends,

The end of the academic year always comes with transitions. This year I have one of my own as I have accepted a position as Dean of Libraries at the University of Michigan. I am so grateful and honored to have spent the last five years with you as the Vice Provost for Libraries at UW-Madison.

The support, experiences, and friendships that have been part of my time here have been so meaningful to me personally and as a library leader. Since I arrived in 2018, it has been enriching to work with such a talented, passionate, and knowledgeable library staff—and campus community—who make an important difference in teaching, learning, and research at this great university.

We have accomplished so much and taken on significant challenges along the way. We set a compelling strategic direction, secured preservation quality conditions for our amazing distinctive collections, and delivered exemplary services to UW-Madison scholars. We adapted to various disruptions brought on by the pandemic and emerged as stronger partners and collaborators.

As I begin my new adventure, I sincerely appreciate the contributions of those who will help lead the Libraries as the university searches for the next Vice Provost. Our Associate University Librarians, Lesley Moyo and Lee Konrad have accepted a joint appointment as interim co-vice provosts. With their deep expertise and extensive portfolios, along with the support they'll receive from the rest of our

staff and campus partners, I know they'll make this next transition a smooth one for the Libraries.

Our reach and impact extend beyond campus, supporting a broad community of scholars. UW-Madison contributes to interdependent library networks to meet Wisconsin researchers' needs and beyond. Through our deep partnerships with the Big Ten Academic Alliance and other associations, I look forward to working with my UW-Madison colleagues on various projects and initiatives in the future.

Finally, thank you—our friends and donors—for supporting the Libraries during my time here. From Friends book sales to our unique public events to answering the call when we've put out an appeal for funding—your appreciation and recognition of the importance of our Libraries has meant so much.

I wish you all the best and look forward to seeing what the UW-Madison Libraries accomplish going forward. On, Wisconsin!

With gratitude,

Lisa R. Carter



Lee Konrad (left) and Lesley Moyo (right), the Interim Vice Provosts of Libraries

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE





Scan to see the exhibit!

# Then Came Armageddon

## A Digital Exhibition

The struggle, grit, pain, and reality of life during the Great War – World War I – are brought into a new light as a unique online exhibition is unveiled at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

In a powerful look into the past, the exhibition [1914: Then Came Armageddon](#) has been re-imagined in a fully digital format. This online exhibition is an adaptation – and expansion – of the 2014 Special Collections exhibition of the same name. The 2014 in-person exhibition was curated by then-graduate students Skye Doney and Eric O’Connor. Both were part of a team that spent nearly two years bringing the 2023 exhibition to fruition.

“I was thrilled by the opportunity to story-tell with a vast collection of sources. Arranging book covers, images, and items of material culture in various ways told different stories,” says O’Connor. “I loved dynamically expressing and creating historical interpretations, using more than a word processor on my laptop. In my classroom, I have students arrange sources to tell different historical stories, just like we did in creating this exhibit. It’s an important part of ‘doing’ history.”

1914: Then Came Armageddon is the first fully digital exhibition on an original software platform developed by the UW-Madison Libraries. It features materials donated to the Libraries by Professor and Art Historian Andrew Laurie Stangel.

“Rare is the opportunity to examine the history of The Great War closely at a single institution. One place to do so is in Madison, Wisconsin — on campus at the University that has been for generations a center of historical scholarship, ancient, medieval, and modern,” says Stangel. “This history may also be seen online, digitally reproduced on the Memorial Library’s Department of Special Collections website. The rich collections of historical materials conserved at Madison form a veritable treasure-trove of objects with much to show us about the Great War that produced them!”

Items from other collections within the Libraries, Archives, and the Historical Society of Wisconsin are included, all brought together to commemorate the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914.

“This is the first exhibition on the new UW Libraries Digital Exhibit platform,” says Doney. “The software has infinite possibilities to help students think with historical sources in new ways. The Mosse Program is honored to help

launch this new medium on campus.”

Student-driven, this exhibition was born out of the need to fulfill a gap and drive traffic to exhibitions for those unable to make it to a physical location at a specific time.

“After being sent home in Spring 2020, I had trouble conducting relevant research for my history classes as archives could not keep up with remote requests,” says Rachel Lynch, George L. Mosse, Undergraduate Intern in Digital and European History. “Now, I am thrilled to have worked in digitizing this project to bridge the educational gap in historical research, and I hope to provide accessible research for other students.”

“The most impactful part of working on this project was designing the exhibit pages,” says Maddy McGlone, one of the students who worked on the project over the summer of 2022. “I had little experience presenting historical materials online, and I enjoyed working with the exhibits platform. It was cool to consider how best to present these materials for public engagement.”

Visually experiencing artifacts from the war era allowed visitors to comprehend better how individuals tried to make sense of the violent new reality that emerged after those first shots over one hundred years ago.

“I felt the project was important because it shows a variety of collections at the library. People think of history books when they think of libraries. But the collection at UW has so much more, including ancient books and primary sources, images, and artifacts,” notes O’Connor. “We are lucky to have such extensive collections right in Wisconsin.”

The exhibition utilizes diverse and compelling documents and images to help understand how and why the world marched to war during the summer of 1914.

“We wanted to arrange the collections to help tell the story of WWI according to the latest historical interpretations,” says O’Connor. “Our understandings of the cause, course, and impact of the war are often reinterpreted,



and we wanted our exhibit to reflect the latest scholarship on this important topic.”

The rich collection of WWI primary source materials in the exhibit includes newspaper accounts, war medals, photographs, cartoons, paintings, diplomatic correspondence, death certificates, propaganda, postcards, and children’s toys. The exhibit confronts life and death on both the battlefield and the home front.

“The calamity of World War I is nearly incomprehensible, but there is so much more to the history than just numerical casualties,” says Lynch. “The breadth of this exhibition aims to illuminate not just the destruction but the causes of the Great War and the mood throughout Europe in 1914. I hope this exhibition encourages viewers to interact with history more meaningfully and sparks an interest in military history beyond just a survey of battles. While history may not be the hottest of topics, so to speak, I hope digital exhibits can spark a newfound passion in audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Though biased, I truly believe history is the backbone of understanding modernity, and I hope others will participate in its preservation and education.”

The exhibition is designed to provide, as best as possible, a window into the experiences of people who lived and died during the war. It sheds light on the people who fell victim to several illusions and misconceptions, those who made strategic errors that would lead to extensive, untold suffering for millions.

“We wanted visitors to understand the pain and tragedy,” says O’Connor.

The digital exhibition was made fully available beginning March 20, 2023.

*The curators of the digital exhibition include George L. Mosse, Digital Interns in Digital and European History: Claire Hitter, Rachel Lynch, Maddy McGlone, and Nicholas O’Connell. Rachel Lynch finalized and expanded the exhibit. Special thanks to Charles Cahill, Matthew Greene, Julianne Haahr, Jesse Henderson, Dave Luke, Jessie Nemeč, David Pavelich, Eric O’Connor, Robin Rider, Carly Sentieri, and John Tortorice.*

# Libraries Announce Generous Gift from Dick Wagner Creating the R. Richard Wagner Pride Archives Fund



Dick Wagner, 1997 (courtesy Dick Wagner estate)

The UW-Madison Libraries are honored to announce a generous gift from Dick Wagner, which has created the R. Richard Wagner Pride Archives Fund. This bequest of more than \$660,000 establishes an endowed fund that will provide lasting support for the [LGBTQ+ Archive](#) in perpetuity.

The LGBTQ+ Archive contains oral histories, personal papers, photographs, ephemera, and organizational records related to LGBTQ+ life in Madison and Dane County from the 1920s to today. Begun as an oral history project, the collection has grown to include an increasingly diverse array of materials and voices from the LGBTQ+ community.

Wagner, who died in 2021 at age 78, was dedicated to documenting the history of the LGBTQ+ communities in Wisconsin. He co-founded the LGBTQ+ Archive in 2015 with Scott Seyforth, Michele Besant, and others in partnership with former University Archivist David Null. The roots of the LGBTQ+ Archive, however, had taken hold well before 2015. In 2007, the Oral History Program, headed by Troy Reeves, started documenting the stories and memories of politicians, professors, students, and activists. The collection is located in the University Archives in Steenbock Library.

Wagner also served on the UW-Madison Friends of the Libraries board for eight years from 2005-2013. He strongly supported the Friends in every aspect, attending events, giving financially, and donating portions of his rich research material to the UW Archives and the Friends. He authored two ground-breaking books on the state’s LGBTQ+ history: *We’ve Been Here All Along* in 2019 and *Coming Out, Moving Forward: Wisconsin’s Recent Gay History* in mid-2020. Wagner is also featured prominently in the Wisconsin Public Television documentary “Wisconsin Pride,” which premieres in June.

Seyforth notes, “Dick Wagner was a transformational public servant. His commitment to bettering the circumstances around him was a deeply rooted part of his philosophy of life and how to live it. A historian by training (he received a Ph.D. in History from UW-Madison), Dick spent the better part of the last 20 years of his life dedicated to collecting, preserving, and writing about the LGBTQ+ history of our state.”

Reeves comments, “It was a privilege and a pleasure to get to know Dick. His support of our efforts was invaluable. His generous and thoughtful donation will allow our program to gather and preserve

even more LGBTQ+ oral histories. Now, we will work daily to live up to his legacy.”

Wagner was a trailblazer with a deep commitment to public service, community involvement, and advancing the rights of the LGBTQ+ community. He was vital to Wisconsin passing its first protections for gay and lesbian people, including banning discrimination based on sexual orientation, employment, and housing. He was later appointed by the late Gov. Tony Earl as co-chair of the Governor’s Council of Lesbian and Gay Issues.

In addition to his work on the state level, Wagner served on the Dane County board from 1980 to 1994, the Wisconsin Arts Board, the Madison Landmarks Commission, the Madison Trust for Historic Preservation, and the board of Fair Wisconsin. As one of the early out-elected officials in the United States, Wagner helped form the International Network of Lesbian and Gay Officials, which continues under Victory Institute.

The generous gift by Wagner speaks to his deep commitment to preserving a critical part of history. It shows his appreciation for the work required to ensure this preservation is possible.

“Dick was such a generous, supportive, and tireless advocate, and we are extremely grateful for the endowed fund,” says Katie Nash, University Archivist. “His advocacy and legacy will live on for generations to come—as the UW Archives now has an initial donation on which to build a solid foundation of financial support for the continuation and growth of the LGBTQ+ Archive.”

Nash says there are plans to hire a student to continue to organize and describe some of the LGBTQ+ Archive collections. The team will collaborate with the processing archivist to create finding aids and catalog records to ensure the collections are discoverable and accessible to everyone.

Donations can be made through the [University of Wisconsin-Madison Foundation](#). To learn more about other ways to support the UW-Madison Libraries, including through estate planning, please contact Frances Steiner ([frances.steiner@supportuw.org](mailto:frances.steiner@supportuw.org)).



Archive committee with the Governor’s Award for Archival Advocacy, 2020 (courtesy Scott Seyforth)



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# Friends of the Libraries Grants to Scholars

Grants to Scholars fund travel expenses for visiting scholars with particular research needs in the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries. The Friends award several grants annually providing assistance for visits up to four weeks in length for research in the humanities, sciences, and related fields appropriate to the libraries' collection strengths. The purpose is to foster the high-level use of the UW-Madison Libraries' rich holdings, and to make them better known and more accessible to a wider circle of scholars. This year, the Friends are proud to support twelve domestic and five international scholars. Their research subjects vary widely, but they all have one thing in common: their projects require in-depth examination of rare materials held at UW-Madison Libraries!

**FRIENDS OF UW-MADISON LIBRARIES**

# BOOK SALE

**53<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL**

**PRICES DROP DAILY!**  
Early = Best Selection  
 Later = Best Deals

<b>WED. OCT 11</b>	<b>THURS. OCT 12</b>
<p><b>Preview Sale</b>          4:00pm – 8:00pm          \$5.00 admission</p>	<p><b>Regular Sale</b>          10:30am – 7:00pm          No admission fee</p>
<b>FRI. OCT 13</b>	<b>SAT. OCT 14</b>
<p><b>Regular Sale</b>          10:30am – 7:00pm          No admission fee</p>	<p><b>\$5 Bag Sale*</b>          9:00am – 1:00pm          No admission fee</p>

\*BAG SALE: FILL A GROCERY-SIZED BAG FOR \$5.00  
 Bring your own grocery bag or purchase one for \$1.00. Remaining books and items are free from 1:05pm-2:00pm on Saturday, October 14.

