Anne Thomason: A Short History of Me in 5 Places

Anne joined us as the College Archivist and Librarian for Special Collections on February 19. She comes to us most recently from Earlham College in Richmond Indiana, where she was the College Archivist. She’s a noted traveler, so we wanted to know more about the places she’s been – and hopes to visit.

Louisville, Kentucky
I was born there, grew up there. My mom told me to go away for college. I think she imagined I’d go no farther than western Kentucky, but I went to Macalester, which took me to:

St. Paul, Minnesota
I studied history there, and was really interested in politics. I worked for Senator Paul Wellstone and Tom Harkin’s presidential campaign and was elected as a delegate to the state caucus, where I represented the Democratic Farmer Labor Party. That was a lot of fun!

Glasgow, Scotland
I spent a year in the "Detroit of Europe" for study abroad, and did history and archaeology. I found out I was terrible at archaeology (the drawing part especially), but the field trips were great. I traveled around Scotland and England. I can’t go back to Glasgow because I think I would never leave.

Atlanta, Georgia
A really fun place to be during my 20s. I started a PhD program in US history at Emory. That’s where I decided I wanted to be an archivist. Writing a dissertation was not for me – I need lots of distractions, which is perfect for archival work.

Ann Arbor, Michigan
The University of Michigan is where I went to library school. I got to have my big college experience there. I had season tickets for football, basketball, and ice hockey. Unfortunately, when I was there Michigan wasn’t excelling at any of those. I was in the stands when Appalachian State beat Michigan – the stadium with about 100,000 Michigan football fans in it was completely silent when Appalachian State won in the last seconds of the game.

Peru, Costa Rica, Paris, Africa
These are all at the top of my current list of 40 places I want to travel to. I would also love to do the coast-to-coast hike across England. I’ve been to lots of great places already, though.

Chinese Scroll Acquired through Student Gift
Yipeng Hu ’14 has given the college a beautiful scroll from China, Qinying shanghe tu (Along the River During the Qingming Festival). The horizontal scroll is a copy of a scroll of the same title painted by Song Dynasty (960-1276) artist Zhang Zeduan – a scroll so well-known in China that it has been called "China’s Mona Lisa." Like the original, the copy’s dimensions are 10 in x 207 in. It depicts movement in and through the then-capital Bianjing (present-day Kaifeng) by rich and poor alike as they celebrate a festival. There are 814 humans, 28 boats, 60 animals, 30 buildings, 20 vehicles, nine sedan chairs, and 170 trees on the scroll. This bridge scene at right gives a good idea of the energy and humanity present on the scroll. The college’s copy of the scroll is made with hand-cut paper and will be displayed on the lower level of the library.

I-Share Renewal Tip
Books borrowed through I-Share can be checked out for 4 weeks at a time with up to 3 renewals. All three renewals can be done at once within your I-Share account, thereby informing you of the latest possible date to return items.

Additions to Hamill Collection
Nancy Winter, granddaughter of eminent Lake Forest book collector Alfred E. Hamill (1883-1953), recently donated 47 books to our already sizable Hamill collection. Nancy’s generous gift includes works by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and covers many topics, including the Chicago World’s Fair and the Italian Renaissance. The earliest book from this donation dates back to 1768. Hamill books are easily recognized by their unique bookplates. Many were designed by Warren Chappell and usually feature the name Hamill as well as a centaur (the name of the Hamill estate was Centaurs).

Larry Lee Portrait
A portrait of library benefactor Laurence “Larry” Lee (1928-2010) by Franz Schulze, Betty Jane Schultz Hollender Professor of Art Emeritus, is now displayed on the main floor of the library, near the Cyber Cafe. Larry, longtime General Counsel of Abbott Laboratories, was a great friend to the College.

He served as a College Trustee from 1991-2010. He and his wife Barbara contributed the lead gift for the 2004 renovation and expansion of the library and also established the Laurence R. Lee Family Chair in the Natural and Mathematical Sciences, which is presently held by Professor Douglas Light. Students may also be familiar with Larry’s name because he provided the funds for the shuttle bus.

Recommended Viewing from LIT
Susan Cloud: Fox’s Fringe • Jim Cubit: ITV’s Doc Martin • Anchalee Hocharoen: Animal Planet’s Treehouse Masters • Eileen Karsten: Warner Brothers’ The Hildegarde Withers Mysteries Movies Collection • Michael Karsten: Netflix’s House of Cards • Erik Larson: CBS’s Elementary • Justin Mickatavage: FX’S Sons of Anarchy • Emily Mace: BBC’s Sherlock • Michelle Oh: BBC’s Downton Abbey • Cory Stevens: BBC’s Sherlock • Nancy Sosna Bohm: HBO’s True Detective • Anne Thomason: David O’Russell’s American Hustle • Jill Zwicke: BBC’s Downton Abbey