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UT ARLINGTON LIBRARIES

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A New Tradition

The Webb Elementary School 6th grade class just visited UT Arlington Libraries for the third consecutive spring. Several teachers commented that the outing has become a tradition that the students look forward to all year.

On April 6th, 90 students with teachers and parents spent most of the day participating in UT Arlington International Week activities. At the library, small groups explored Texas history with Cathy Spitzenberger in Special Collections, created their own masks after learning about their history from Gretchen Trkay, took Evelyn Barker's science quiz that compared their answers to those of students from around the world, and conducted a paper airplane



Photo: Charlotte LeBlanc

Above: Robert Bonadurer demonstrating why the length of a year for each planet varies.

Right: Students show off bookmarks and handouts.



Photo: Charlotte LeBlanc

experiment with Lea Worcester. In addition, Planetarium Director Robert Bonadurer's hands-on program at the library essentially brought the planetarium to them.

Library staff volunteers contributed their time and talents to make the excursion memorable. Donna Kelley, Barbara

Hammond, and Loretta Barker helped students color masks and fold paper airplanes while Anne Mitchell, Scott Nguyen, Ellie Curiel, Charlotte LeBlanc, and Dorothy Foster served as tour guides.

—Lea Worcester

Connections

Coal Miners, Heroes, Dreams, Rocket Boys, Destiny, Who We Are

“No matter what you choose to do in life when you grow up, we all have heroes to admire, dreams to follow . . .”

I'm sure many of us can remember what or who helped formulate in our minds what we wanted to do “when we grow up”. Some of us might even have dreams of doing something someday. I don't remember how old I

was, but I remember Mom taking me to the public library for the first time. The Carnegie Foundation helped fund the creation of the public library. My recollection is that it was a mansion which had belonged to a wealthy eccentric who kept his writing ambitions secret. Doing some research for this exhibit article, I can not prove that, but it sounds intriguing. You might ask what that has to do with this article. My musings about how that public library came into existence makes me nostalgic about the summers of my youth.

I will explain. I remember Momma saying how nice it would be to work in a library. From that point on, working in a library was something I kept in the back of my mind. I also remember thinking about a



Exhibit—Arlington Reads 2006: Coal Miner Heroes, Dreams, Rocket Boys, Destiny, Who We Are

career as a ballerina, a nurse, and an archaeologist. Obviously, the ballerina career was not for me – I never learned to dance, period – too uncoordinated.

The Arlington Reads program has focused on the book *Rocket Boys*. A movie based on the book was made, *October Sky*. Another edition of *Rocket Boys* was published as a paperback with the same name as the movie. The book/movie is an autobiography of sorts. Homer Hickam is the son of a coal mine supervisor. His father wants Homer to follow in his footsteps, but Homer has other ideas and dreams. The launch of Sputnik creates a strong desire in Homer to do more than work in a coal mine. He and his friends, with the help of a great science teacher, learn about

thermodynamics and rockets. Homer's mother sees Homer's interest in rockets not as a hobby, but as a way to get away from the mining town. Homer's father wanted him to be a coal miner. Homer's mother wanted him to just

get away from Coalwood, West Virginia. Homer was intrigued by something in his young life – the launch of Sputnik.

As I chose books relating to rockets, astronauts, and aeronautics which are in the Science & Engineering Library, I remembered my Mom taking me to the library where I began to think about what I wanted to be when I grew up. I then thought about the building which housed the public library back then. It stirred in me a desire to want to read more and do research on things I was interested in and to help people find what they needed.

No matter what you choose to do in life when you grow up, we all have heroes to admire,

Continued on page 3

From the Archives—Romance a Century Ago

Movies, novels, and perhaps our grandmother's stories suggest that courting a century ago was romantic. Dating seemed to consist of girls in long dresses being offered freshly picked flowers by gentlemen callers. The following article in the Sunday, January 7, 1906 *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* offers another view.

Girl Drew Straws to Pick Husband

Richmond, VA., Jan. 6.—John, William, and Henry Mock, brothers, handsome and well to do, live in Davis county, North Carolina,



and near them lives the family of Jacob Depass, of which the chief ornament is Miss Nellie Depass. Each of the Mock boys was in love with Miss Nellie, and she said she loved each of the brothers, but that she could not decide between them.

At last Miss Nellie decided she would have a wedding, and she

told the brothers she would select one of them, and the others could be "best men." At 9 o'clock last night she walked into the parlor in her finest gown and announced that she had decided to let the brothers draw straws to see which one she would marry. She would manipulate the straws, as she was "disinterested."

The youngest brother won. Miss Nellie took his arm and the bridesmaids and their attendants ranged themselves in front of the minister. In less time that it takes to tell Miss Nellie was Mrs. Henry Mock.

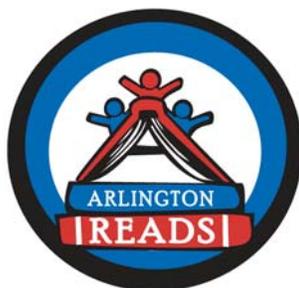
Coal Miners, Heroes, Dreams, Rocket Boys, Destiny, Who We Are (cont.)

dreams to follow, a destiny already chosen for us, and to learn who we are and why we are.

coast of Maine. Maybe ... someday.

—Barbara Howser

I don't remember all the books I read during those summers, but the location of the story line in many of the books was the Maine coastline. And there were lighthouses nearby. Ever since then, I have wanted to live in a lighthouse on the



Connections

C.D.'s Picks

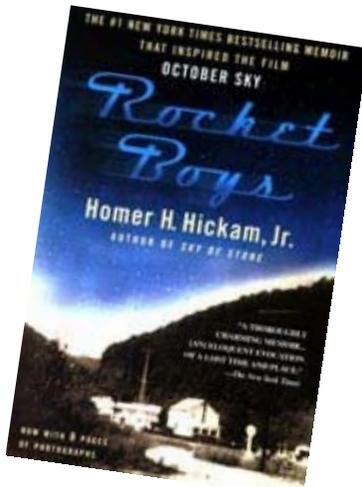
Science for Everyone

Rocket Boys: a Memoir

Homer H. Hickam, Jr.

SEL Books: TL789.85.H53 A3
1998

This is easily the most accessible book in the SEL collection that I've read so far. My 13 year-old nephew read parts of it for science class.



I particularly recommend this book for young people. I suspect that it could spark interest in the sciences for young people who previously believed themselves uninterested, in the same way that Sputnik captured the imagination of the young Homer “Sonny” Hickam.

But it isn't a didactic work. Its purpose is to capture a time and space—a West-Virginia mining town in the late 1950's. And it succeeds. Hickam looks with unblinking eye at the town that nurtured him, but

that he longed to escape.

Sonny's struggle is personified in the figure of his father, who struggles with his own iron-fisted desire to mold his son into his own ideal.

More than anything, this book is about hope—how it motivates and transforms those whose circumstances are not conducive to realizing their dreams. One must have hope to transcend the mundane and reach (sometimes literally) for the stars.

On the Lighter Side

Non-scientific reading available from UTA Libraries

All Hallows' Eve

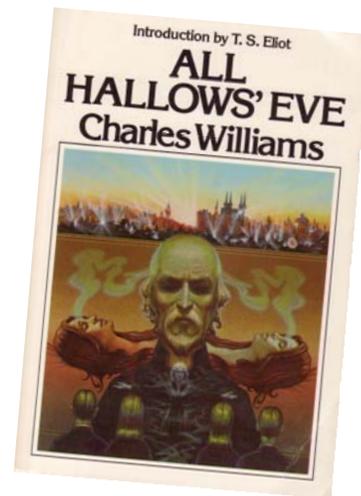
Charles Williams

Central Books: PZ3.W67144
A14

As is always the case whenever I have just read a Charles Williams novel, I finished *All Hallows' Eve* for the n^{th} time and felt the need to share it with someone.

Williams' writing is obscure enough that encountering someone who has read his work is a delight. When I meet someone who adores his work, I have found a kindred spirit. T.S. Eliot, who wrote

the introduction to this novel, similarly admired Charles Williams—both the writer and the man.



Williams was a member of the Inklings—the group of Oxford writers, including C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien, who regularly met to read and comment upon one another's work. Despite this connection, his work is more akin to Chesterton's or George MacDonald's, set in the real world yet surrealistic in atmosphere. While immersed in his novels, I am awed by the immensity of eternity and, paradoxically, the significance of a single soul.

All Hallows' Eve, though published in 1945 and set after WW II ended, was written before the war ended and so was set in the near future. Our protagonist, Lester Furnival, has led a rather sheltered exist-

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Mexican Buffet and Tour of New LCD

I want to ask all of you to mark Wednesday, April 12th, from 11:30-2:00 on your calendars because we will celebrate all of the hard work that has gone into getting the Library Collections Depository (LCD) off the ground and ready for service. I am very proud of the work that the staff has done on this project, from planning, problem-solving, and cleaning to measuring, taping, and scanning. It just goes to show what we are capable of doing when we work together as a staff. Great job folks.

To celebrate the staff's accomplishments, we will be hosting



Peter Zhang of IOP scans books to document their locations in the LCD.

a free Mexican buffet and an open house at the LCD for those who have never seen it. The schedule for the celebration is:

11:30-1:00. Fajita buffet (chicken and beef, with cake for dessert) in the 6th Floor Atrium

12:30-2:00. A UTA bus will run continuously between the Central Library and the LCD for those who want to visit the LCD. The pick up point will be behind the Central Library.

Please join us so that we can mark this significant accomplishment.

—Gerald D. Saxon, Dean of Libraries

C.D.'s Picks (cont.)

tence, spending little time thinking of others. But events unfold that stretch her, that afford her the opportunity to right some old wrongs and become a new person, or it might be more apt to say she becomes more like herself.

As with all of Williams' novels, *Hallows'* protagonist is an otherwise ordinary person who must face a dark power, typi-

cally someone seeking power over the material world, and often the metaphysical world, as well. A theme throughout all the novels is the redemptive power of love; it is the sanctity of love—not strength or power—that ultimately defeats evil.

In addition to *All Hallows' Eve*, Williams wrote six other novels, four of which can be found

at Central: *War in Heaven* (PR6045.I5 W37 1999), *Many Dimensions* (PR6045.I5 M3 1993), *Shadows of Ecstasy* (PR 6045 .I5 S48 1950), and *Descent into Hell* (PR 6045 .I5 D38 1949), *The Place of The Lion* (not in the collection), *The Greater Trumps* (not in the collection). The UTA collection also contains many other Williams works, including poetry, literary criticism, and theology.

—C.D. Walter

Connections

Who's a Taxonomist?

“You have used taxonomies before—in fact, you probably use them unconsciously. In the field of sports . . .”

Taxonomy is a hot job right now, and more than one student has asked, “How can you make a living showing the skin and bones of dead animals?” They were, of course, thinking about taxidermy, which is the art of mounting or reproducing dead animals for display or study. According to Wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taxidermy>), taxidermists practice professionally for museums, or they may do amateur work, displaying hunting and fishing trophies. Wikipedia also warns against confusing taxidermy with taxonomy, which it defines as the study of scientific classification.

Not entirely true! While the word taxonomy initially meant a system of classifying living organisms, its use has been widened to refer to the classification of *anything*. Taxonomies are in demand right now because of the exponential growth of information on the Internet. Even though Google and its sibling search engines can sort through billions of bits of information in seconds, they usually return results in an order that is not particularly



meaningful. Taxonomies applied to large bodies of complex information can introduce structure, meaning, and control.

You have used taxonomies before—in fact, you probably use them unconsciously. In the field of sports, for example, you know that a goal, a basket, and a touchdown are all ways of saying that a team scored, though the term you use depends on whether the game is soccer, basketball, or football. In a sports taxonomy, within the category of *team* sports (as opposed to *individual* sports such as jogging, walking, or bicycling), *goal*, *basket*, and *touchdown* are equivalent terms

for scoring points.

Melvil Dewey and the Googlers

A 21-year-old college student named Melvil Dewey, working in the Amherst College Library, established a taxonomy for a very ambitious project—he divided up all the world's knowledge into ten categories, based on the numbers from zero to nine. His system became the Dewey Decimal Classification system (DDC), which is probably the system

used by your public and high school libraries to arrange books by subject on their shelves. You look, for example, for books on the paranormal under 001.9 and for books on early American history under 973.3. Columbia College (Chicago) maintains a very effective Web page where you can explore the hierarchy of the DDC taxonomy (<http://www.lib.colum.edu/library/deweysum.html>).

Though Dewey's original classification has fallen into disfavor in a society far more global than his nineteenth-century view envisioned, his original idea has been embellished,

Continued on page 7

Who's a Taxonomist? (cont.)

adapted, and updated by many other librarians and taxonomists. The Universal Decimal Classification, and variations of it, are used to classify books in libraries and individual papers in journals throughout the world. Incidentally, decimal numbers also inspired Google though they have yet to produce a comprehensive taxonomy of the world's knowledge.

Using Taxonomies

Most American college libraries today use a book classification taxonomy developed by the Library of Congress (LC), based on 26 letters of the English alphabet. But you need to use different taxonomies for different purposes. While LC works well to establish order for physical books, it wouldn't work as well to categorize a massive collection of psychology papers or business articles. That's why there are separate taxonomies, also called controlled vocabularies, for databases covering different subjects.

When you search a structured database, one way to get all the articles about a topic, regardless of the terms the authors used, is to use the database taxonomy. Taxonomies establish a consistent terminol-

ogy for subjects and disciplines; they record synonyms and terms that are narrower and broader than selected terms; and they define the scope of the terms. Many databases, including the education database, ERIC (<http://www.eric.ed.gov>), provide a printed or online guide to their taxonomy, sometimes called a thesaurus or list of subject descriptors.

Whatever your major discipline, you should become familiar with the most important taxonomies in your field.

There are thousands of classification systems. You can search for guides in all subjects--and view some of them online--at a supersite called Taxonomy Warehouse (<http://www.taxonomywarehouse.com>), which houses a comprehensive directory of taxonomies, thesauri, classification schemes, and other authority files worldwide.

And Finally...

About those job opportunities. You may not find many jobs listed under T for taxonomist. While the activity and skill is in demand, the term is not. As for those traditional taxonomists who deal with defining species of flora and fauna, that

type of taxonomist has, in fact, been declared an endangered species.

In the Internet world, however, there is a great need for taxonomists. Taxonomies are updated periodically to keep up with changes in various fields. Taxonomies are also being applied in areas they never were before—in business organizations and scientific laboratories, on enterprise-wide intranets. These endeavors need workers. They may be called information architects, content managers, information resource managers, librarians, or indexers. To read about a modern taxonomist in action, see <http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6256260.html>.

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Connections

April Exhibits



Are You Experienced? The Multimedia World Awaits You . . .

E.H. Hereford University Center. Candy McCormic, Doug Lewis, and Kevin Robbins' retro 60s exhibit with lava lamps, popular records, and shag carpet highlights Digital Media Studio's groovy services which include *Far Out Video Editing* and *Groovy Picture Scanning*. **Left:**—A lava lamp lends a touch of

movement to the rainbow exhibit.

Arlington Reads

Central Library, first floor. Books, posters, and aeronautical items highlighting the Arlington Reads program.

B-17 Nose Art from WWII

Architecture and Fine Arts Library. (mid-April) The exhibit will feature pictures of artwork on WWII war planes.



Photo: Elizabeth Swift

Change Your World

Central Library, Sam's Click Internet Cafe. Discover the books that have *Changed the World* of UTA faculty, staff and students. This exhibit is mounted in conjunction with this year's National Library Week theme of *Change your World* and incorporates books and quotes from various UT Arlington faculty, staff and students concerning the books that have

made a significant impact in their lives. **Left**—Kathleen Marquez-Houston and Diane Shepelwich with their exhibit.



Photo: Elizabeth Swift

Federal Depository Library

Central Library, 2nd floor. Bookmarks and basic information about the Federal Depository Library Program. Federal depository collections contain information produced by Federal agencies and are a free service of the U.S Government Printing Office. **Left**—Troy Black is standing next to the exhibit he designed.

National Library Week and International Week 2006: Change your world @your library, a global perspective.

Science and Engineering Library. Antoinette Nelson's exhibit celebrates International and National Library Weeks with flags, maps and books from around the world.

So Much Chocolate—So Little Time

Who wouldn't be interested in spending a few quarters for what has been considered by some to be a magical food – chocolate? Legends from many cultures claim that it gives strength and health to those who eat it while modern research has suggested that it can promote longevity and fight heart disease. Not only that, it is tasty. How much do you know about this delicious treat?



1. Mayans used coco beans for
 - a. cosmetic treatments
 - b. a form of payment
 - c. tokens in a board game
2. Dr. James Baker started the first chocolate factory in North America to
 - a. manufacture remedies for illnesses
 - b. make the ultimate baking chocolate
 - c. do something with coco beans he won in a poker game
3. Professional chocolate tasters are known as
 - a. taste masters
 - b. organoleptic analysts
 - c. lucky duckies
4. The first chocolate bar was manufactured in
 - a. 1914
 - b. 1906
 - c. 1847
5. The yearly consumption of chocolate by the Swiss is
 - a. 43 pounds per person
 - b. 22 pounds per person
 - c. 15 pounds per person
6. Richard Cadbury decorated the first chocolate box in 1868 with
 - a. image of his daughter and a kitten
 - b. photo of flowers and "Happy Mother's Day"
 - c. image of a young woman on a bicycle
7. Central America produces the most cocoa
 - a. true
 - b. false
8. Chocolate is good for your heart
 - a. true
 - b. false
9. 16th century nuns and priests
 - a. drank chocolate to ease the effects of fasts
 - b. were forbidden to taste it
 - c. brewed chocolate liquors as a hobby
10. According to the *Guinness Book of World Records* in 2000 the largest chocolate bar
 - a. weighed 5,026 pounds
 - b. weighed 2,005 pounds
 - c. weighed 7,504 pounds



CONTEST: Take the quiz above and send your answers on the back of a large Hershey bar or in an e-mail to Lea Worcester at lworcester@uta.edu with *Contest* in the Subject line. The prize is a box of Godiva chocolates. If there are multiple correct entries, the winner will be selected by putting all of the correct answers in a hat and randomly drawing a winner.

Connections

Spring 2006 Reception



*You are cordially invited to
UT Arlington Libraries'*

Spring Reception

Day: May 2, 2006

Time: 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Where: Central Library Atrium

*Please join us in celebrating those re-
ceiving employee service, STAR, and
Outstanding Student Assistant awards.
Light refreshments will be served.*

Answer to March Library Challenge

8	6	3	4	7	9	1	5	2
5	4	2	6	8	1	7	3	9
9	1	7	3	5	2	4	8	6
4	7	9	2	6	8	3	1	5
1	5	6	9	3	7	8	2	4
2	3	8	1	4	5	9	6	7
6	2	4	7	1	3	5	9	8
7	8	1	5	9	6	2	4	3
3	9	5	8	2	4	6	7	1

**UT Arlington
Libraries**

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Connections is the library staff newsletter published the first week of each month. The newsletter introduces new staff members, highlights departments, reports on library staff events, and is a forum for items of interest.

Suggestions and contributions are welcome. Please contact:

Lea Worcester, Editor

817.272.5747

lworcester@uta.edu

April 2006

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
					1 2 Daylight Savings begins
3	4	5	6 Noon-1:00. Jazz on the Lawn. Library Mall.	7	8 9
	International Week & National		Library Week		
10	11	12 11:30-1:00. Mexican Buffet for library staff—Atrium 12:30-2:00. Visit new Lib. Collections Dep.	13	14 Last day to drop class	15 16
17	18 2:00-4:00. Library Staff Meeting—Planetarium	19 10:00-Noon. Professional Forum—315A Noon-1:00. O.K. Carter Lecture—Parlor	20	21 San Jacinto Day	22 23
24	25	26	27 Registration begins for Maymester	28	29 30

Connections is archived online at:

<http://libraries.uta.edu/connections/index.htm>