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May 16, 1995

ALUMNUS' ENDOWMENT BOOSTS MANSFIELD LIBRARY BOOK COLLECTIONS

MISSOULA --

A \$598,000 endowment from a University of Montana alumnus with a lifelong love of books will be used to bolster the Mansfield Library's humanities and social science collections.

The largest single gift ever made to the library for the purchase of books and materials has come from the estate of Robert L. "Robin" Schafer, who died in Great Falls Oct. 5, 1993. A major portion of his estate was left to the Mansfield Library for the creation of the Robert L. Schafer Library Endowment, the proceeds of which will be used to build the two designated collections, said library Dean Karen Hatcher.

The bequest is credited to The University of Montana Capital Campaign's \$3 million priority for library enhancement, said Larry Morlan, executive director of the UM Foundation, which operates the campaign.

Schafer earned a bachelor's degree in liberal arts in 1957 and a master's degree in English in 1958. He served as an English instructor at UM and at the University of Minnesota, where he worked toward a doctorate.

His tremendous interest in intellectual matters and literature was sparked as a youngster by his mother, said William Conklin, Schafer's attorney and friend. Schafer's interest intensified during his school years. Throughout his life, Schafer had been a Mansfield Library user as well as a financial supporter.

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While some academic areas are well supported by library holdings, others must be bolstered to reach the resource level required by students and faculty in those disciplines. Hatcher said the gift from Schafer's estate offers enormous help in enhancing the designated collections. She called the gift "very, very timely," since library leaders have been looking for ways to add to the two collections.

Schafer gave his personal library of more than 1,500 volumes to the Great Falls Branch of the American Association of University Women. Nationwide, AAUW branches conduct used-book sales to support a graduate fellowship program.

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