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Friends of the Library acquires microfilmed edition of the presidential papers of Benjamin Harrison and William McKinley for library

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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The Friends of the Library of the University of Montana have made it possible for the library to acquire a microfilmed edition of the presidential papers of Benjamin Harrison and William McKinley, according to Earle C. Thompson, dean of library services.

Ed Pope of Missoula, vice chairman of the FOL said, "a few years ago the board members had to dig into their own pockets to pay the cost of mailing a few letters. Now we help the University acquire needed library materials, in addition to rescuing state historical documents for it."

Originally the University was to match funds donated by the Friends for the presidential papers, but that did not materialize so the Friends assumed the entire purchase cost of $2000. Funds for the FOL are obtained by donations and by five dollar memberships across the state.

A number of valuable Montana historical documents and papers have also been acquired as gifts to the Friends for the Northwest history room, Pope said. Among them are several original manuscripts of works by Montana authors, the Dilworth papers relating to the cattle drive from Oregon to Montana and U.S. Representative Arnold Olson's papers and correspondence for his first three years' tenure in the House, to cite a few.

The FOL was established six years ago at the U of M by request of students who felt the need for such a service organization. Since then, the FOL has grown to encompass student organizations and interested persons across Montana and the nation.

In addition to Pope, active local board members of the FOL are Art Deschamps, Dr. L. G. Browman, Mrs. H. O. Worden, David McClay, Robert Sterling, Dr. Ross Toole, Mrs. W. M. Johnson, Miss Maribeth Dwyer, Mrs. Ty Robinson, H. G. Merriam, Tom Haines and Mrs. Robert Bemis of Superior. Ex-officio members are Dean Thompson and Miss Kathleen Campbell, U of M librarian.

Chairman of the FOL is Sumner Gerard of Ennis. The Great Falls board member is Dan Cushman and William H. Coldiron is the board member from Butte.

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