

Fall 2009

## Library Ledger

University of Southern Maine Libraries

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# Library Ledger

Newsletter of University Libraries & ITMS  
Volume 3, Issue 2

The latest news from Gorham, Lewiston-Auburn & Portland

Volume 3, Issue 2

Fall 2009

**“At the moment that we persuade a child, any child, to cross that threshold, that magic threshold into a library, we change their lives forever, for the better.”**

--Barack Obama

## Osher Map Library Opens

The Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education celebrates its re-opening after a significant expansion and reconstruction. The celebration begins at 7 p.m., Friday, October 16, fifteen years to the day since the library originally opened. John W. Hessler, Reference Librarian in the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress, will offer the first public presentation of two maps copied by Thoreau from Champlain. Hessler will discuss how Thoreau's study of early maps of the New World fueled his environmental imagination and informed his notions of the American wilderness.



The celebration continues on Saturday, October 17, with the one-day conference, “New Directions in the Study of Early American Cartographies.” This will be a showcase for scholars pursuing new and exciting directions in the study of mapping. Events culminate Sunday, October 18, with a formal ribbon cutting and Open House, with guided tours. For more information, please visit the new Osher Map Library website: [www.usm.maine.edu/maps](http://www.usm.maine.edu/maps).

### Inside this issue:

Osher Opens	Page 1
Free Coffee	Page 1
Office 2007	Page 2
Dear Crabby	Page 2
China Travel	Page 3
Art Show	Page 3
Gorham Changes	Page 3
Book Review	Page 4
Library Hours	Page 4

## Coffee Mondays!

**JUMPSTART YOUR WEEK!**

Stop by the Reference Desk on the 2nd floor of Glickman Library every Monday for free coffee!







### Three Library Staff Members Visit China

During the past year, three members of the USM Library staff have had the good fortune to visit China. Library Assistant Sophie Mendoza traveled to Beijing with her husband's family, who are Chinese, to see the final week of the 2008 Olympics, including the closing ceremonies. She says that virtually everything in Beijing was decked out in Olympic themes and regalia, from people's clothing to the ever present "One World, One Dream" banners draped over skyscrapers. Although this was Sophie's first trip to China,

her husband's grandmother is from Shanghai, and the family had last visited in 2000. They noted the difference between numbers of cars in comparison to bicycles was astonishing in the eight years between visits. Cartographic Cataloger Roberta Ransley-Matteau visited China in March 2009 with a group formed through the Exeter, New Hampshire Chamber of Commerce. Roberta cites as high points of her trip: a visit to and walk along the Great Wall, a trip to the Forbidden City (home of



Chinese Emperors in Beijing until 1911), and Shanghai. Roberta calls China "a country of compelling and profound contrasts between the China of old and the rapidly changing one of today." Another highlight for her was having lunch at a family home in one of the fast disappearing "hutongs," the small compact neighborhoods with very narrow alleyways that have been around for centuries.

Reference Librarian Zip Kellogg visited Sechuan Province and Beijing in July 2009. Zip's trip was with friends who were keen birders. The bird watchers group traveled in a high elevation region near the border with Tibet. Like Roberta, Zip had an extraordinary day of hiking along the Great Wall and traveled along portions of a road in Sechuan which had been part of the ancient network of east-west trade routes known as the Silk Road. While Zip likes Chinese food, he opted not to try the five spiced donkey meat, tossed jellyfish with vinegar, pan fried pig spine, stir fried yellow eel shreds with clam, or braised pig colon.

All of these USM Library staff members truly enjoyed and benefited greatly from their travels and would be glad to talk with you in more detail...

## *The Music You Can't Hear: Images Exploring the Work of Maine's Luthiers*

There is a new exhibit on the 5th floor of Glickman Library on the Portland campus. It consists of about 20 framed photographs and is the work of Liz Grandmaison, a Bangor-based artist.

Ms. Grandmaison calls the exhibit a "sampling of images created to celebrate a group of dedicated Maine craftspeople who still work with their hands to shape natural materials into beautiful, functional tools for making music."

Come to the Glickman Library this Fall to see this stunning exhibit of photographs of extraordinarily musical instruments.



## Gorham Changes

Commons@Gorham Library staff have been busy this summer rearranging spaces to create new and improved study areas for students. On the first floor, staff offices were consolidated in order to convert the former reference and ILL office into the new Group Study Room. On the second floor, the Reading Room has been carpeted and rearranged. Some new student furniture is also on order for Commons@Gorham Library. In addition, parts of the book and periodical collection were "weeded" of outdated items.



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## Smart Starts @ the Library

# Book Review

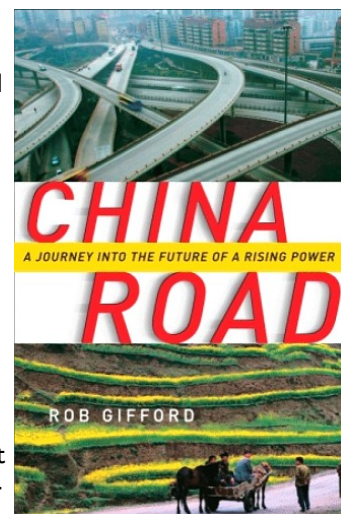
China Road tells the story of Rob Gifford's 3,000 mile odyssey across China, following the country's equivalent of US Route 66 – called Route 312 –

all the way from Shanghai on the eastern shore to the Kazakh border.

I became familiar with Gifford as NPR's correspondent in Beijing and followed his journey on public radio. The author's years of travel have given him a keen understanding and insight into China's contradictions which he portrays with affection and humor. When I checked out this book I found it hard to put down.

If China has become Asia's economic dynamo, Shanghai is its boomtown. It is home to much of China's new and growing middle class. This is the China considered to be the next world power and it is where Gifford's journey and route 312 begin. But, it is a different China that Gifford discovers in the rural heartland where farmers still use water buffalo and wooden plows, and local authorities are as powerful and corrupt as ever. Heading further west, rickety vehicles ply the portion of 312 that used to be the old Silk Road. Now the traders deal in cell phones rather than silk and spices. Along the way, Gifford has conversations with people from all walks of life talking to merchants, hermits, prostitutes and Amway salesmen. While hitching a ride that takes him on a 12-hour journey through the Gobi Desert, the author gets an earful from a young truck driver who is torn by his love for his country and the corruption that plagues it. Finally, the story ends at the distant west Kazakhstan border town where a bowling alley symbolizes the government's efforts to raise western China's standard of living in order to make the Muslim minorities less likely to revolt.

This is an amazing book on the real China and the people who live there. Reviewed by Pamela Straw, Technical Services Assistant



## Fall 2009 Library Hours

### Portland

Monday-Thursday	7:45 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Friday	7:45 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday	10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sunday	10:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

### Gorham

Monday-Thursday	7:45 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Friday	7:45 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday	11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Sunday	12:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

### Lewiston-Auburn Library

Monday-Thursday	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Friday	8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday	CLOSED
Sunday	CLOSED

### Exceptions

See our online postings or check signs posted close to the time of fall vacations and finals.  
<http://library.usm.maine.edu/about/hours.php>

## Ask Us

### LAC Information Commons

Over the summer, additional computer and study spaces were created in the LAC Information Commons.

Check out the very appealing combined library and computer lab space at LAC!