

Washington University School of Medicine

Digital Commons@Becker

Washington University Record

Washington University Publications

2-2-1978

Washington University Record, February 2, 1978

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.wustl.edu/record>

Recommended Citation

Washington University Record, February 2, 1978. Bernard Becker Medical Library Archives.
<https://digitalcommons.wustl.edu/record/92>.

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Washington University Publications at Digital Commons@Becker. It has been accepted for inclusion in Washington University Record by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Becker. For more information, please contact vanam@wustl.edu.

WU Record

Published For The Washington University Community

February 2, 1978

WU Collection of Beckett Works Grows Into Largest in the World

Most Samuel Beckett buffs know that this literary Nobel Prize-winner lives as a recluse in Paris, but many, including some of the most erudite, do not know that WU owns the largest cache of his manuscripts and books in the world. Some 214 original manuscripts and letters and 500 volumes by and about Beckett are part of the University's Special Collection of Modern Literature in the George N. Meissner Memorial Rare Books Department on the fifth floor of Olin Library.

In recent months, these holdings have multiplied because of the scholarship and enterprise of Richard L. Admussen, WU professor of French. With the help of Holly Hall, chief of Rare Books and Special Collections at WU, he ingeniously arranged for the University to exchange copious copies of Beckett manuscripts with the Library of the University of Reading in Great Britain. Reading itself has an impressive Beckett collection.

The agreement, skillfully drawn up by Hall, provides that: "Manuscripts are available for consultation at both



A portrait of author Samuel Beckett by French artist Avigdor Arikha. The work, a trial proof of the engraving, is owned by the WU Rare Book Department.

libraries, but permission to copy or quote must be obtained from the library holding the originals."

This plan evolved out of visits to

Reading by Admussen, who has been immersed in a study of Beckett and his works for about three years. While on sabbatical at Reading in 1974, doing research for a book, *The Beckett Manuscripts: A Guide*, to be published this summer, he came to know Professor James Knowlson, editor of *The Journal of Beckett Studies*.

Knowlson had become acquainted with Beckett through correspondence. Gradually a friendship developed that apparently prompted Beckett to give some of his manuscripts to Reading.

The WU Beckett collection was acquired in large part by William J. Matheson, head of the WU Rare Books Department from 1963 to 1971 and now Rare Books Librarian at the Library of Congress. He had the vision and the wisdom to collect Beckett holdings when they were still modestly priced. Nowadays, Beckett's works are expensive. A Beckett manuscript in a dealer's hands recently was offered at a price of 80,000 pounds (\$150,000).

The ready proximity of the Beckett

(continued on page 2)

Exxon Grant To Expand Modular Math Course, SSM-202

The bell rings. A freshman pauses at the classroom door. Oh no—another math class! Professor Ervin Y. Rodin of WU's Department of Systems Science and Mathematics hopes to overcome this reaction to mathematics. His primary tool is SSM-202, a math course that uses a modular approach to teach advanced applied mathematics and systems science.

The Exxon Education Foundation agrees with Rodin's approach. The Foundation has awarded WU a grant of \$48,927 to support what Rodin calls the "development of portable advanced applied mathematics modules to be presented to freshman and sophomore college audiences." A module consists of one or two lectures on a particular mathematical subject with a particular application. The modules are indexed for areas of application such as energy, ecology, biology or political science.

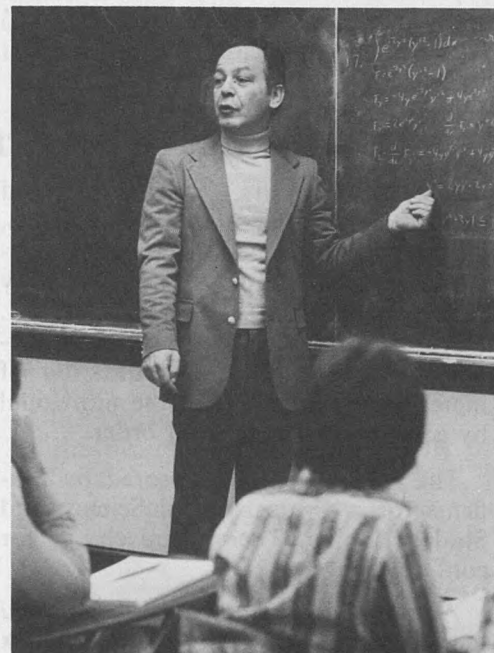
The grant is new. But SSM-202 is about three years old, and the idea that

advanced applied mathematics can be taught to freshmen and sophomores is a little older. Rodin first proposed his idea at WU in 1974. By January 1975, SSM-202 was a three-semester hour course with eight students enrolled. In September 1977, 40 students enrolled, about 10 more than an optimum 30, according to Rodin.

Rodin's citation from students last Founders Day "for exhibiting intellectual imagination and commitment to teaching" shows he knows what they need. One of their needs, he says, is to be exposed to advanced applied mathematics in their early college years, thus allowing students to choose a career before the normal senior year.

In this way, students can also select more meaningful courses and become aware of mathematics as a creative tool. Because of the way the course teaches practical application of mathematics, other problems can be avoided. For

(continued on page 3)



Peter H. Zimmerman

Professor Ervin Y. Rodin teaches the practical application of advanced math to freshmen and sophomores to increase interest and comprehension.

2 WU Professor's Study of Chinese Language Results in Rare Course in Comparative Law

What makes a law professor decide to learn Chinese and change his research interests?

WU Professor William C. Jones wanted to do something radically different, and he did. He studied Chinese and became so proficient in it that he could translate and converse in Chinese.

In 1965, Professor Jones received a grant that enabled him to take a year off and learn Chinese at Columbia University. He came back after a year, but still hadn't learned enough Chinese to pursue his studies. Then, two years later, he traveled to Taiwan to again study Chinese. He also learned about Chinese Communist law by interviewing refugees in Hong Kong for five months.

He started teaching Chinese law in 1966. Up to that time, he had taught a course in comparative law based on Roman, French and German law. He still teaches this course in addition to the course on Chinese law. But this semester he is teaching Japanese law in the part of the course devoted to modern law.

He finds that Japan is perhaps the most important foreign country for a lawyer to be acquainted with because of our trade relations with it. "The Japanese code is modeled on the German code," he said. "Japanese law also has been influenced by Chinese law, so it was not too hard a field for me to get into."

If Americans want to join a Japanese law firm permanently, it is difficult, Jones said. The Japanese don't want Americans to be regular members of their law firms. As a practical matter, no American is likely to be able to pass the Japanese bar examination. In any event, most people are permitted to stay in Japan only on the basis of 6- or 12-month renewable visas. The Japanese do like to have young American lawyers for short



William C. Jones

stays—one or two years, so those jobs are relatively easy to find. Said Professor Jones, "If you want to make a career in Japanese law, you would do better to join an American law firm or corporation that does a lot of business with Japan."

Professor Jones said that practicing law in the People's Republic of China isn't a bed of roses. "The Chinese don't like lawyers, period. They have a strong prejudice against them. So an American lawyer really couldn't go far in practicing law in China," he said.

What's in the future for Professor Jones? "Well, I'm going back to Harvard this summer to brush up on my Chinese. I'm also going to attend a conference on Chinese law at Harvard. It won't be a very large conference because there are less than 10 law professors who teach Chinese law in the United States."

(King McElroy)

Beckett

(continued from page 1)

papers at WU, together with their potential value for other scholars, prompted Admussen to undertake his Beckett book, which will be issued by G. K. Hall of Boston (no relation of WU's Hall).

Admussen's work is a result of painstaking and meticulous research, complicated by the fact that Beckett's handwriting is all but indecipherable. He explained recently that the particular strength of WU's collection is in the period since 1960. Among these papers are many unpublished letters.

Admussen, with a grant from the American Philosophical Society, has visited and examined other Beckett repositories at Trinity College in Dublin, the University of Texas, Ohio State University and Dartmouth College.

Beckett, now in his early seventies, was born in Ireland and studied at Trinity. He has lived in France, however, for more than 40 years, and has chosen to write in French and to translate his works into English himself.

Admussen believes that Beckett "is a poet at heart," despite the fact that he is best known for his work as a playwright. One half of Admussen's forthcoming book is "a study of how Beckett writes"; the rest is a bibliographical guide to Beckett materials all over the world. Fortunately, Admussen, during his study, discovered some 30 unpublished manuscripts.

"My work," Admussen elaborated, "deals with Beckett's creative process. His unpublished texts are the result of as many as 12 to 15 separate reworded drafts."

Admussen's text is one of at least two books on Beckett being readied for publication this year. A biography (unauthorized by Beckett) written by Deirdre Bair and issued by Harcourt, Brace and Jovanovich is due soon as an alternate Book-of-the-Month-Club selection. Her audacity in publishing this work without Beckett's permission will probably only reinforce his pessimistic view of the human condition.

(Dorothy Brockhoff)

Conference on Bureaucratic Society Feb. 9-11

Social theorists, historians and philosophers from the United States, Canada and Europe will attend a conference entitled "The Totally Administered Society" Feb. 9-11 at WU. In papers presented at six sessions, participants will address the question of increasing subjugation of the individual by a bureaucratized social order.

The conference is sponsored by Students for a Critical Social Science and Student Union. There is no charge for conference events.

Among discussants are three WU faculty members. Alvin Gouldner, Max Weber Research Professor of Social Theory, will speak on "Bureaucracy and Class Structure" at the opening session Thurs., Feb. 9, at 8 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m. Friday, Barry Commoner, director of WU's Center for the Study of Natural Systems, will be a panel member for a session on problems of planning and technology.

Paul Piccone, WU assistant professor of sociology, will be among those discussing "Emancipatory Possibilities" at the final session Sat., Feb. 11, at 3 p.m.

All sessions noted above will be held in the Mudd Hall Court Room.

Other sessions on Fri., Feb. 10, are: "Problems of Individual Autonomy," 10 a.m., Mallinckrodt 303; and "The Culture Industry," 2:30 p.m., Mallinckrodt 303.

Alternative social phenomena, arising from de-bureaucratization, will be discussed Saturday morning at 10:30 a.m. in Mudd Court Room.

THE WU WOMAN'S CLUB is sponsoring a dessert tea, which will be accompanied by a color-slide presentation, "What Is a Medical Center?", in the Olin Residence Hall Penthouse on the Medical School campus. The University shuttle bus, which stops in front of Brookings Hall on the Hilltop every 20 minutes, may be used for transportation to the Medical School.

JAMES G. MILLER, WU professor of physics, was recently elected to a three-year term as a member of the Advisory Committee of the Sonics and Ultrasonics Group of the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

instance, some mathematically interested and technically brilliant students choose courses of study other than mathematics, because they feel pure math is impractical when it comes to getting a job.

Furthermore, the method works. One indication of its quality was that the course resulted in three articles being published by students in international applied mathematics journals. According to Rodin, this is rather unusual.

In another indication of the method's appeal, an expected audience of 10 to 20 students turned into a mob of 400 when Rodin recently lectured at St. Louis University High School on the application of mathematics to sports. Every actual and potential "jock" at the school showed up, and Rodin had to repeat his lecture. He says students are more naturally turned on to mathematics if they can see an actual application.

A particular application of mathematics to sports is modeling of a karate kick. A model is a series of equations or a formula which fits a known situation and also predicts future eventualities. With such a model, the best height of a karate jump and the best time to kick could potentially be determined. Rodin used this example in class and even had karate kicks demonstrated to get the students as involved as possible in the application of mathematics.

But the application of mathematics does not stop with sports. The Exxon grant will be used to develop modules that deal with the application of mathematics to the natural and social sciences. Part of SSM-202 is the use of guest lecturers, many of whom are from the Departments of System Science and Mathematics, while others are from various University departments. This interdepartmental cooperation is essential.

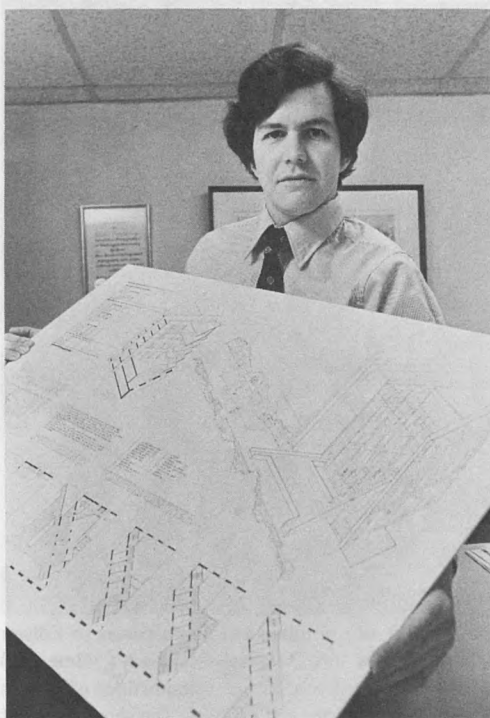
Rodin insists that one of the reasons he is able to confront freshmen and sophomores with advanced mathematical ideas is that "the Department of Mathematics at WU is giving an excellent background to students."

Rodin will continue to develop and refine this course with money from the Exxon grant in order to teach students with such a mathematics background the depth of advanced mathematical ideas and their application to systems engineering.

(Nick Ingala)

THE WU WIND ENSEMBLE has openings for B flat clarinet players. For information call Dan Presgrave at Ext. 5505 on campus or at 638-3492.

The WU Record is published weekly during the academic year by the Information Office. Editor, Janet Kelley; calendar editor, Charlotte Boman. Address communications to Box 1142.



Peter H. Zimmerman

James S. Stokoe, WU graduate, holds the design which won him the Steedman Fellowship for 1977-78.

WU Graduate James S. Stokoe Wins \$7000 Steedman Fellowship

James Stafford Stokoe, a graduate of WU (B.A. '73; M. Arch. '76), has won an international architectural competition. One of 27 finalists, he has been awarded the James Harrison Steedman Memorial Fellowship for 1977-1978 offered by the WU School of Architecture.

Established in 1925, the \$7000 Steedman Fellowship, for the first time this year, also includes a fellowship at the American Academy of Rome.

Coincidentally, both Steedman competition alternate, Gregory Palermo, and third-place contestant, Wayne Miller, are also recent graduates of WU. Palermo earned his master of architecture and urban design degree in 1976; Miller was awarded a master of architecture degree last May.

The Steedman competition was limited to graduates of accredited architectural schools with at least one year of experience in the office of a practicing architect.

To qualify, entrants had to select any two-week period last November during which to work and complete their competition design. They were charged with designing a facility offering services to visitors in town to attend large functions at the convention center of a mythical Midwestern city.

Stokoe's master's thesis at WU was concerned with the decorative brickwork employed by St. Louis vernacular builders in the late nineteenth century. The contents of this paper, together with other research which Stokoe has done on this largely unexplored subject, will be incorporated into a book to be published this year by Dover Press. Stokoe recently joined the staff of the St. Louis architectural firm, the Pearce Corporation.

Beaumont Visiting Professor Is World Renowned Artist

3

Gyorgy Kepes, painter, sculptor, planner, designer, photographer, educator and writer, has arrived at WU where he is serving as Distinguished Visiting Louis D. Beaumont Professor of Art in the School of Fine Arts.

On Thurs., Feb. 9, at 4 p.m. in Edison Theatre, he will give the second of two lectures on the subject, "Public Art and Private Art." An exhibition of Kepes' work will be on view in WU's Gallery of Art in Steinberg Hall from February 16 to March 5. Recently retired as director of MIT's Center for Advanced Visual Studies, which he conceived and founded, he is now part-time elder statesman of art education and full-time painter.

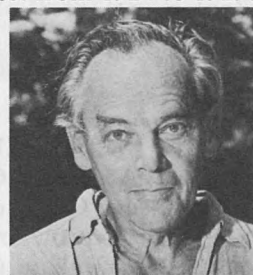
Before coming to WU, he was in residence at Dartmouth College, which also mounted an exhibition in his honor. In the catalogue prepared for this show, a spokesman observed: "One of the foremost leaders in art and education, Kepes has done much to narrow the gap between the artist, scientist and engineer. As a painter, writer and photographer, he has been responsible for redefining visual concepts and integrating art and architecture with urban life."

A retrospective exhibition of Gyorgy Kepes' work will be on display at MIT's Hayden Gallery from April 28 to June 9.

Born in Selyp, Hungary, in 1907, Kepes studied at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Budapest from 1924 to 1929.

During this period, he became a member of Munka, a politically active group of artists and writers centered around Lajos Kassak. After he became involved with film, Kepes was invited to Berlin by Moholy-Nagy in 1930. Six years later he joined Moholy-Nagy in London and in 1937 came to Chicago to head the Light and Color Department at the New Bauhaus under Moholy-Nagy. During all of these years until 1953, Kepes concentrated his energies on a variety of multimedia projects and did not resume painting until 1953.

His visit at WU is made possible by a \$100,000 endowment recently presented to the University's School of Fine Arts by the Beaumont Foundation. This gift will make it possible for the School of Fine Arts at the University to have an artist-in-residence each year.



Gyorgy Kepes

CHARLES M. WOLFE, professor of electrical engineering, has received the 1978 Electronics Division Award of the Electrochemical Society for his pioneering work on gallium-arsenide.

4 Calendar

February 3-9

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

12:15 p.m. Annual Harford Visiting Professor of Infectious Diseases Lecture, "The Molecular Basis of Reovirus Virulence," Dr. Bernard N. Field, prof. of microbiology and molecular genetics, Harvard Medical School. Clopton Amphitheatre, Wohl Clinic Bldg., 4950 Audubon.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

2:45 p.m. Department of Chemical Engineering Seminar, "High Velocity Fluidized Beds," Joseph Yerushalmi, prof. of chemical engineering, Clean Fuels Institute, City College of New York. 100 Cupples II.

4 p.m. Center for Basic Cancer Research Forum, "The Role of Glycosylation in the Structure and Replication of Vesicular Stomatitis Virus and Sindbis Virus," Dr. Sondra Schlesinger, WU prof. of microbiology and immunology. Erlanger Auditorium, McDonnell Science Bldg., 4570 McKinley.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

8 p.m. Poetry and Fiction Reading Series, Stanley Elkin, WU prof. of English, reading his most recent short story, "The Bottom Line." Women's Bldg. Lounge.

8:30 p.m. School of Architecture Tuesday Evening Lecture Series, "Beaux-Arts Architectural Composition," David Van Zanten, asst. prof. of architecture, U. of Pa., Philadelphia. Steinberg Auditorium. Cosponsored by the St. Louis Art Museum.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

11 a.m. Academic Committee Lecture, "The Fiscal Crisis of Cities," Frances Fox Piven, prof. of political science, Boston U. Graham Chapel.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

4 p.m. Departments of Chemistry and Physics Seminar, "Recent Results in the Search for Parity Non-conserving Optical Rotations in Atomic Bismuth," Norval Fortson, prof. of physics, U. of Washington, Seattle. 201 Crow.

4 p.m. School of Fine Arts Lecture, "Public Art and Private Art—II," Gyorgy Kepes, Distinguished Visiting Louis D. Beaumont Professor of Art. Edison Theatre.

8 p.m. "The Totally Administered Society" Conference Discussion, "Theories of Bureaucracy." Discussants will include Alvin Gouldner, Max Weber Research Professor of Social Theory, WU; Richard Howard, chairman, Department of Philosophy, State University of New York, Stony Brook; Franco Ferrarotti, director, Institute de la Sociologia, Rome; and Richard Moss,



An unusual mix of mime and music comes to Edison Theatre when the Michael Hennessy Mime and Music Theatre, featuring the compositions of Blegen and Sayer, performs Sat., Feb. 4. The show begins at 8 p.m. See Calendar listing below.

staff member, Center for Evaluation Studies, U.S. Office of Education. Mudd Court Room.

FILMS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

7 and 9:30 p.m. WU Filmboard Series, "A Clockwork Orange." Brown Hall Theatre. Admission \$1.50. (Also Sat., Feb. 4, same times, Brown.)

12 midnight. WU Filmboard Series, "The Omen." Brown Hall Theatre. Admission \$1. (Also Sat., Feb. 4, midnight, Brown; and Sun., Feb. 5, 8 p.m., Wohl Center.)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

8 p.m. Office of Student Affairs Double Feature, "Dodsworth," with Walter Huston and Ruth Chatterton; and "The Magnificent Ambersons," with Joseph Cotten and Delores Costello. Rebstock Auditorium. Admission \$1.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

7:30 p.m. WU Filmboard Series Double Feature, "Safety Last" and "Never Give a Sucker an Even Break" (9 p.m.). Brown Hall Theatre. Admission \$1.50 for either or both films. (Also Tues., Feb. 7, same times, Brown.)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

7:30 and 9:15 p.m. WU Filmboard Series, "Merchant of the Four Seasons." Brown Hall Theatre. Admission \$1.50.

PERFORMING ARTS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

8 p.m. Edison Theatre Series, Michael Hennessy Mime and Music Theatre, featuring the music of Blegen and Sayer. Edison Theatre. Admission \$4.80; \$3.75 for students not from WU and WU faculty and staff; \$2 for WU students. Tickets available at Edison Theatre Box Office.

EXHIBITIONS

"Locks From Iran: Pre-Islamic to the 20th Century," a unique exhibition of 463 locks from Iran surveying over 20 centuries of lock making. Included in the exhibit are locks of artistic, historic and intrinsic value. WU Gallery of Art, Steinberg Hall, upper gallery. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays; 1-5 p.m. Sat. and Sun. Through Feb. 12. Cosponsored by the Central Hardware Company.

"Selections from the WU Collections," an exhibit of cubist works featuring the recently acquired "Le Cheval," by Raymond Duchamp-Villon. Other cubists represented in the exhibit are Villon, Picasso and Klee. WU Gallery of Art, Steinberg Hall, lower gallery. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays; 1-5 p.m. Sat. and Sun. Through Feb. 12.

"Washington University: Window to the World," an exhibit highlighting the extensive WU collection of foreign language volumes and periodicals. Also included are handcrafted items loaned or given to WU by foreign students. Cosponsored by the International Office. Olin Library, level three. 8 a.m.-12 midnight daily. Through Feb. 10.

SPORTS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

4 p.m. Wrestling, WU vs. Millikin U., Decatur, Ill. Francis Field House.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

2 p.m. Men's and Women's Swimming, WU vs. U. of Mo., St. Louis, UMSL, 8001 Natural Bridge.

GARLAND ALLEN, WU associate professor of biology, and Harold Blumenfeld, WU professor of music, will lead two Thursday-night lectures February 2 and 9 at 8 p.m. in Brown Hall Lounge. The title of the series is "Two Evenings with Darwin, Marx and Wagner." Wine and cheese will be served after each talk. The fee for both evenings is \$15 and may be paid at the door on the first evening. For further information, call the School of Continuing Education at Ext. 6731.

THE BIOMEDICAL COMPUTER LABORATORY is offering a free, non-credit introductory training course in computer programming using the MUMPS computer system. This computer language is especially well suited for medical information systems and other textual and data base applications. This course will be given at the Medical School Tuesdays and Thursdays, February 28 to April 8 in the BCL classroom, 700 South Euclid Avenue. Call 454-3364 for further information or to register on or before February 22.