

was defeated, with forty-nine senators voting in favor of the resolution and thirty-five voting against it. Despite the fact that twenty-one Democrats broke ranks to join with Republican supporters of the Lodge resolution, it fell seven votes short of being approved by two-thirds of the Senate.<sup>41</sup>

This second defeat ended Woodrow Wilson's dream of American participation in the League of Nations, but ultimately, Wilson himself was responsible for leading the Democrats to an ignominious defeat. By refusing every attempt at compromise, Wilson ignored the political realities of the situation. Even several members of his own party believed that some reservations were necessary, but Wilson stubbornly clung to the idea that the treaty could somehow be approved without reservations. He repeatedly refused to accept opportunities to reach some sort of agreement with his adversaries, and even with Senator Hitchcock, his own party's leader in the Senate. By asking Democrats to reject his own treaty, Wilson left them with no good alternatives. They could either vote for the treaty and humiliate the President, or vote against the treaty and kill it. In the final analysis, nearly half of the Senate Democrats did vote against Wilson's wishes, but this was not enough to save the treaty. For these reasons, the Democrats were responsible for defeating the Treaty of Versailles. This ended an unfortunate chapter in the storied history of Congressional debates.

<sup>41</sup>New York Times, 20 March 1920.

## The Life of Mary J. Booth

Brandie E. Banks

*Brandie Banks, an Eastern Illinois undergraduate, wrote this biography for Historical Sources and Techniques (His 2500) under Professor Christopher Waldrep as a regular weekly assignment requiring use of the University Archives at Booth Library in Fall 1996.*

Mary Josephine Booth, librarian at Eastern Illinois State College from 1904-1945, was instrumental in the acquisition of the current library facility in use today. Had it not been for Booth's persistence and dedication to her profession, the building of Booth library would have been delayed considerably. Mary Booth was a truly remarkable woman whom everyone respected and admired for her commitment to the University. She fought for funding of a new library because she believed it would be an integral part of the University. Only by Booth's insistence was the need for a new library assessed by the Illinois State Legislature. By tracing Mary Booth's history, one can see more clearly her motivation.

Booth lived from 1876 to 1965. Booth was born in Beloit, Wisconsin, to John and Minerva (Leonard) Booth. She graduated from Beloit High School in 1893, attended Beloit College, and then the University of Illinois Library School where she graduated in 1904. She immediately was hired by President Livingston C. Lord and started work that fall at Eastern Illinois State College. Booth was the third librarian at Eastern where she stayed until she retired in 1945, except for a brief but important interlude when she served as a Red Cross relief worker during the First World War.<sup>1</sup> Booth was state treasurer and later President of the Illinois Library Association, as well as a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Women's Overseas Service League, and the American Association of University Women.

<sup>1</sup>Mary J. Booth, 1804-1945, Mary J. Booth Collection, University Archives, Booth Library, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, Illinois.

During her tenure at Eastern, Booth made many contributions. Her work meant so much to her that often she would sacrifice her own health for the job. In a correspondence from the secretary of the Illinois State Historical Library, Jessie Weber states: "I heard from some of the library ladies that your health had not been good and I was very sorry to hear it, but I must confess that I was not much surprised, for you know that I had told you when we were in Mackinaw together that you were working too hard and using up too much nervous energy."<sup>2</sup> This letter proves that Booth was extremely devoted to the University and to her profession.

Booth was also very active with the Red Cross. She became involved by serving as the head of the Red Cross relief work when a cyclone hit Mattoon and Charleston in 1916. After this incident, when the call for workers for the First World War sprang up, Booth jumped at the chance. She was the only faculty member at Eastern to served overseas. Booth volunteered in the fall of 1917 and arrived in France on November 27. She served as a Red Cross Canteen worker in the aviation training center at Isoudum until May 1918. Her library experience caused her to be transferred to the American Library Association for the remainder of her stay. She was posted to do military camp library work in Paris, Chaumont, and Gievres, France, and also in Coblenz, Germany. Booth classified the library at General Pershing's headquarters and was in charge of the library in the Festhalle, Coblenz. Booth returned to the United States on July 17, 1919, and to Eastern that Fall.<sup>3</sup> Booth later commented on the national effort to send books overseas in a speech to the Daughters of the American Revolution:

From one of my letters: One hundred and eighty-nine cases of books came into the library this last week, and we have all but about forty unpacked and sorted. Many cases have been packed and sent out. I know they will be

<sup>2</sup>Jessie Palmer Weber, Springfield, Illinois, to Mary J. Booth, Charleston, Illinois, 17 October 1911, Mary J. Booth Collection, University Archives, Booth Library, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston Illinois.

<sup>3</sup>Charles H. Coleman, *Eastern Illinois State College: Fifty Years of Public Service* (Springfield, Ill., 1950), 171.

appreciated, for the boys like good American books and these are that kind.<sup>4</sup>

Booth worked very hard to provide books for the troops. She summed up her volunteer experience: "[e]arly in July we reached New York and the experiences overseas became a memory; happy in part, sad in part, mingled with a feeling of thankfulness that I had been permitted to be over there."<sup>5</sup> Perhaps Booth's librarian experience in the war prompted her later in her career to realize the need for a new library at Eastern. The library symbolized a necessary part of the school, just as it had been a necessary part of the soldier's lives which gave them hope.

Booth's contributions to the University are another example of how dedicated she was in promoting learning amongst the students. Booth published many of her own works including records of books in her library, geography material indexes (*Journal of Geography*), and her *Index to Material on Picture Study* (an index to children's books). She sent library information booklets out to other universities and correspondence from Phineas L. Winsor of the University of Illinois Library School shows that Mary Booth often sent her publications to other schools without charge.<sup>6</sup> Booth's work was truly her passion.

Mary Booth also contracted to work outside the University compiling indexes for other organizations and for the Index office, a national library categorizing organization. Booth spent a month organizing the library at the Southwestern Louisiana Institute in Lafayette, Louisiana, which increased from 4,000 to 10,000 books to gain membership to the Southern Association of Colleges.<sup>7</sup> During several summers, Booth worked as a volunteer without pay at the New York Public Library. Booth gained valuable experience and knowledge of the variety of books available. There is much correspondence of Booth requesting library materials, sending books back to their original schools, and discussing the Dewey Decimal system. Her correspondence

<sup>4</sup>Mary J. Booth, "Books Over There," speech to the Daughters of the American Revolution, 8 February 1936, Mary J. Booth Collection.

<sup>5</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup>Coleman, *Fifty Years of Service*, 359; Phineas L. Winsor, Urbana, Illinois, to Mary J. Booth, Charleston, Illinois, 14 April 1925, Mary J. Booth Collection.

<sup>7</sup>*Minsterdam Evening Recorder* (New York), 19 April 1923.

shows Booth was in high demand. She was asked to compile a bibliography of poems written about Abe Lincoln for the centennial of Lincoln's birth in 1908.<sup>8</sup> Booth was, in fact, so well known in the library community that she felt confident enough to apply for the editorship at the H.W. Windsor company, a prestigious publishing house in New York.

Among all these examples of Booth's persistence, the biggest accomplishment in her life was the building of the Mary J. Booth Library on Eastern's campus. From 1900 to 1948, the library at Eastern Illinois State College increased from 2,500 books to over 67,000 books. The library was located in Old Main and sprawled over six classrooms before the new library was built. Books were stored in the "tower" which made them highly inaccessible. Reading space was also inadequate as the student population rose year after year. In 1933, limited space and a growing student body caused the stacks to be closed to students.<sup>9</sup> In the 1930 *Warbler* yearbook, Miss Booth outlined the type of building that was needed.<sup>10</sup> Finally, after much insistence on the matter of the new library, the Illinois General Assembly appropriated \$2,010,092 for the building and another \$80,000 to furnish it in October 1947.<sup>11</sup> The library building, named after Booth, was the first major building erected at Eastern since 1940. An article in the Illinois State Register said about Booth: "She has the distinction of being one of the first living woman academic leaders in Illinois for whom a college building was named."<sup>12</sup> This was quite an accomplishment for a woman at that time.

Mary Booth received an honorary Doctor of Literature degree from Beloit College on June 5 of the same year as the grand opening of the new library. When Booth died on January 2, 1965 at the age of 88, the local newspaper produced a lengthy tribute.<sup>13</sup> Mary Booth's early contributions to the University and her persistence and dedication were the inspiration for and prompted construction of the much needed library facility in use today.

<sup>8</sup>Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield, Illinois to Mary J. Booth, Charleston, Illinois, 5 December 1908, Mary J. Booth Collection.

<sup>9</sup>Coleman, *Fifty Years of Service*, 279.

<sup>10</sup>*Ibid.*, 281.

<sup>11</sup>*Ibid.*, 277.

<sup>12</sup>*Illinois State Register* (Springfield), 22 May 1950.

<sup>13</sup>*Charleston Courier News*, 2 January 1965.

## The U-2 Incident

Amanda Standerfer

*Amanda Standerfer is a graduate student in history at Eastern Illinois University and has held the Illinois Regional Archives Depository Internship at Booth Library. This essay was written for a seminar in Diplomatic History with Professor Mark White. It was co-winner of the Hamand Graduate Writing Award for 1997.*

In November 1954, John Foster Dulles, Allen Dulles, and several other advisors approached President Dwight D. Eisenhower about proceeding with a program for a special high-performance aircraft possibly to be used for reconnaissance. They wanted to produce about thirty planes for around \$35 million. Lockheed had developed, under tight security, a light-weight plane called the U-2, which could maintain altitudes over 60,000 feet for a long period of time. Eisenhower later said that "any leak of information either at home or abroad could compel abandonment of the entire idea of such a reconnaissance plane."<sup>1</sup> The name U-2 or a utility plane, cloaked its reconnaissance capabilities. Since the government could not deny the existence of the plane, it was said to be used for gathering climate information around the world. The President approved the plan because of the need for intelligence information about the Soviet Union, and, consequently flights began in 1956. Pilots from the Air Force, including Francis Gary Powers, were chosen based on their experience and rigorously trained.

On 1 May 1960, Powers's plane crashed near Sverdlovsk, nearly 1,500 miles into the heart of Russia, sparking a possible international crisis. The President was informed when it was certain that the plane was missing. The President was also told that the possibility that the pilot lived was slim to none. He had been "assured that if a plane were to go down it would be

<sup>1</sup>Dwight D. Eisenhower, *The White House Years: Waging Peace, 1956-1961* (New York, 1965), 544.