

# FOCUS online

NCSU LIBRARIES

VOLUME 26 NO. 1

2005

## PART II LIBRARY SEMINARS AND EVENTS

EXPLORING THE “WHO DUNNIT?” OF  
SCHOLARLY WORK

FYI: DIANA WALKER TRAVELING  
EXHIBIT SCHEDULED

VOLUME 26 NO. 1, PART I  
LIBRARY NEWS

VOLUME 26 NO. 1, PART III  
NEW LIBRARY PERSONNEL

VOLUME 26 NO. 1, PART IV  
DEVELOPMENT

VOLUME 26 NO. 1, PART V  
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY



One of the colorful plates from E. A. Seguy's *Papillons*, recently acquired by the Special Collections Research Center, NCSU Libraries. See "Special Collections Acquires Elusive Butterfly Portfolio," in Library News.

© NCSU, 2005  
CB 7111  
Raleigh, N.C. 27695-7111

Photographs by Becky Kirkland and Daniel Kim, NCSU, unless otherwise noted.

Please direct queries or feedback about this issue to [terry\\_crow@ncsu.edu](mailto:terry_crow@ncsu.edu).



*[Left to right]:  
Blaise Cronin,  
keynote speaker  
at the 2005 I. T.  
Littleton Seminar,  
and I. T. Littleton,  
former NCSU  
library director.*

## Exploring the “Who Dunit?” of Scholarly Work

BY KATHERINE DEXTER WILLIS, RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

**B**laise Cronin, dean of the School of Library and Information Science and Rudy Professor of Information Science at Indiana University, was the featured speaker at the 2005 I. T. Littleton Seminar, held on April 13, 2005, at the NCSU Libraries. Cronin, educated in Ireland and a frequent speaker and writer on topics relating to scholarly communication, academic scholarship, and collaboration in science, discussed “Who Dunit? Agency, Attribution, and Authority in an Age of Hyper-authorship.” He described the differences in publishing regimes and norms across disciplines, issues of formal and informal collaboration in science, the growth of coauthorship, and the ways in which cognitive and material contributions to scholarship can be acknowledged and quantified.

During his presentation, Cronin discussed evolving trends in authorship and the issues involved in tracking and itemizing individual contributions to academic work. Hyperauthorship—in which as many as several hundred people can be listed as authors of a single research paper—is becoming increasingly prevalent in academia, particularly in the physical sciences. With increases in collaboration and multiauthor papers, both on a national and international level, traditional views of scientific research are shifting. Academics and librarians are faced with the growing challenge of how to specify, measure, and organize the details of collaborative authorship. Cronin specifically addressed the issue of acknowledgments. Authors include valuable information about collaboration in

the acknowledgements of their publications, but these acknowledgements are currently not tracked or quantified in any regulated way. Cronin says, “these developments in collaboration, in coauthorship; and this under-recognition of the contributions—all of these significant others who inhabit acknowledgments—are going to have to be taken into account” by the academic community. Attendees of the talk, which was followed by a reception, found it to be an engaging and thought-provoking presentation. A lively and substantive question-and-answer session followed Cronin’s remarks.

The annual I. T. Littleton Seminars are funded by an endowment established in 1987 to honor former library director I. T. Littleton upon his retirement from NC State. The series addresses major issues that affect libraries across the nation and provides an exploration of diverse perspectives. The event is coordinated and hosted by the North Carolina State University Librarians Association (NCSULA). Members of the NCSULA Steering Committee for 2004–2005 were Katherine Dexter Willis, chair; Scott Warren, vice chair and chair-elect; Monica Lopez, secretary; and Carol Vreeland, liaison to the NCSU Libraries’ Staff Association. ❖

## FYI Diana Walker Traveling Photography Exhibit Scheduled



*Queen Elizabeth of England making a toast at a state dinner given in her honor by President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan in San Francisco, California, March 1983.*

*Reagan said later that the queen’s visit coincided with a heavy rain and that she joked she “knew the Puritans, when they came to the New World, brought many customs from England, but she hadn’t realized they brought the rain with them, too.”*

*Image credit: Photograph by Diana Walker, courtesy of the Center for American History, University of Texas, Austin.*

From October 15, 2005, through January 8, 2006, the NCSU Libraries will host the exhibit *Diana Walker: Photojournalist*, which was produced by the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History, Behring Center, and organized for travel by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.

The exhibit comprises eighty-three color and black-and-white photographs depicting life at the White House from the Ford through the Clinton administrations, as well as portraits of other noteworthy people and events. *Time* and other magazine covers and page layouts are in the exhibit, documenting the transformation of individual photographs into iconic publishing moments. ❖



*Focus*, a newsletter published three times a year, seeks to promote the services, activities, needs, and interests of the NCSU Libraries to the university, the Friends of the Library, and beyond.

Editor: Terrell Armistead Crow.

NCSU Libraries Homepage: <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/>