

For Immediate Release

5/20/13

Contact: Kristi Lyn Glass

Gothic Romance Lending Library Donated to McDaniel College

Gothic Journal donated its 3,400+ volume Gothic Romance Lending Library (GRLL) and a set of *Gothic Journal* back issues to McDaniel College's Hoover Library in Westminster, Maryland, where both were delivered on May 13, 2013. McDaniel College has agreed to pay for the GRLL's shipment to Maryland and to retain in its Hoover Library at least half of the collection, which contains approximately 1,200 duplicate titles.

"We are very excited to receive this wonderful donation of gothic romance literature that will complement our growing American Romance Collection made possible by the Nora Roberts Foundation," said Hoover Library Director Jessame Ferguson. "We look forward to making books from the GRLL available to interested readers and researchers for many years to come. After we process them into our circulating collection, they will be available to anyone in the McDaniel College community or to the general public via interlibrary loan."

For the past two years, McDaniel College has been awarded significant grant funding from the Nora Roberts Foundation to help advance research and study of romance literature. Nora Roberts is a best-selling author of more than 200 romance novels. These grants support McDaniel's academic minor in romance fiction and an online creative writing course on the subject, in addition to the American Romance Collection, and now the GRLL, in Hoover Library. All this has established McDaniel as one of the few centers for the study of the romance genre.

In August, 1996, *Gothic Journal* launched the nonprofit GRLL to preserve gothic romance novels for future generations to read, because many of these novels were ending up in dumpsters as the existence of independent and used book stores significantly declined. Generous book donations by gothic romance lovers, authors, and publishers quickly swelled the collection's size, and the library processed hundreds of book orders.

"All who donated books to the GRLL were assured that their donations would be preserved and made available for future generations' enjoyment," said Gothic Journal Publisher Kristi Lyn Glass. "Another important commitment was that the books would never be sold, because the GRLL's now out-of-print books have become increasingly valuable to collectors."

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To honor the latter commitment, the Hoover Library will stamp all donated books with " Gothic Romance Lending Library Donation--NOT FOR RESALE." Any GRLL books that Hoover cannot retain will be donated, given away for free, or discarded.

Genres in the GRLL include gothic romance, romantic suspense, romantic mystery, and supernatural, paranormal, and woman-in-jeopardy romance novels. Inclusion required that each book contained three key ingredients: romance, life-threatening suspense, and a puzzle or mystery.

The GRLL was housed and managed by volunteer librarians Rod and Pat Christian in their Spokane, Washington, home from August 1996 until June 2012, when the librarians requested retirement, as both were then in their 70s. The GRLL was then moved to the home of volunteer librarian Lila Ekstrom in Eugene, Oregon. Later that year, several volunteer GRLL Ambassadors were recruited to help promote the GRLL via the internet and social media.

For over 16 years, GRLL users could order up to eight books at one time for delivery by mail, and they could keep them for approximately three months. Books had to be returned (using the provided prepaid mailer) postmarked on or before the due date. All-inclusive prices averaged \$2.00-\$5.00 per book, depending on the quantity ordered.

"I am extremely grateful for the interest, care, and dedication of the GRLL's book donors, librarians, and ambassadors over the years," Glass said. "*Gothic Journal* could not have sponsored and maintained the GRLL without their invaluable help."

"I am also grateful to McDaniel College for relieving me of my personal commitment to the GRLL and those who donated its books," Glass added. "With the GRLL's donation to the Hoover Library, these wonderful stories definitely will be made publicly available and cost-effectively preserved for posterity in a center for the study of romance literature. *Gothic Journal* couldn't have found a better home for them."

In 1991, Glass founded the GRLL's sponsor, *Gothic Journal*, which, through 1998, was the only news and review magazine for readers, writers, and publishers of romantic suspense, romantic mystery, and gothic, supernatural, and woman-in-jeopardy romance novels.

Although *Gothic Journal* was eclipsed by the internet and is no longer published, its website, GothicJournal.com, makes available some of its publisher's book reviews, lengthy hyperlinked book lists, extensive author profiles, and informative back issues. This site's GRLL web page provides two versions of the library catalog and will eventually offer a link to the Hoover Library's catalog of donated GRLL novels where they may be requested via interlibrary loan.

Gothic Journal continues to provide occasional emailed newsletters and lists of recommended titles in its genres via its website and its amazon.com bookstore, <http://astore.amazon.com/gothicjournal>.

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