Notes from the
John Martin Rare Book Room
June, 2010

Ed Holtum, Hardin Library for the Health Sciences, 1971-2010

Since 1971 EDWIN A, HOLTUM has worked for the Hardin Library for the Health Sciences, the University of Iowa Libraries and as Curator of the John Martin Rare Book Room. He retires on June 30, 2010.

After nearly 39 years with The University of Iowa Libraries, Ed Holtum is retiring. Notes from colleagues:

- John Schacht, long time supporter of the History of Medicine Society, said he’s always known Ed to be very good at whatever he turned his hand to: running a committee, introducing a speaker, organizing a program, coaxing information from what had seemed a recalcitrant database, presenting his own research in a formal setting, giving a musical presentation, enlivening social situations with his formidable wit—always gently.

- Paul Soderdahl, Director of Library Technology, offered that Ed is a font of historical knowledge, a Renaissance man, and a rarity unto himself, so it’s no surprise he would end his distinguished library career as a curator. He has made the history of medicine come alive with his trivia, anecdotes, and stunning digital imagery. I will miss Ed dearly as a colleague and co-conspirator.

- Donna Hirst, Curator-Elect of the John Martin Rare Book Room, said that it has been a delight to work with Ed during her training. The joy he feels for his work is very infectious.

Ed Holtum’s retirement party is Wednesday, June 30, 2010 in the 1st floor Staff Lounge of the Main Library. You are invited to help Ed celebrate.