LIBRARIANS RECOGNIZE EXCELLENCE IN UNIVERSITY PRESS PUBLISHING

Valued Collection Development Reference Tool Released; “Best of the Best” to be showcased at ALA meeting in Chicago

(June 9, 2005) New York – If you think books published by university presses are only for professors, academics, and specialists in arcane subjects – think again.

Librarians who work daily with high school students and the general public have selected, reviewed, and rated approximately 500 books published this year by nonprofit scholarly publishers—one subjects ranging from American poetry to Islamic art; from public health issues to John Donne; from Jacqueline Kennedy to why objective truth matters.

The fifteenth edition of University Press Books Selected for Public and Secondary School Libraries is now available in print and online at www.aaupnet.org/librarybooks. This popular and trusted acquisitions resource is the product of a longstanding and successful collaboration between AAUP, the Association of School Librarians (ASL), and the Public Library Association (PLA).

More than 14,000 copies will be distributed free to librarians across the country, and the recent expansion into an online format will increase the availability of the bibliography to librarians around the world.

To launch this new edition of the bibliography, a special program entitled “The Best of the Best of the University Presses: Books You Should Know About” will be presented at the summer meeting of the American Library Association on June 25 in Chicago.

At this session, six librarians from the selection committees will present 27 of their favorite titles from the bibliography. AAUP Marketing Manager Rachel Weiss says, “The program will make librarians aware of the many great university/scholarly press publications being published today.” By providing a public forum, the annual session has increased awareness and use of the bibliography in collection planning.

A list of the titles to be presented is at www.aaupnet.org/programs/marketing/library/bestofbest05.html. Publishers will contribute copies of the books to be raffled off to the librarians in attendance.
The presenting librarians hail from around the country: Carla Bauman-Franks, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, IN; Gayles Evans, Chicago State University, Chicago, IL; Mary D. Lankford, Library Specialist in Austin TX; Gay Ann Loesch, Sun Valley Middle School, Charlotte, NC; Terri Maggio, Southwest Georgia Regional Library, Bainbridge, GA; and Karen Perry, Central Davidson School in High Point, NC.

The Association of American University Presses (www.aaupnet.org) is the world’s largest organization of not-for-profit scholarly publishers. Formally established in 1937, AAUP promotes the work and influence of its 125 scholarly press members. AAUP’s mission is to serve member presses through cooperative programs, professional development opportunities, and by promoting the valuable work that these presses do.