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On behalf of all of us in Special Collections, I am pleased to share with you, by way of this (our second) annual report, some of the highlights from the period between July 2017 and June 2018. For the University, which celebrated its bicentennial, and for Special Collections, which moved into a beautifully renovated—and appropriately renamed—space, it was a year marked by a number of milestones.

Three days into the Fall 2017 semester, on Thursday 7 September, we began directing patrons to our new space on the sixth floor of the Hatcher Graduate Library, where our Reading Room, a large instruction/presentation space, a small exhibit gallery, and offices for some of our staff are now located. I invite you to visit the space, if you haven’t already, which is comfortable and flexible and affords some of the best views of campus.

In March we invited the community to a ribbon-cutting ceremony and announced a new name to go along with our new space: Special Collections Research Center. The change is intended to draw attention to the research, instruction, consultation, and other activities that take place within. Special Collections Research Center is actually the fourth name by which the unit has been known. In 1899, the U-M Library created a number of caged areas in the stacks, and, in so doing, established one of the first rare book rooms in the country. By 1913, these caged areas had come to be known as the Rare Book Rooms, and they continued to provide protection for rare and valuable volumes as well as for other types of increasingly vulnerable collection material including manuscripts, photographs, maps, and musical scores. After assuming responsibility for the Papyrology Collection and the Joseph A. Labadie Collection in the 1960s, the unit was renamed the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. And early in 1992, in recognition of the breadth and the depth of the collections that had come under its care, the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections became the Special Collections Library.

Considerably more about the history of Special Collections can be found in two contributions to a volume published by the University of Michigan Press on the occasion of the University’s bicentennial. Object Lessons and the Formation of Knowledge: The University of Michigan Museums, Libraries and Collections, 1817-2017 consists of several framing articles about the history of collections at the University along with a number of biographical sketches of key figures in that history and a historical portrait of each of the more than twenty museum, library, and other collections at the University. I had the great pleasure of preparing the portrait of the U-M Library’s several special collections; my colleague Julie Herrada authored a fascinating sketch of Agnes Inglis, the first curator of the Joseph A. Labadie Collection.

Finally, marking a significant milestone in our ongoing effort to create opportunities for connecting researchers with our incredible collections and our passionate curators, we established our first research fellowship program.

Thank you for your support of the Special Collections Research Center.

Martha O’Hara Conway
Director, Special Collections Research Center
Martha Conway (Director, Special Collections Research Center), James Hilton (University Librarian and Dean of Libraries), and Matthew Solomon (Associate Professor, Department of Film, Television, and Media) cut the ribbon at a March 2018 event celebrating the opening of the Special Collections Research Center on the 6th floor of the Hatcher Graduate Library.

Dedicated spaces for research, instruction, and consultation are complemented by an open study space and an exhibit gallery, where a regular rotation of displays gives frequent visitors an opportunity to see a wide variety of collection materials.
Scholarship

Andrea Steves, Heidrich Fellow, at work in our Reading Room.

WILLIAM P. HEIDRICH FELLOWSHIPS

We are deeply grateful to Bill Heidrich (MA, History of Art, ’82) for the very generous gift that made it possible for us to establish the William P. Heidrich Research Fellowship Program, which provides funds for individuals whose research would benefit from extended, on-site use of the Joseph A. Labadie Collection. In its inaugural year, we awarded eight fellowships to ten researchers who traveled from near (Ohio) and far (Poland) to engage in academic as well as creative projects on a wide range of topics supported by our renowned collection of books, pamphlets, newspapers, and other materials documenting the histories of anarchism, labor and workers’ rights, LGBTQ movements, youth and student protest, and related subjects.


SELECTED PUBLICATIONS FEATURING OUR COLLECTIONS

Antrim, Zayde. Mapping the Middle East.

Basile Chopas, Mary Elizabeth. Searching for Subversives: The Story of Italian Internment in Wartime America.

Blair, Sheila and Jonathan Bloom, eds. By the Pen and What They Write: Writing in Islamic Art and Culture.


Knipe, Penley. “The Papers in the Qajar Album.” In An Album of Artists’ Drawings from Qajar Iran.


Mizan: Journal for the Study of Muslim Societies and Civilizations 2.1.


Stolz, Daniel A. The Lighthouse and the Observatory: Islam, Science, and Empire in Late Ottoman Egypt.

**Reading Room**

**Reading Room Visitors by Month**

- **U-M affiliates**
- **Other**

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>U-M Affiliates</th>
<th>Other</th>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>1,158</td>
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<td>Aug.</td>
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<td>Sept.</td>
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<td>Oct.</td>
<td>1,158</td>
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<td>June</td>
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**Reading Room Visitors by Affiliation**

- **U-M Undergraduates** 29%
- **U-M Graduate Students** 18%
- **U-M Faculty** 16%
- **Non-U-M Affiliates** 26%
- **Other U-M Affiliates** 11%

**Numbers**

- **1,158** Reading Room visitors
- **3,196** Reading Room check outs
- **457** Reading Room check outs in busiest month (March)
- **14,936** Images captured for duplication requests
**ENGLISH 313: CHILDREN’S LITERATURE AND THE INVENTION OF MODERN CHILDHOOD**

A semester-long collaboration among several of us in Special Collections with Dr. Lisa Makman of the Department of English Language and Literature and the more than 40 students enrolled in her class resulted in a student-curated exhibit titled *Seven Fantasy Classics for Children*. The exhibit explores the role that illustration plays in keeping fairy tales and other stories for children, including *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* and *Peter Pan*, fresh for new audiences and in new cultural contexts. Working in pairs, the students selected a book from our Children’s Literature Collection, researched its background, and prepared an exhibit label about the specific edition they selected. Their collaboratively curated exhibit was displayed in the Audubon Room. Each student also wrote a paper comparing three editions of one of the works, looking at how illustration contributes to its reworking and reimagining over the decades.

**MODERN GREEK 214: INTRODUCTION TO MODERN GREEK CULTURE**

Dr. Despina Margomenou, a lecturer in the Department of Classical Studies’ Modern Greek Program, brought her students to the Special Collections Research Center to view and discuss a collection of archival materials about political activism and student protest during the Greek military junta of 1967–1974. Also participating in the conversation, by way of a video conference, was Dr. Konstantinos Kornetis of Oxford University, whose award-winning book *Children of the Dictatorship: Student Resistance, Cultural Politics, and the “Long 1960s”* the students were reading for the class. The session provided an unusual, much-appreciated opportunity for the students to engage directly and simultaneously with both an international scholar and a collection that makes research like his possible.
Curriculum-Related Sessions

SELECTED CLASSES
The African Americanization of Victorian Literature
American Literature 1865-1965: Civil Disobedience
The Art of Protest: Activist Aesthetics
Authorship and the Archive
Children’s Literature and the Invention of Modern Childhood
Crime and Drugs in Modern America
Design + Power
The German Discovery of Sex
The Holy Land in Visual Culture
Himalayas: An Aesthetic Exploration
Intermediate Mechanics
Islamic Mysticism: Sufism in Time and Space
Much Depends on Dinner
Paleography and Textual Criticism
Printmaking
Qur’an and its Interpretations
Sex and Gender in U.S. History
Theorizing Knowledge in the Social Sciences
Transgender American Histories
What is an American?
Women at Michigan: 147 Years of the Dangerous Experiment

SESSIONS BY DEPARTMENT
- English Language and Lit.
- Near Eastern Studies
- History
- American Culture
- Residential College
- Women's Studies
- History of Art
- Art & Design
- Classical Studies
- Screen Arts and Cultures
- African American Studies
- Applied Liberal Arts
- Physics
- Classical Studies
- Musicology
- Judaic Studies
- Anthropology
- Communication Studies

SESSIONS BY LEVEL
- 300 level: 33%
- 400 level: 12%
- 300 level: 55%
- 200 level: 36%
- 100 level: 10%
- 500 level and above: 9%
EXHIBITS

Storied Acquisitions: Highlights from the University of Michigan Library Collections
8 May - 30 August 2017, Audubon Room

Ira Deutchman: A Commitment to Specialty Films
2 June - 31 July 2017, Hatcher Library Gallery and Lobby; Traverse City Film Festival

Reforming the Word: Martin Luther in Context
5 September - 15 November 2017, Audubon Room

The Life and Times of Lizzy Bennet
20 November 2017 - 30 March 2018, Audubon Room

Handwritten Heritage: Arabic Texts in Manuscript
5 March - 13 April 2018, Special Collections Exhibit Gallery

Seven Fantasy Classics for Children
10 April - 15 August 2018, Audubon Room

Quaker Oats Makes a Movie: A Scrumdiddlyumptious Wonka Adventure
17 April - 20 July 2018, Special Collections Exhibit Gallery

ONLINE EXHIBITS

Seven Fantasy Classics for Children
https://www.lib.umich.edu/online-exhibits/exhibits/show/seven-fantasy-classics

The Life and Times of Lizzy Bennet
https://www.lib.umich.edu/online-exhibits/exhibits/show/lizzy-bennet

Reforming the Word: Martin Luther in Context
https://www.lib.umich.edu/online-exhibits/exhibits/show/reforming-the-word

Storied Acquisitions
https://www.lib.umich.edu/online-exhibits/exhibits/show/storied-acquisitions
Commemorating the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen’s death, this exhibit invited visitors to explore the cultural and historical context of Austen’s novels through contemporary works such as Olaudah Equiano’s *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* (1789), Mary Wollstonecraft’s *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792), and Humphry Repton’s *Sketches and Hints on Landscape Gardening* (1795). We worked with a number of campus and community partners to organize a variety of exhibit-related events, from exhibit tours to embroidery workshops. Of particular note was a one-day conference, “Mapping Austen’s World: Movement and Journeys in the 19th Century,” a collaboration between the U-M Library and the Nineteenth-Century Forum. We are grateful to Leslie and Hillary Keyes, whose generous support by way of the Daniel Keyes Family Fund for the Special Collections Library helped to make possible the many events associated with our Austen exhibit.

**POPPING UP ON CAMPUS**

Pop-up exhibits are set up relatively quickly, for short-term exposure of collection material in a temporary location, with the goal of creating a lasting impression on the visitor. We took advantage of a new U-M Library “outpost” in the recently-renovated Weiser Hall to experiment with pop-up exhibits as a way to engage students and others, by chance and on the spot. Over the course of the Winter 2018 semester, in a series of five pop-up exhibits, we featured material about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Black Power; International Women’s Day; and Earth Day. Our audience grew with each of these lively, informal events, and we referred several interested students to our Reading Room to further explore our collections.
Notable Acquisitions

BOOK OF HOURS (USE OF BESANÇON)

From the fourteenth to the mid-sixteenth century, more books of hours were made than any other type of book. Usually very small and easily portable, books of hours served as prayer books for private devotion to the Virgin Mary by lay people. Tens of thousands survive today, in libraries, museums, and private collections throughout the world, including several in our collection of medieval and Renaissance manuscripts. To that collection we added a particularly fine volume produced in northern France in the first half of the fifteenth century. Written in Latin and French, the manuscript is illuminated with four full-page miniatures depicting major events in the Christian faith.

ISLAMIC MANUSCRIPTS

Complementing our collection of more than 1,100 volumes are five manuscripts acquired at the Sotheby’s Arts of the Islamic World sale that took place in London on 25 April 2018. These volumes, including a beautifully illuminated, octagonally-shaped, miniature Qur’an, are a welcome addition to our already-extensive holdings on Islamic codicology and book arts, Sufi intellectual culture, Ottoman culture, and the Qur’an.

ARTISTS’ BOOKS

Artists’ books are works of art in book form, often published in small editions or produced as one-of-a-kind objects. We acquired seven new works by Cuban book artist Rolando Estévez, including four one-of-a-kind books in which the poetry of Jose Martí and Digdora Alonso is transformed into breathtaking new forms. Additions to our holdings by Michigan artists include works by Lynne Avadenka and editions published by Bloodroot Press and Deep Woods Press. We also acquired several artists’ books in particularly unusual formats, such as Yi Tiger Festival by Colette Fu, a single-opening photographic pop-up book that comes alive when opened with the ringing of small bells that are attached to the book.
RUFFNER TREASURES

Frederick Gale Ruffner, Jr., was a Detroit-based publisher and collector who had amassed an entire warehouse of books by the time he passed away, at the age of 87, in 2014. An omnivorous reader, Ruffner collected in a huge variety of genres, including travel literature, books about books, transportation history, and children’s literature. Through several purchases from the Ruffner Trust, we added numerous early 20th century illustrated books for children from important New York and London publishers. Among the treasures we acquired are two chromolithographic cloth books published by McLoughlin Brothers, Snapshots at Santa Claus (1906) and Merry Christmas ABC (1900); several titles from the Frederick Warne & Co. series, Aunt Louisa’s London Toy Books; and a number of very unusual pieces, including a Winnie-the-Pooh calendar from 1930, several posters illustrated by Maurice Sendak, and My Indian Library, a set of 8 linenlike books issued by Platt & Munk in the 1930s.

PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM

Cartes-de-visite, or visiting cards, are small photographic portraits mounted on cards (3.5 x 2.25 inches) that were traded among friends and assembled into albums from about 1859 through the early 1870s. One such album that we acquired captured our attention because it includes photographs of the Chaapel family—free-thinkers, spiritualists, reformers, and abolitionists whose papers are held in our Labadie Collection—and likely belonged to Jay Chaapel (1829-1902) himself. The beautifully engraved, leather-bound album has a handwritten index of the more than 100 radicals, reformers, and others whose photographs are contained within, including Sojourner Truth, Robert Smalls, John Brown, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Henry Ward Beecher, Robert Dale Owen, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

THOMPSON FAMILY PAPERS

Dr. William A. and Mamie Lee Thompson were active in the Detroit chapter of the NAACP from the late 1920s through the early 1940s. Their son, Arthur Lee Thompson, became the Navy’s first black physician in 1944. The papers consist of hundreds of personal and family photographs—posed portraits and Polaroid snapshots—and ephemera, correspondence, photographs, and awards related to the Thompsons’ activities with the NAACP. Some of the photographs depict the family enjoying leisure time at Idlewild, Michigan, one of the few resorts in the country where African-Americans were allowed to vacation and purchase property before discrimination was outlawed through the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

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Cartes-de-visite featuring Theodore Tilton, Frederick Douglass, Lucretia Mott, and Wendell Phillips.
EMMA GOLDMAN LETTERS

Further distinguishing our Joseph A. Labadie Collection as a premier destination for primary source and other resources by and about Emma Goldman, we acquired a trove of letters exchanged between Goldman and Warren Starr Van Valkenburgh, editor of Road to Freedom, one of the most important anarchist periodicals of the 1920s. Consisting of typed and handwritten letters, telegrams, and postcards, the correspondence covers a range of personal and political topics, including Goldman’s experiences living in exile from the United States, her writing (especially of Living My Life), Van Valkenburgh’s efforts on Goldman’s behalf, the Spanish Revolution, the rise of fascism in Germany and Italy, and the future of anarchism in the United States.

THE ALTERNATIVE PRESS

We acquired presses, 150 drawers of metal type, and hundreds of ornaments from Ken Mikolowski who, in 1969, with his wife, Ann, founded The Alternative Press, a poetic mail-art experiment that distributed the work of artists from Detroit’s Cass Corridor arts community alongside Beat and Black Mountain poets. These Alternative Press materials are used in the Book Arts Studio, a working letterpress studio in the Art, Architecture, and Engineering Library, where workshops and weekly open studio time provide a variety of opportunities for printers to work on projects and for students to gain a hands-on understanding of printing history and contemporary letterpress practices.

ALAN AND JOYCE RUDOLPH PAPERS

Opened for research in a June 2018 celebration are the papers of Alan Rudolph, filmmaker, and Joyce Rudolph, photographer. Alan Rudolph worked with Robert Altman on “The Long Goodbye” and “Nashville” before striking out on his own as director, often with Altman as producer, making quirky ensemble pieces including Choose Me (1984), The Moderns (1988), and Mrs. Parker and the Vicious Circle (1994). Joyce Rudolph is an on-set still photographer whose work has appeared on magazine covers and in advertisements for movies including A Nightmare on Elm Street (1984), The Terminator (1984), Major League (1989), and Short Cuts (1993). Documenting the careers of both Rudolphs, the collection includes production notes, drafts and revisions of scripts, and (of course) photographs. The June 2018 celebration, which was co-sponsored by the Cinetopia International Film Festival, featured a symposium exploring the “unreal reality” of Alan Rudolph’s work, two exhibitions, and several film screenings.
Staff Listing

Pablo Alvarez  
Curator

Martha O’Hara Conway  
Director

Kathleen L. Dow  
Archivist and Curator

Anne Elias  
Collection Services Specialist

Fe Susan T. Go  
Curator, Philippine History Collections

Kristine Greive  
Exhibits Librarian and Curator

Philip A. Hallman  
Curator, Screen Arts Mavericks & Makers Collection

Julie A. Herrada  
Curator, Joseph A. Labadie Collection

Meg Hixon  
Processing Archivist

Rebecca Huffman  
Description Project Assistant

Kate Hutchens  
Research Services Librarian

Evyn Kropf  
Curator, Islamic Manuscripts Collection

Juli McLoone  
Curator

Meg Milewski  
Description Project Assistant

Caitlin R. Wells  
Collection Services Librarian

Lauren White  
Processing Archivist