

THE RARE BOOK & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

INTRODUCTION

One of most active libraries on campus, The Rare Book & Manuscript Library is not merely a repository of rare materials, but rather as a place of inspiration and discovery for our students and faculty. We are involved not only in the traditional activities of a special collections library such as acquisitions, teaching, aiding researchers, and improving access to collections, but also in producing appealing public events, educational programming, and exhibitions. In short, we serve as a cultural center for our region and for national and international communities of scholars. And as we build upon our collections and curatorial strength, we also explore new technologies—from digitization to blogging to micro spectroscopy—and beyond.

At RBML we have a shared vision and mission that centers around two areas: Collections and Programming. Specifically, we make our collections accessible through cataloging, finding aids, publications, digital facsimiles, and other electronic forms, and we celebrate and make known the collections by promoting their use through teaching, research, and public engagement.

Below we list some of our most notable activities of the past year.

COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT

ACQUISITIONS

Complete list available. Highlights include:

- Three unpublished letters by Marcel Proust;
- The earliest known cookbook for French pastry (1655);
- 14 Samizdat (banned Russian literature);
- A 17th-century Japanese illustrated encyclopedia for women;
- Only known copy of the earliest book on recreational Origami;
- Rare first edition of the first major work of celestial cartography published in Spain (1793);
- Interactive 18th-century solar eclipse viewing 'kit' by astronomer Georg Moriz Lowitz, 1748;
- 1653 emblem book celebrating the coronation of Ferdinand IV of Austria;
- A book of international folksongs prepared by Alan Lomax and Czech musicologist Svatava Jacobson, 1943. Never published commercially;
- Large collection of letters, books, and manuscripts from the H.G. Wells collection of Larry McMurtry;

- Two collections of important Carl Sandburg archival material, one from the artist who did his portrait and the other from a mistress in California;
- 22 English lottery broadsides, London: ca.1814-1815;
- ABC for German-speaking children in St. Petersburg, handcolored, otherwise unrecorded, 1830
- A Horn Book from ca. 1750;
- Collection of books and items related to Peter Pan. Gift of Frank and Didi Miles;
- Various modern poetry title from small presses. Gift of Willis Regier;
- Nine modern poetry and art books. Gift of Bea Nettles;
- Ten rare geography and travel books. Gift of Roger Baskes.

TRANSFERS

RBML is responsible for all “collections of rare books and manuscripts held in departmental libraries.” To this end, we have “rescued” many valuable volumes from both the stacks and departmental libraries. This year, we transferred books from the Math Library, Art & Architecture, and the main stacks, and completed a big project to help the Prairie Research Institute disperse its special collections. We have also rewritten the guidelines for transferring books to RBOS in an effort to save rare items from theft and decay.

Much more could (and should) be done, if we had more support. We need staff, space, and library-wide cooperation to steward the scattered collections of rare and valuable books and manuscripts not already housed in RBML. We are losing significant books to theft and decay.

VAULT MAINTENANCE

New areas for holds and project carts were created and Public Services planned and undertook a major shift of collections to make room for new holdings.

CONSERVATION

Our conservation priorities are driven by exhibitions and teaching needs primarily, as well as relative cultural value. We lament the loss of Henry Hebert, our book conservator and a valuable member of our exhibition team, to another institution.

STABILIZATION

As with conservation, books in need of stabilization are prioritized based on 1) cultural and market value, 2) the needs of the exhibition program, and 3) their use in the curriculum. We stabilize items in house by replacing pambinders, tying, supporting with museum board, etc., according to the guidelines of the Conservation Unit. We have a program, much expanded since the mold outbreak, to measure and order boxes and clamshells for rare and brittle material. This year we rehoused 1,197 items and measured for over 120 clamshell boxes.

ACCESS

CATALOGING

Please NOTE this amazing fact: UIUC ranks in the top ten original cataloging contributors to OCLC—and RBML cataloging accounts for 20% of that figure. This is impressive, it is also profitable for UIUC (OCLC pays for original cataloging records). And this is done despite the fact that RBML does not have a permanent, full time rare book cataloger. Imagine what could be accomplished by this well-managed team if resources were directed to RBML work that would truly enhance “user experience.”

At RBML, grant-funded or part-time employees are doing all the cataloging of recent acquisitions as well as special projects (currently Cavagna) to make collections accessible. In addition, this dedicated crew must clean up the minimal and error-ridden records that accrued to our catalog thanks to global “fixes.” There are tens of thousands of Dewey records in RBML in serious need of revision—and no cataloger to work on this important access issue. *This remains a major concern for RBML.* Full cataloging report appended (Appendix I).

ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS

We are pleased to have a dedicated archivist, Meg Hixon, in place. Meg has spent most of her first year processing the new Gwendolyn Brooks archive. She has also developed a plan for processing other archival holdings, which often have minimal or faulty finding aids. Unfortunately, Archon does not serve our needs adequately and has made it difficult for us to make progress in this area. Our goal remains the development of a “Quick & Clean” archival processing workflow.

DIGITIZATION AND DIGITAL HUMANITIES PROJECTS

RBML strives to digitize materials that are unique or otherwise worthwhile. Digitization is driven 1) by patron requests, 2) the uniqueness of the item, and 3) special projects. For descriptions of some of these projects, see: [http://www.library.illinois.edu/rbx/Digital Projects.html](http://www.library.illinois.edu/rbx/Digital%20Projects.html). Project Unica, the Emblem Project, *Women in Print*, the Cavagna digitization, and the ManuscriptLink fragments project continue, while other projects have had to be delayed because we do not have any dedicated staff to manage the many digital projects (both digitization and digital humanities). *A Digital Projects Curator is a sorely needed position in RBML.* Such a position request was rejected this year, so our progress will continue to be hampered.

DIGITIZATION AND REPRODUCTION REQUESTS

This year saw a leap in requests for digital reproductions from our collection. In June 2015 alone, we fulfilled more than 1300 requests for images of pages, papers, and images in our collections. The ease with which scholars can request copies via AEON and the amazing reputation for service that RBML has in the scholarly world, have contributed to this increase. These are not merely digitization requests, but complex reference queries that must be handled by a professional librarian. Many of the images are created in-house, while others are sent to DCC, depending on the nature and extent of the request. Our patrons are very pleased with our service (see Appendix II) for a typical interaction, but we cannot expect to be able to continue if this monthly rate continues. We are exploring options for alleviating some of the workflow.

AEON

RBML has taken the leadership on introducing AEON, an automated system for tracking use of special collections materials. Implementation took place during the summer of 2014 and was publicly unveiled August 21, 2014. Our first year has been very successful. During the 2014-15 year, we helped Oak Street adopted AEON for RBOS materials.

TEACHING & TRAINING

TEACHING WITH PRIMARY SOURCES

We are committed to teaching with primary resources and to being an integral part of the university's curriculum. Local and visiting instructors and RBML's own curators offered instruction with rare materials in over 108 classes, working with faculty and students in RBML. We also taught or presented to nearly 70 classes in the Midwest Book & Manuscript Studies Program at GSLIS. RBML staff reach out to high school and even grade school teachers in the area to involve students of all ages in primary research. A total of 1,250 students attended courses held in-house in RBML.

TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARIANS

- We train future special collections librarians in hands-on work by offering undergraduate positions, GAships, grant-sponsored projects, practica, and independent studies
 - We also help place students in other special collections libraries as part of the Alternative Spring Break program at GSLIS.
 - For seven years we have brought high school students to the library as part of our summer "Librarians of Tomorrow" program to inspire young people to consider a career in special collections librarianship.
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- In 2014, we joined the campus-wide Career Empowerment Program, a 7-week program that provides employment and job preparation training for underrepresented youth.
- We intentionally seek out undergraduate students and GSLIS students from underrepresented groups for jobs and internships in RBML. We have trained about a dozen underrepresented students in RBML.
- Our 2nd Camp Cursive in May 2015, was fully subscribed and a big success.

VOLUNTEERS

- We continue work with three volunteers from the community. This program involves security concerns and supervisory commitment on the part of the already over-committed staff. While we enjoy working with these three volunteers, we have put a moratorium on future volunteers.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

EXHIBITIONS (IN-HOUSE, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL)

We researched, curated and mounted **12** in-house exhibitions and **2** traveling or loan exhibitions from July 2014 to June 2015. Each exhibition had a public engagement component, ranging from opening receptions to lectures to workshops to poetry readings. A list of exhibitions is appended to this report (Appendix III).

VISITING SCHOLARS

Velde Visiting Scholars in 2014/15 were Francoise Leriche, Université Stendha, Grenoble Cedex, France who worked on the Marcel Proust letter collection and Dylan Ruediger, Department of History, Georgia State University, who worked on colonial imprints concerning Virginia.

THE NO. 44 SOCIETY AND CAMPUS AWARDS FOR PRIMARY RESEARCH

The No. 44 Society (our book collectors' club), completed its ninth year in May 2015. A convivial collection of book lovers from the community as well as the University, No. 44 meets monthly in The Rare Book & Manuscript Library for presentations by club members and expert visitors on various aspects of book collecting. The 2014/15 schedule of events is attached (Appendix IV). Awards were made to two students for the best essay written using primary sources from RBML.

SOYBEAN PRESS

RBML founded the Soybean Press in 2007 and has successfully worked with MBMS (GSLIS) and the School of Art & Design to operate a letterpress press imprint for the University of Illinois. Though the program has been weakened by the departure of a

faculty member, we managed to teach a two-week course on letterpress printing in June 2015.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Rare Book & Manuscript Library hosts dozens of events a year from book signings to lectures to workshops to plays, concerts, and even dances in the library. Again this year, over **50** RBML-sponsored public events took place in RBML, on campus, or in the community. This is a grueling schedule for our tiny staff to manage. Though we draw large numbers participants from our university and town communities, we are consistently disappointed by the lack of participation by our library colleagues, who rarely attend any RBML events. We must redouble our efforts to attract library staff who could benefit from knowing more about this jewel in their midst.

NEWSLETTER

Our award-winning monthly e-newsletter is edited by Dennis Sears and offers a venue for publicizing our many public events and educating our constituents about our collections and services. The newsletter was redesigned this year to make it more accessible on a variety of devices. Archive of newsletters:
<http://www.library.illinois.edu/rbx/newsletter/previous.html>

SOCIAL MEDIA AND VIDEO

Our *Non Solus* blog continues to present our collections and our discoveries to the world, but we have also entered the world of Facebook, Twitter, and Tumblr to reach out to new constituencies. Several posts have “gone viral” and helped build our Tumblr audience especially. This year, we produced an [introductory video](#), two Virtual Visits to the Vault ([Astell](#) and [Hrotsvit](#)), two “RBML Mailbag videos” (“[What’s a plate](#)” and “Errata”). More are planned for the future.

■ STATISTICAL PROFILE ■

FACILITIES

Number of study places: **19**

Seminar Room can accommodate **15**

Exhibit area can be reconfigured to accommodate up to **60** for a lecture

biblioTECH space (rooms 328+345 adjacent rooms next to RBML) has allowed us to house one curator and students working on digital humanities and social media projects. In 2015, we also moved the Public Programs Manager and Registrar to this area.

PERSONNEL

Faculty: **5** (one is three-year position; one is three-year grant funded)
Academic professional: **2**
Civil Service: **2**

Graduate Assistant: **1.5 FTE**
Student Assistants **1.5 FTE**
Grant/Endowment-funded hourly catalogers: **2 FTE**

USER SERVICES (CIRCULATION AND REFERENCE)

Head Count: **3,892**
Registered Reading Room Users: **1,058**

(underreported via Desktracker)

Number of items used in Reading Room: **4,617**

External Reference questions answered: **~500**
(underreported via Desktracker)

Internal Reference questions answered: **~1800**

Number of hours open to the public per week: **42.5**

COLLECTIONS

Acquisitions: **209 items**

Cataloging: **5,631** (2024 titles received original cataloging, and 2901 records were enhanced, and 706 were copy cataloging)

TEACHING AND OUTREACH

Courses and presentations: **108** in RBML; **67** outside of RBML

Students in courses and presentations: **1,250**

Major exhibitions: **5** (see Appendix VI)

Pop up exhibitions: **7**

Loan exhibitions: **2**

Valerie Hotchkiss (LIS590EX: *Planning, Production & Practice of Library and Museum Exhibitions*) taught Fall Semester, **24 students**

Valerie Hotchkiss, Agora Week, University Laboratory High School, *A Short Course on the Short Short Story*, February 2015. **18 students**

Valerie Hotchkiss, The Real Thing Reading Group. 6 meetings to read and discuss books for which RBML holds the author's manuscript. **16 participants**

Anna Chen taught LIS 580LE Rare Book and Special Collections Librarianship), Spring Semester, **25 students**

Caroline Szylowicz, Anna Chen, Valerie Hotchkiss, Chloe Ottenhoff, and Rosemary Trippe team-taught 8-week OLLIE course on Special Collections, Fall Semester, total **75 students**

Midwest Book & Manuscript Studies Program: Valerie Hotchkiss is the founding director of this course of study and continues to serve as its director.

Practica, Independent Studies, and Curatorial Internships: **11 students**; Alternative Spring Break placements: **3**

Cultural events sponsored by and held in RBML: **21** with total of **723** participants

Blog postings: **over 100** well-researched and engaging entries. See them at: <http://nonsolusblog.wordpress.com/>

GOALS FOR 2014/15

- Find more funding for public engagement programming. This kind of outreach is essential for any good special collections library.
- Continue our social media outreach.
- Build upon our stellar collections using the subject expertise of our curators, whose acumen and savvy allow us to continue to build great collections despite the redirection of endowment funds from collections to staffing.
- Work on digitization projects, perfecting guidelines and procedures for this process.
- Never give up: Redouble our enthusiastic efforts to publicize and raise campus awareness of special collections through cultural events in RBML.
- Expand and improve conservation efforts.
- Develop a comprehensive plan for processing "hidden" archival collections.
- Redesign our website.
- Rethink our services in light of the 100% reduction in student staff funding.

- Work on redesigning our space to create the donor-funded *Chatterjee Exhibition Space* for a more responsible way to exhibit our treasures. Renovation planned for summer 2016.
- Search and pray for funding to create the kind of special collections facility our collections warrant—and that the people of Illinois deserve.

CONCLUSION

The Rare Book & Manuscript Library is a lively and busy place. We are an integral and important part of the curriculum on campus and in the wider world of scholarship. Our accomplishments are all the more impressive when one considers how limited our resources have been. Ironically, though our collections and active programming work would rank us as the best of the Big-10 rare book libraries, we would come in last in staffing. We believe that the preservation, care, presentation, and celebration of these remarkable collections should be a priority of the Library and the University. We have long advocated for a separate, purpose-built facility with better accommodations for the collections, for outreach and for teaching.

No other cultural collection south of Chicago is worth more—culturally and economically—than the Rare Book & Manuscript Library. The hard part has been done. The collections have been (and are being) built with amazing care and knowledge. They are world-class. The donor who puts his/her name on a new Rare Book Library will immediately rank with the Beineckes, the Houghtons, the Lillys, and the Huntingtons. We despair when we see the upper administration and foundation raising funds for things like Grange Grove or Blue Waters (a computer that loses value every minute, while our collections go up in value every year) instead of building what would be a source of pride and a cultural destination for all of Illinois.

Despite this situation, we know that our work is important for the curriculum, the community, and the greater cultural good. We will draw strength from the moral support and goodwill of our patrons on campus and beyond, even as budgets and institutional support falter. The staff of RBML, we few, we happy few, will continue to care for and celebrate the priceless records of our past and look toward a more dignified future for these valuable collections.

Appendix I

RBML Cataloging Project July 2014-June 2015

With most of the major collections and backlogs cataloged, the Rare Book & Manuscript Library (RBML) Cataloging Project primarily focused on cataloging items that were represented by MARCette and MARS records. It is estimated that there are over 9,000 RBML titles represented by these extremely short bibliographic or machine-matched records, most of which are inaccurate and provide little to no bibliographic information. Replacing these records is a great priority for the project in order to make these titles properly accessible to scholars and to ensure that the library's holdings are accurately represented in the online catalog. The library would greatly benefit from having a full-time permanent rare book cataloger on staff to continue this important work alongside the daily cataloging required for new acquisitions, gifts, and transfers.

In December 2014, The Rare Book & Manuscript Library received a Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR). The grant will support the project *Cataloging Cavagna: Italian Imprints from the Sixteenth through the Nineteenth Centuries*. With this funding, the project—one of only 19 selected from a total of 92 applications in 2014—will catalog more than 20,000 rare Italian imprints from the 16th through 19th centuries in the library's historically significant Cavagna Collection. The collection was purchased by the University in 1921 from the family of Count Antonio Cavagna Sangiuliani di Gualdana (1843-1913), a recognized authority on the local history of Northern Italy. Most of Count Cavagna's library of printed and manuscript documents are in Italian, but the collection also contains French, Latin, and German publications. A significant number of works written in various disappearing Italian dialects will be increasingly valuable to linguists. The collection also contains many *unica* (items which are believed to be the only remaining copy in existence), as well as items that are the only copies in North America (or, often, outside of Italy itself). Cataloging this rich collection over the course of the next three years will make it newly accessible to scholars in multiple fields, including Italian history, literature, art, theater, law, economics, and religion. In addition, digitized versions of the printed works in the collection will also be made available.

In addition to the above, notable cataloging initiatives were made toward a baseball reference collection from the American League Library (ca. 900 volumes), the Doyle Moore Fine Print Collection (ca. 300 volumes), socialist and anarchist pamphlets and broadsides (ca. 1200 volumes), some of which were used for the WWI exhibition; and continued work on the Aron Collection, many of which are unique items that no other libraries in the world hold. Significant developments have also been made toward assembling the "First Purchases Collection," John Milton Gregory's initial acquisitions for then-named Illinois Industrial Library in 1867. This collection will be highlighted during the university's sesquicentennial celebrations in 2017. The RBML Cataloging Project is also working

cooperatively with specialist catalogers in International Area Studies to provide access to rare Japanese print and manuscript materials and an important collection of Soviet Samizdat works.

Another significant achievement this year includes The University of Illinois Library's top-ten (in the world!) ranking of original cataloging record contributors to the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC). The University of Illinois Library system added 13,642 records during this period, over 20% of which (not fully reflected in this particular reporting period) were created by the 4-person cataloging project of the Rare Book & Manuscript Library. A large proportion of those original records are unique items from the Cavagna Collection.

NB: RBML's holdings in ESTC are currently 42,110 titles.

Titles Cataloged	Original Records Created in OCLC¹	Enhanced Records in OCLC²	Copy Cataloging³	Total Titles Cataloged
July	116	416	59	591
August	34	196	22	252
September	78	236	17	331
October	71	304	51	426
November	40	322	60	422
December	105	295	105	505
January	351	199	101	651
February	190	190	48	428
March	157	155	45	357
April	296	195	90	581
May	281	202	79	562
June	305	191	29	525
Total	2024	2901	706	5631

1. Original bibliographic records contributed to the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) database
2. Replaced pre-existing records in OCLC with improved, expanded, and/or corrected bibliographic information
3. Pre-existing OCLC records brought into Voyager that are edited for local bibliographic information

Original Records Created in OCLC	New (no matching record in OCLC)	Derived (no matching English language record in OCLC)	Total Original Records Created
July	89	27	116
August	22	12	34
September	63	15	78
October	63	8	71
November	34	6	40
December	105	0	105
January	305	46	351
February	175	15	190
March	135	22	157
April	264	32	296
May	239	42	281
June	268	37	305
Total	1762	262	2024

MARCette Records Replaced	381
MARS Records Corrected/Replaced	671
Unica Titles Identified	108

Appendix II

Representative exchange, research help, and process for reproduction requests in RBML

On May 18, 2015, at 9:19 AM, "Sears, Dennis J" <dsears@illinois.edu> wrote:

Another satisfied customer

From: Randall McLeod [<mailto:randall.mcleod@utoronto.ca>]
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2015 1:52 PM
To: Sears, Dennis J
Subject: RE: [Ticket#2015050428000501] Ask a Curator

Dear Dennis,

Many thanks for these photos. You certainly went the extra mile for me. You deserve a raise. *Two* raises!

The annotator's roadmap for just getting around in the volume is extraordinarily detailed. I've never seen anything like it. This book certainly attracts readers to display their tactics for navigation. I've been looking at copies for ten years, and this is the richest yet. I will come and see it -- and the rest of your Aldines someday. I haven't been back to Champaign for a quarter century. I started working on Aldines since that time.

I have now learned how to download from Box. So you can remove the file.

Thank you so much for this rich collaboration. And hats off to the library for choosing this book to digitize.

Happy spring,

Randy

From: Sears, Dennis J [dsears@illinois.edu]
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2015 4:37 PM
To: Randall McLeod
Subject: RE: [Ticket#2015050428000501] Ask a Curator

Hi Randy,

Just shared photos via [Box.com](https://www.box.com) with you. Folder contains both the original .jpgs and some auto-corrected .tiffs. I supplied the recto of the page opposite the title page as it seemed to me you could see some impressions of the original erased pencil on the other side.

Let me know when you've finished downloading so I may remove the folder.

Thanks,
Dennis

From: Randall McLeod [<mailto:randall.mcleod@utoronto.ca>]
Sent: Friday, May 08, 2015 2:57 PM
To: Sears, Dennis J
Subject: RE: [Ticket#2015050428000501] Ask a Curator

Hi, Dennis,

It's me again, The Pest.

I have begun mapping the reader's torturous journey through your copy of the 1505 Aldine AEsop, and I now realize that, because of cropping in the photography, I can't see whether there are page numbers in pencil just in the half dozen relevant pages after "58" -- up to "64". (The practice in prior openings is to repeat on the unnumbered page, the page number opposite it in the opening, whether that page be recto or verso.)

I am very grateful to the library for putting this online resource before the public. I am able to do very detailed work on it from my study in Toronto! -- with **your help**, of course.

Many thanks,

Randy

From: Randall McLeod
Sent: Thursday, May 07, 2015 6:19 PM
To: Sears, Dennis J
Subject: RE: [Ticket#2015050428000501] Ask a Curator

Dear Dennis,

Many many thanks for the photograph of the Aesop title page. It was *just* what I needed.

In looking again at the U Illinois Library website, I see that there are **two** web versions of this text. I had assumed that the contents were the same, but I see now that they are not -- at least in terms of image quality. The OCA format produces very legible reproductions of the ms, though the cropping is bothersome. If I had used OCA instead of the other, I would have written a very different *Ask a Curator*.

It is very kind of you to offer to send me two dozen reproductions for free!!! -- but I think I can answer all my questions with only 2, in one case where the cropping makes me unsure and in the other where I suspect underwriting.

1) There are penciled numerical annotations of the upper outer corners of many early pages. The penciled numbers mostly reproduce the printed numbers opposite, when they exist – starting with “26”. I can’t tell whether these penciled numbers stop with “58” or “59”. The second of these options falls on D7v (facing d6r, on which is printed “59”). There is a penciled phrase at the top of D7v, which begins “respice paginata . . .”. The phrase is cropped, by the camera, I presume. I would appreciate a photograph of this page, so that I can see the top edge.

Facing the titlepage is a note, “miris modis . . . paginae – quo . . .”. It looks to me as if this note is written over a mostly erased earlier version of at least the start of it, shorter by some words at the start or with other diction. I think I can see the downward strokes of the erased “g” of a previous inscription of “paginae” and also an earlier version of the dash before “quo”. When you look at the original, can you see anything more of the supposed earlier version? In any case, I would love to have a close-up photo of this inscription.

And finally, a question: The printed page number “37”, on c3r, is written over something. In copies I am familiar with, these printed letters are not completely upright. Can you see whether the effect of the handwriting is to give the normal appearance? Or might there be a number other than “37” underneath?

Many thanks for your thoughtful work on this file.

Randy

Appendix III

Rare Book & Manuscript Library Exhibition Activity FY 2015

"Fire Burne and Cauldron Bubble:" Witchcraft at the Dawn of Modernity

30 May 30—8 Aug 2014

Curator: David Morris

Location: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Summary: Between the fifteenth and eighteenth centuries, a specter was haunting Europe, the specter of witchcraft. The West was swept by the growing preoccupation of ecclesiastical and secular authorities with the threat posed by witches—that is, by people, most often women, who were believed to be practitioners of magic, working in concert with diabolical powers toward the subversion of Christian society.

This seemingly irrational obsession is well represented by printed and manuscript works held by the Rare Book & Manuscript Library. Curated by RBML Graduate Assistant David Anthony Morris, the fall 2014 exhibition showcased twenty-three texts illustrating the rise and fall of the West's long history of fascination with witchcraft and demonology.

In support of the exhibition, a local instance of Omeka.org was acquired and graduate assistant Laura Miller designed a [website](#). This instance is now being expanded for access to the Library as a whole.

A printed guide accompany the exhibition was designed by Chloe Ottenhoff.

Knot Forgotten: The Tennyson Library of Crochet at Illinois

1 July—31 July 2014

Curator: Gil Witte

Location: Main Library Marshall Gallery and North-South Hallway

Summary: RBML celebrated the acquisition of the “Tennyson Library of Crochet” with an exhibition on the first floor of the library and in the Marshall Gallery. A variety of great events were also programmed.

The collection has been donated to the Rare Book & Manuscript Library by Gilbert Witte, long-time employee of the University Library. Named the Tennyson Library of Crochet for Witte’s great-grandmother Flora Emily Tennyson, the collection documents the history and practice of the craft through journals, patterns, samples, and manuals.

The Tennyson Library of Crochet consists of over 7,000 items in all, ranging in date from 1843 to the present.

Additional Programming:

- "Crochet and Kvetch" on Wednesday, July 9, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. in the Library's 4th floor staff lounge.
- Lunchtime exhibit tours on Tuesday, July 15, 2014 and Thursday, July 24, 2014 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- The Lorado Taft statues at the east side entrance of the library was dressed to impress in crocheted attire during the month of July!
- Knot Forgotten Extravaganza
Friday, July 18, 2014:
 - Crochet class for children (age 8 and above, 8 children total) from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Marshall Gallery.
 - Crochet class for adults from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Marshall Gallery.
 - Reception, including ugly sweater contest, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Marshall Gallery.

First Global Conflict: Contemporary Views of the Great War, 1914-1919.

29 August—19 December 2014

Curators: Caroline Szylowicz, Tony Hynes, and Dennis Sears

Location: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Summary: A century has passed since the assassination of Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the premiership of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. His murder in Sarajevo on 28 June 1914 set in motion the first great conflict of the twentieth century and the first conflagration to involve a world-wide system of empires, treaties, protectorates, and dependencies. Casualties would number in the tens of millions, and tens of millions more would be displaced or suffer political persecution. Europe's borders, as well as those far from Sarajevo in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia would be re-drawn. A revolution in Russia and fascist movements would set the stage for further global conflicts.

One hundred years later, the actors and witnesses to the original conflict are gone but records of their experiences and views of the war endure on paper and film. This exhibition explored the multiple ways this "Great War" can be revisited and re-interpreted in the collections of the Rare Book & Manuscript Library. Exhibits were drawn from the H. G. Wells Papers, the Carl Sandburg Papers, the Kolb-Proust Archive, the Grant Richards Papers, and RBML's general collections.

A printed guide to the exhibition was designed by Dennis Sears and Chloe Ottenhoff. The curators gave a talk and tour of the exhibition to *The No. 44 Society* at its September 10, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. meeting.

A Nation in Tears: 150 Years After Lincoln's Death

12 February—4 May 2015

Curators: John Hoffmann, Dennis Sears, and Michelle Yestrepky

Location: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Summary: The sesquicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's assassination and funeral was commemorated by this exhibition. Items include a copy of the initial printing of Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address on March 4, 1865; an uncut copy of the *New York Herald* of April 15, the first paper to report the President's assassination; an oversize lithograph of Lincoln on his deathbed surrounded by numerous dignitaries; and issues of the *National Police Gazette* which featured vignettes of John Wilkes Booth, the assassin, and his co-conspirators.

The exhibition also included plaster casts of the President's hands and a piece of the blood-stained pillow slip on which Lincoln's head was laid. In addition, the exhibition displayed photographs of ceremonies in cities along the route of the funeral train from Washington, D.C., to Springfield, Illinois, as well as sermons, hymns, and artifacts which document the nation's mourning.

The exhibition opened at 3:00 p.m. on February 11 at a meeting of the *No. 44 Society*, with brief remarks by RBML Director Hotchkiss, and a tour by the exhibition's curators.

Further programming included a brown bag lunch on April 17 hosted by Guy Fraker, Bloomington-based lawyer and Lincoln expert, who offered a presentation on "The Long, Sad Journey: Lincoln's Funeral Train."

The exhibition handout was created in a newspaper format by Dennis Sears and is available for download at: <http://hdl.handle.net/2142/73170>.

Poplin and Paper: Four Centuries of Fashion in Print

18 May—9 September 2015

Curator: Anna Chen

Location: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Summary: The term "fashion plate" is layered with meanings. It is a portrait depicting not an individual but rather an outfit that a clothier can supply. It is also frequently used to describe someone who wears the latest styles. But a plate is also a printing term, describing an illustration transferred to paper during the printing process.

This exhibition explores the interdependence between fashion and print to communicate ideas not only about what people wore, but also about those who produced and experienced these images. The exhibition begins with early modern surveys of national costumes, which sought to codify the diverse cultures that Europeans encountered around the world. It then traces emerging interrelationships among fashion plates and the periodical press, commercialism and the performing arts, and the subsequent evolution of various communities of readers and consumers. It culminates in the emergence of fashion photography, a new medium of expression for fashion in print that still shapes its viewers today.

Items in the exhibition range from early woodcut engravings of dress customs to a baker's dozen of framed late nineteenth and twentieth century fashion plates.

Chloe Ottenhoff designed the exhibition's accompanying handout.

Curator Anna Chen will offer a talk and tour of the exhibition for the September 2 meeting of *The No. 44 Society*.

“Pop-up” Exhibitions

The Fall Classic at RBML

15 October—29 October 2014

Curator: Dylan Burns

Location: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Summary: As the leaves begin to change and fall and before football heated up in the dead cold of December, RBML graduate assistant Dylan Burns curated a selection of baseball items from our collections to mark the 2014 World Series.

Exhibits included the first true baseball book, Charles Peeverly's *Book of American Pastimes* (1866), as well as such notables as an early edition of *Casey at the Bat*, and Hall of Famer Albert G. Spaulding's 1911 guide to America's pastime.

Are You Afraid of the Stacks?

30 October—16 November 2014

Curator: Emily Minehart

Location: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Summary: In the spirit of Halloween, RBML graduate assistant Emily Minehart created an exhibition featuring numerous “spooky” works held in our collections. Exhibits included the manuscript (ca. 1590) work, *Crafte of conjureynge and howe to rule the ffierye spirits of ye planets & make the devyle appearre*, a collection of ghost

stories from 1572 (Ludwig Lavater's *Of ghostes and spirites walking by nyght*), and *What's in the Closet? A Spooky Pop-up* (1995), among others.

The RBML Invites You

17 November—10 December 2014

Curator: Bethany Spieth

Location: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Summary: If you've ever consulted a book to figure out what to wear to a wedding, learn to make a proper introduction, or solve that classic conundrum of which fork to use with which course, then you're not alone. People have been turning to books for millennia to answer these questions. In fact, one of the oldest books in the world, the *Prisse* papyrus, which dates from 2000 BCE, includes advice on proper behavior.

In anticipation of the impending Thanksgiving ritual, RBML graduate assistant Bethany Spieth curated this look at conduct books and guides to manners. Exhibits included a book of manners by a sixteenth-century Papal diplomat, Giovanni della Casa, a seventeenth-century edition of an English "courtesy" book, and Emily Post's 1922 *Etiquette*.

Season's Greetings: Holiday Notes from the Notable

11 December—19 December 2014

Curator: Valerie Hotchkiss

Location: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Summary: Holiday cards, letters, and greetings from the famous, featuring holiday notes from the likes of H.G. Wells, Eudora Welty, and even Richard Nixon!

Manuscripts from Space

18 January—30 January 2015

Curator: Megan Hixon

Location: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Summary: For as long as humans have existed, the night sky has ignited our collective imagination: we draw shapes among the stars, imagine an abundance of alien worlds and species, and (more recently) send hunks of manmade metal—and even ourselves—off into the cosmos.

For this exhibition, RBML's Megan Hixon explored the rich history and complexity of our relationship with outer space as reflected throughout the Rare Book & Manuscript Library's collections.

The exhibits featured materials from some of our more modern collections, from the playful “picshuas” of H.G. Wells and the true stories of our early forays into orbit to the interstellar adventures of Muppets and men that play out on our television and movie screens.

Wedding Gowns Worn and Watched

2 February—10 February 2015

Curator: Emily Minehart

Location: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Summary: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library holds several collections highlighting fashion and costuming, including the Motley Collection [MSS00041] and plates from French fashion magazines spanning the years 1888 to 1920 [F. 391.2 F873]. As Valentine’s Day approached, this exhibition highlighted wedding gowns represented by French fashion plates, as well as renderings of stage production designs by Motley.

The Enigma of the Emblem

24 April—15 May 2015

Curator: Heidi Heim

Location: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Summary: The Renaissance emblem may seem intentionally enigmatic. Combining image and text, the literary and artistic genre typically comprises three parts: a motto (inscriptio), an image (pictura), and an epigram (subscriptio). The genre first appeared in Andrea Alciati’s 1531 *Emblematum Liber*, and emerged as a culturally significant mechanism whose combination of text and image introduced a new mode of thought and expression during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Not all emblems include the tripartite composition of the ideal emblem as the genre quickly developed outside of Latin to include most European languages. Georgette de Montenay’s *Monumenta emblematum Christianorum virtutum*, with its subscriptiones translated in eight different languages, is an example of the emblem’s universal appeal. In addition, the genre continued its expansion to include both prose descriptions and commentaries, as can be seen in Montplaisir’s 1680 *Emblemes et devises morales*.

Curator Heidi Heim was a student worker in RBML and building on her experiences with its collections and her own classwork, put together an exhibition featuring notable examples of the emblem genre.

Exhibition Loans and Off-Site Exhibitions

Goya's War: Los Desastres de la Guerra

28 August—21 December 2014

Curator: Robert G. La France

Location: Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Summary: For this exhibition, RBML loaned its copy of Francisco Goya's *Los Desastres de la Guerra: colección de ochenta laminas inventadas y grabadas al aguafuerte por don Francisco Goya* (Madrid: Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando, 1906).

The exhibition was originally organized by the University of Delaware Museums and the Pomona College Museum of Art and curated by Goya scholar Janis A. Tomlinson.

At Krannert Art Museum, Curator La France exhibited RBML's edition in the center of the gallery. It not only showed visitors that the series was originally published as a bound book, but the interpretive labels also encouraged viewers to compare the quality and ink color of the fourth edition to the first edition. As such, the RBML volume was the exhibition's physical centerpiece and a valuable tool for instruction about the printmaking process.

La Grande Guerre: French Posters and Photographs from World War I

28 August—23 December 2014

Curator: David O'Brien and Pauline Parent

Location: Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Summary: This exhibition presented objects from two important university collections—the first consisting of 105 large lithographic posters made as propaganda in support of the French war effort, and the second comprised of approximately 4,500 photographs, in all likelihood commissioned by the French Ministry of War and held by the Rare Book & Manuscript Library. Twenty photographs and an additional four printed works were lent to Krannert Art Museum.

This exhibition was part of a campus-wide initiative, "[The Great War: Experiences, Representations, Effects](#)". The French Embassy in the United States provided valuable support for the exhibition.

Appendix IV

No. 44 Society Lectures and Events, 2014-2015

September 10, 2014, 3:00 P.M. in RBML

Exhibition Opening: "First Global Conflict: Contemporary Views of the Great War, 1914-1919"

Curators of the fall 2014 RBML exhibition will give a tour and talk about the WW1-related RBML material on display.

September 26, 2014, 3:00 P.M. in RBML

Michael Blanding, Journalist and author of *The Map Thief*

Bonus Event! Michael Blanding, author of *The Map Thief*, will talk about his book, which details the story of the once esteemed rare-map dealer E. Forbes Smiley, who made millions stealing priceless maps.

October 8, 2014, 3:00 P.M. in RBML

Kevin Graffagnino: "All the Good Books: Further Confessions of an Unrepentant Bibliophile"

Graffagnino, Director of the Clements Library at the University of Michigan will give a talk based on his two volumes of book-quotes about books; *Only in Books: Writers, Readers & Bibliophiles on Their Passion* (1996) and *All the Good Books: Quotations for Bibliophiles*(2006).

~~**October 22, 2014, 4:00 P.M. in RBML**~~

~~**Jeffrey Sammons: "Chicago's Fighting 8th and Harlem's Rattlers"**~~

~~The speaker has decided to cancel the lecture at UI due to the recent issue with Steven Salaita's appointment.~~

~~Another Bonus Event! Jeffrey Sammons, professor of history at New York University, will give a talk entitled; "Chicago's 'Fighting 8th' and 'Harlem's Rattlers': Two Black Regiments, One Black Metropolis in the WWI Era."~~

November 12, 2014, 3:00 P.M. in RBML

James Cornelius: "The Lincoln 'OKCC' (Only Known Copy Club)

James Cornelius, Curator of the Abraham Lincoln Library, will give a talk entitled; "The Lincoln 'OKCC' (Only Known Copy Club) and Other By-Ways of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library." This will be an illustrated talk about the collections in the world's largest gathering of "Lincolnia." He will explore the mysteries of how so many publications about Lincoln are exceedingly scarce and also provide a general round-up account of the ALPLM's collections.

December 10, 2014, 3:00 P.M. in RBML

No. 44 Society Annual Holiday Party

This year's theme is *Holiday Note Writing*. You know you have to do it, so why not do it with style? Come meet with fountain pen aficionados from our local Pen Central club and learn some tricks for jazzing up your end of the year missives. To inspire you further, we will have on exhibit some holiday notes from famous literary and cultural figures. You might even be able to obtain some lovely seasonal cards while here!

And as if that were not enough, we will also mark the birthday of our beloved John Milton (December 9, 1608) with cake!

February 11, 2015 AT 3:00 p.m. in RBML

John Hoffmann, Head of the Illinois History and Lincoln Collections at the University Library and Curator of the RBML Spring Exhibition will preview: "A Nation in Tears: 150 Years After Lincoln's Death."

March 11, 2015, 3:00 p.m. in RBML

James Caudle, the Associate Editor of *The Yale Bosworth Editions*, will give a talk entitled, "James Boswell's Libraries and the Culture of Reading and Book Collecting in Britain, 1695-1825."

April 8, 2015, 3:00 p.m. in RBML

Caroline Szylowicz, the Kolb-Proust Librarian and Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts at The Rare Book & Manuscript Library, will give a talk entitled, "Marcel Proust's Vanishing Library."

April 23, 2015, 3:00 p.m. in RBML

Shakespeare's Birthday Party! All are welcome and there'll be cake and ale (non-alcoholic) for those who can recite fourteen lines or more from the immortal Bard!

April 24, 2015, 3:00 p.m. in RBML

Eugene Crook (Florida State Univ.) and Margaret Jennings (St. Joseph's College) will give a presentation, "The Higden Manuscripts: Notable Endeavors for Pastoral Care in Fourteenth Century England." The University of Illinois Rare Book & Manuscript Library holds copies of Higden's *Speculum curatorum* (Pre-1650 MS 0072) and *Polychronicon* (Pre-1650 MS 0132).

May 1, 2015 3:00 p.m. in RBML

Dick Hart, past president of the Abraham Lincoln Association, will give a talk entitled, "Bear Him Gently to His Rest. The Funeral of Abraham Lincoln." Please join us for a special event to close our spring 2015 exhibition commemorating the 150th anniversary of the assassination and burial of President Abraham Lincoln.

May 13, 2015, 3:00 p.m. in RBML

For the last meeting of the 2014-15 *No. 44 Society* season, we welcome Paul T. Ruxin, who will talk about Samuel Johnson and the Revd. William Dodd, supporter of Magdalen Hospital for the Reception of Penitent Prostitutes, founded in 1758. His talk is entitled, "Samuel Johnson and the Hookers' Best Friend."