

# RARE BOOK & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY

## Annual Report

for the period July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012

### ACTIVITIES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND CONTRIBUTIONS

The Rare Book & Manuscript Library remains one of the most active libraries on campus. We are engaged 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 vibrant and innovated public engagement through cultural events, educational programming, exhibitions, the use of new technologies—from digitization to blogging to bio-imaging--and an active publications program. Our aim is to be an integral part of both the educational enterprise and the cultural life on campus and in the community.

In all our activities, we remain true to the two goals at the heart of our mission: First, to make our collections accessible through cataloging, finding aids, publications, digital facsimiles, and other electronic forms, and second, to celebrate and make known the collections by promoting their use through teaching, research, and vibrant public programming. Below we list some of the major activities and accomplishments of the Rare Book & Manuscript Library during this period.

### COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

#### ACQUISITIONS

We added 959 items and approximately 25 cubic feet of literary archives to our collections in 2011/12. In addition, we have “rescued” hundreds of rare and valuable books from the general stacks, numbered among the 4,368 added to RBML and the 2,084 items added to RBOS from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. The most noteworthy acquisitions are described in Appendix I.

#### STACK MANAGEMENT

We are pleased to report that we rehoused all of our flat files, providing them all with proper storage within the vault. (Seven years ago, large items were rolled, stuck on top of shelves, and housed in semi-public area, so this is a BIG improvement.) We also shelf-read large sections of the collection with our zip shelf-reading program. In addition, we settled into a new arrangement for putting items on hold for readers (in a more secure location within the vault) and made progress on making good use of the new ante-chamber to the vault. Vault Reference materials were properly identified in the online catalog. In our on-going efforts to make good use of off-site

storage for “medium rare” items, 2,084 items were transferred to RBOS from general stacks and from our vault.

## ARCHIVAL ASSESSMENT

We have largely completed the “assessment” of archival processing and conservation needs. We also completed a preservation assessment of a large media collection that will serve as a basis for further work. We are hoping that a request for IT fee funding will allow us to move from assessment to providing better access in 2012/13.

## SIGNAGE & SMART CLASSROOM EQUIPMENT

New signage was installed in the vault to aid in retrieval of items and a new panel for display of exhibition banners was created for the entranceway to RBML. Most importantly, we have acquired some equipment that will allow us to bring new technologies into the classroom, including a document camera and a large LED screen controlled by iPad through an iTV box. The system is portable, a necessary component of our design since space is at a premium in RBML and since we have public programming and teaching experiences in the seminar room, reading room, and public area.

## CONSERVATION

Conservation remains a serious need in RBML. We receive some funding assistance for this work from the Preservation Department and from individual donors, but identification of items for conservation is a task of the curators and the head of the unit. During the past year, we prioritized items that need to be sent out for conservation, but we remain frustrated with the lack of a proper database for tracking Conservation needs and turn-around times.

## STABILIZATION

Books that are 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. As books are used, we generally stabilize them in house, replacing pambinders, tying, supporting with museum board, etc., according to the guidelines of the Conservation Department. We also have a program, much expanded since the mold outbreak, to measure and order boxes and clamshells for rare and brittle material. Items rehoused in pambinders: **5,692**; Books measured for gray boxes: **346**; Archival clamshell boxes: **110**.

## ACCESS

### CATALOGING

For the past five years, The *Quick & Clean Rare Book Cataloging Project* has been, without a doubt, the most important (and efficient) contribution to improved access in the University of Illinois library system. In all, the Quick & Clean Catalogers have provided cataloging—and access—for over nearly 70,000 items the collections. High level cataloging of our most unique resources is bringing previously “hidden” items to light at the incredibly economical cost of than \$11-\$18 per title. The cost is actually lower when one takes into account the high number of original records (5,763) that we have added and for which the library receives a \$7 per item credit. We can assess the value of this project to researchers and students in many ways, but perhaps the best indication of the project’s success is the fact that over 35% of

books requested since 2009 were cataloged by Q&C catalogers.

This project and other hands-on activities make RBML valuable as significant training grounds for GSLIS students.

## ARCHIVAL MANAGEMENT

We continue to work on providing better access to our archival collections. Our goal has been to use Archon more fully and to develop a “Quick & Clean” archival processing workflow. We have received several small grants to process literary papers and our finding aids are much improved. What is needed, however, is a full-fledged a “Quick & Clean” project for Archives in the very near future.

## DIGITIZATION

A number of digitization projects were completed or remain underway in RBML. Our goal is to digitize materials that are unique or otherwise worthwhile. Among the digitization projects in RBML are: Project Unica which creates digital facsimiles of our unique printed books; the German Emblem book digitization project (400+ items and now funded for completion in FY10); the Spenser digitization pilot (complete); the Trollope Family papers; and the Motley Collection digitization. For descriptions of other projects, see:

[http://www.library.illinois.edu/rbx/Digital\\_Projects.html](http://www.library.illinois.edu/rbx/Digital_Projects.html) RBML curators have drawn up a policy document for future digitization projects to insure accessibility; security, access, and management of collections for all digitization projects (see Appendix II).

**biblioTECH** is the new locus of projects that combine rare materials and new technologies. This includes digitalization as well as bio-imaging, database creation, online exhibitions, and other new ways of looking at special collections material in general. We are pleased to have Curator Caroline Szyłowicz (as of August 2011) overseeing that department.

## WEBSITE REDESIGN

After two and a half years of frustration at the glacial pace of progress and the woeful lack of support for our website redesign project, we were permitted to engage a professional website designer to work with us on the redesign and implementation of our website. For Rare Book & Manuscript Libraries, the website plays a big role in reputation. Our newly designed website is ready to be launched—but of course there are internal roadblocks within the library that are slowing down the process. Still, we are optimistic that we will publish the new site before October 1, 2012.

## BLOG

Our popular and useful Blog, Non Solus, continues to engage users in the wider scholarly world. Many conundrums have been solved and fruitful collaborations have blossomed from this lively and intellectually stimulating blog. Kudos to Adam Doskey, Marten Stromberg, Tad Boehmer, and others for their collegial efforts on making this collaborative blog work so well.

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

### TEACHING

The Rare Book & Manuscript Library is committed to teaching with primary resources to train

new generations of scholars and special collections librarians. Local and visiting instructors and RBML's own curators offer instruction with rare materials regular basis. Valerie Hotchkiss and Marten Stromberg teach courses in the Midwest Book & Manuscript Studies Program and all the curators regularly make presentations to classes. **201** courses were taught using RBML materials and **156** class meetings on special collections topics occurred offsite as part of the MBMS Program that RBML administers jointly with GSLIS. A total of **2629** students attended Courses held in RBML.

## **IN-HOUSE, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS**

We researched, curated and mounted 5 in-house exhibitions from July 2011 to June 2012. Each exhibition had a public engagement component, ranging from opening receptions to lectures to workshops to poetry readings.

A major exhibition on the Jewish Book Controversy of the early 16<sup>th</sup> century was organized and produced by RBML and has since traveled to Cincinnati, Pforzheim, and Frankfurt. A beautiful bilingual website of the exhibition was produced (<http://www.library.illinois.edu/rbx/exhibitions/Reuchlin/index.html>), as well as a printed catalog.

## **VISITING SCHOLARS PROGRA**

Each year the John "Bud" Velde Visiting Scholars program brings scholars to campus for a month-long research visit, thereby widening the reach of our collections. In 2011/12 our visiting scholars were: Renzo Baldasso (Early printed Euclid editions), Andrew Boyle (Restoration literature), Emma Wilson (Renaissance pedagogy) and Stephanie Koscaz.

## **THE NO. 44 SOCIETY AND CAMPUS BOOK COLLECTING AWARDS**

The No. 44 Society (our book collectors' club), completed its sixth year in May 2012. A convivial confab that features book lovers from the community as well as the University, monthly meetings are held in The Rare Book & Manuscript Library and usually takes place with a presentation by club members or expert visitors on various aspects of book collecting. The 2011/12 schedule of events is attached (Appendix III).

Sadly our Book Collecting prizes to both undergrad and graduate student collectors were not awarded this year, victims of the e-book age perhaps. We received too few entries to make for a proper contest. To replace this tradition we have established The Harris Fletcher and The T.W. Baldwin prizes for the best essay written for a class and making use of primary resources in the Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

## **THE SOYBEAN PRESS**

RBML, working with MBMS (GSLIS) and the School of Art & Design, operates a letterpress press imprint for the University of Illinois: The Soybean Press. Operations commenced in the summer of 2007 with a two-week course on letterpress printing and have continued apace. This initiative takes advantage of a talented local pool of print enthusiasts and seeks to keep the art of printing alive and well on campus and in our community. This past year has been especially active and marked the first year of the *Fresh Press*, a sister project to The Soybean Press, which produces paper by hand from local fibers and greatly enhances our teaching, research, and outreach capacities. In addition to this, we have pursued a full

program of outreach and engagement. The Press collaborated with the Creative Writing Program to produce printed broadsides for each of the eight visiting authors in the Carr Reader Series and continued our annual undergraduate writing prize, in which we print a fine edition of a piece from the student journal *Montage*. We worked with Uni High students to help them produce their own printed volume of poetry during their annual Agora Days. We printed with local community members as part of the Urbana 'Art at the Market' program and spoke on local television and radio about the efforts of the press. Also, the first annual local artists' book fair was organized by the press and held at the Indigo Gallery in downtown Champaign this past March. Through our work and promotion we have stirred up the enthusiasm of a group of graduate and undergraduate students who are in the process of forming an RSO that will make use of our facilities and expertise.

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

To reach out to the community of users interested in all things bibliographical, The Rare Book & Manuscript Library hosts on its website a list of book-related events, workshops, film screenings and lectures that it sponsors or publicizes. Events this year have varied from book signings to lectures on the history of books and printing by the noted scholars, to workshops on conservation and the book arts. In all 27 public events took place in RBML. (Appendix IV) Even more events are planned for 2012/13, with 13 to take place before the end of October! We have probably reached the limit this year given our tiny staff size.

## **THE MIDWEST BOOK & MANUSCRIPT STUDIES PROGRAM**

In 2006, Valerie Hotchkiss became the founding director of Midwest Book & Manuscript Studies Program, a certificate program at GSLIS for students interested in special collections librarianship. The program has thrived. Amazingly, over 45% of all GSLIS students are enrolled in the MBMS certificate program, which emphasizes hands-on experiences and the apprenticeship model. In recent years we have expanded the program to include LEEP classes for distance education. Valerie, Alvan Bregman and Chatham Ewing have taught in the program, as have colleagues elsewhere in the Special Collections division. Marten Stromberg will teach in 2012/13. Appendix V lists all courses taught in the MBMS program in 2011/12.

## **SUPPORT OF THE PROFESSION**

We take seriously our role as mentors for the next generation of special collections librarians. We routinely recruit good students in RBML and we have often helped guide them toward careers in special collections librarianship. We will continue to train future Special Collections librarians in the hands-on positions we can offer through undergraduate positions, GAs, grant-sponsored projects, practica, and independent studies in our role as leaders of the MBMS program. We also help place students in other special collections libraries as part of the Alternative Spring Break program at GSLIS. Our GAs and Q&C catalogers find good positions at universities and special collections across the country. This year, we introduced a new category of volunteer: The Curatorial Intern, designed for unpaid GSLIS students who want experience in a special collections library. Appendix VI: projects / apprenticeships / internships.

# 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 added in rooms 328+345 (adjacent rooms next to RBML), but unpleasant delays in getting the space ready. Scheduled to open May 2012, but no work has been done, no furniture, no public access. Getting this space open is a priority for us.

## PERSONNEL

Faculty: **4**

Academic professional: **1**

Civil Service: **1** (*N.B. this position was lost as of July 1, 2012*)

Exempt: **1**

Graduate Assistant: **.5** (endowment funded); **.25** (State funded)

Student Assistants **1.5 FTE**

Grant/Endowment-funded hourly catalogers: **3 FTE**

*Long-time public services manager Jane Somera retired at the end of June, 2012. Her successor, Tony Hynes, is a wonderful addition to our library operations. More on his work in next year's annual report!*

As the statistical snapshot below makes clear, we have accomplished an enormous amount in RBML over the past year—all of our numbers are up from last year, a trend that has been ongoing for the last 7 years. Some of these statistics are reported by other sources. We feel that these and others are worth reporting here as indicators of our activities.

## USER SERVICES (CIRCULATION AND REFERENCE)

Head Count: **3,920**

Registered Reading Room Users: **1,291**

Number of items used in Reading Room: **4,525**

Internal Reference questions answered: **1,805**

External Reference questions answered: **477**

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

## COLLECTIONS

Acquisitions: **959**

Archival acquisitions: **127.5 cu feet**

Cataloging: **6,452**

Items called for from RBOS: *898* (awaiting final figures)

Items added to Archon: *815* (awaiting final figures)

Collection level MARC records for Archival collections: **53**

## TEACHING AND OUTREACH

Courses taught: **201** in RBML; **156** outside of RBML

Students in courses and presentations: **2,629**

Courses:

Valerie Hotchkiss (LIS590EX: *Planning, Production & Practice of Library and Museum Exhibitions*) taught Fall and Spring Semesters, 25 students each semester, **50** total

Marten Stromberg, Caroline Szylowicz, Chatham Ewing and Valerie Hotchkiss, Team taught 8-week OLLIE course on Special Collections, Spring Semester, **12** students

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

Practica, Independent Studies, and Curatorial Internships: **9**

Cultural events sponsored by and held in RBML: **28** with total of **976** participants

Blog postings: **17** well-researched and engaging entries. See them at:  
<http://nonsolusblog.wordpress.com/>

## GOALS FOR 2012/13

- Continue to work on guidelines and procedures for reproduction services and project digitization with the DCC, OCA, etc.
- Continue our enthusiastic efforts to publicize and raise campus awareness of special collections through cultural events in RBML.
- Find more funding for public engagement programming. This kind of outreach is essential for any good special collections library
- Expand conservation efforts.
- Hire an excellent well-rounded Curator who can handle both books and manuscripts
- Continue the Q&C Cataloging project and look for future funding to complete the Cavagna Collection
- Monitor Library-wide activities to insure that serious scholarship, true learning, excellent service to the university's curriculum, high-quality bibliographic work, and all book-related concerns are considered as we careen further into the digital library age.

In addition, we will continue to search and pray for funding to create the kind of special collections facility that an institution of the caliber of the University of Illinois ought to have.

## CONCLUSION

As this report suggests, The Rare Book & Manuscript Library is a very 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 small our resources have been. We are the stewards of an incredible collection of human cultural achievement and the preservation, care, and presentation of these treasures should be a priority of the university. We do not feel that we have succeeded in convincing the upper levels of administration of this fact. It is an acknowledged failing of this university that it does not care enough about this world-class collection to properly house and celebrate its special collections in a separate, purpose-built facility with better facilities for outreach and teaching. Knowing that our work is important for the curriculum, the community, and the greater cultural good, however, we will continue to care for and celebrate the priceless records of our past as we create the library of the future.



## Appendix I: Noteworthy Acquisitions

- **H.G. Wells Letters.** A collection of 69 autograph letters and postcards from Wells to family members, covering a wide range of subjects from his imminent wedding to financial affairs, to his prediction of the atomic bomb ("...I explained the inevitableness of the atomic bomb half a century ago & it is rather infuriating to have all these journalistic half-wits explaining that *here's something Mr. Wells did not foresee*. It's a strange frightful phase this poor little planet is passing through..."(27 October 1945), two and a half months after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki). The collection also includes photographs and charming drawings by Wells himself.
- **Sandburg-related archival materials.** The William P. Schenk Papers. Original manuscripts, prints, photographs and other materials from the collection of William Schenk, friend of and for several years, secretary to Carl Sandburg. Schenk went on to become the long-time editor of *Science Digest Magazine*, archival material from which is also included in this collection.
- **Re-Acquisition of Cavagna Collection books.** A rather uncommon acquisition was made this year when we *re-acquired* over 800 Cavagna items which had mysteriously left our Library system in the early 1980s. When a sharp-eyed cataloger saw the lot for sale, we did some detective work and found that the items had *not* been sold as dups or unwanted items. Working with Travis McDade, we convinced the dealer to return the items and we have since cataloged them all. Rather discouraging to uncover this example of careless stewardship (or worse), but we are glad that all has been recovered.
- **Large Collection of early papers of W.S. Merwin.** An important addition to the library's excellent collection of the literary papers of the former poet laureate.
- **Savonarola, Girolamo. *Esposizione sopra l'Ave Maria*.** [Florence: Bartolomeo de Libri, after April 1496]. Incunabular edition of Savonarola's work on prayer. E.K. Gray Fund.
- **Two signed first editions of Robert Frost books of poems.** Gift of Martha Landis.
- **Reizenstein, Wolf Ehrenfried von, Baron. *Der vollkommene Pferde-Kenner*.** Uffenheim: Joh. Simon Meyer, 1764. First edition of a comprehensive equestrian manual with sections on, horse buying, breeding, riding, training, grooming, veterinary care, and horse tack. fSIGNIFICANT FOR YIDDISH HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS is the 36-page appendix to part one, which contains a glossary of over 1500 transliterated Yiddish and Hebrew terms and 5 sample dialogues intended to aid non-Jews in understanding the horse trade dialect used by Jews. (Commerce in livestock was a predominantly Jewish occupation in Central and Eastern Europe.) Albert Fund.
- **Autograph letter by Alexander von Humboldt (14 May 1823)** to an unnamed recipient, probably John Murray, praising the beauty and scientific merit of the recently published "John Franklin work," raising hopes for the forthcoming voyage of William Edward Parry. A nice addition to our Arctic exploration and John Franklin collection, this letter will be featured in an upcoming exhibition.
- We have also begun the process of acquiring papers and born-digital items as part of our effort to **Midwest Hip Hop Archive**, to preserve this important new poetry movement in America.

## Appendix II: Digitization Guidelines for RBML

### In-House Digitization in RBML: Principles and Procedures

**Origin of Projects:** Cooperative national and international initiatives (i.e., ESTC, ECCO, etc.); RBML (curator-initiated projects, exhibition catalogs, finding aids; website); UIUC Library projects; teaching faculty initiatives; patron-generated (on-site, campus, and external); and ILL.

#### **Principles:**

- Digitization increases access and is a useful preservation tool. The unique collections in RBML are good candidates for digitization.
- Materials must be in reasonable condition in order to proceed with digitization (RBML will use a modified version of the checklist developed by Google to determine if an item is sturdy enough for digitization.) Procedure (and funding) for conservation of material to be digitized should be part of any project.
- RBML will not digitize material that is easily available elsewhere.
- Full cataloging/processing must be in place before items enter the digitization queue. Funding for the creation of this “metadata” should be part of any project that includes uncataloged, undercataloged, or unprocessed items.
- All digital facsimiles must be accessible through our online library system (Voyager) and OCLC in 856 fields, as well as via the internet through such portals as Internet Archives, OCA, etc.
- Digitization must be done to at least a minimally archival standard (i.e. at least 300 ppi and 16 bit per channel color).
- Master images will be retained in an appropriate long-term preservation environment that includes capacity for digital object management and addresses concerns about data integrity, data migration, and long-term viability.
- RBML must seek a measure of cost-recovery (pre-payment is preferred) and retain online access to files.

## Procedures:

- Curatorial staff of RBML shall determine what collections are appropriate for digitization (Curators will review all potential collections whether idea for digitization comes from RBML staff, other librarians, or teaching faculty.
- For OCA scanning: Books from RBML will be processed in RBML, transferred to Oak Street, stored in Conservation Lab vault overnight, and returned directly to RBML. [We repeat the inadvisability of having the OCA scanner offsite and urge the library administration to reconsider the relocation of scanning unit closer to RBML.]
- For In-house digitization in DCC, items are retrieved from RBML and charged to DCC for the period of digitization, and returned before 4:45pm on the same day to RBML.
- Realistic estimates of staff time for pulling and processing materials to be digitized must be determined before start of project. If necessary, funding must be found to permit safe, secure, and efficient processing.
- Procedure needed for Conservation of items injured in the process
- Citations are verified, condition is ascertained, cataloging is reviewed (upgraded where necessary).
- For substantial or complete imaging of printed materials, digitized project sites are searched for prior digital copies. Item uniqueness and OCA-suitability are checked.
- Production and permission estimates are supplied, if necessary, and formal orders with payment information are solicited, delivery methods are confirmed.
- **Space issues for storage of electronic data...**

## Appendix III

# 2011/2012 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

## *THE NO. 44 SOCIETY*

### A CONVIVIAL CONFAB FOR BOOK COLLECTORS

#### **SEPTEMBER 14 2011, 3:00 p.m. in RBML**

Exhibition Opening! “Out of many good ones, one principal good one, “ Celebrating the King James Bible at 400. Curated by RBML’s Director, Valerie Hotchkiss, she will give an introduction and tour to the exhibition.

**OCTOBER 12, 2011, 3:00 p.m. in RBML** Local graphic artist and web designer John Bonadies will talk about his “LetterMPress” project, a virtual letterpress environment—released first on the iPad—that will allow anyone to create authentic-looking letterpress designs and prints.

#### **NOVEMBER 9, 2011, 3:00 p.m. in RBML**

Josephine Koster, Professor of English at Winthrop University, will talk about women readers in the Middle Ages.

#### **DECEMBER 14, 2011, 3:00 p.m. in RBML**

Come join us for a Holiday Cheer Party and book brag. Club members and all in the mood to share new acquisitions or old favorites are invited to bring highlights from their collections to display.

#### **FEBRUARY 8, 2012, 3:00 p.m. in RBML**

Andy Boyle, Lecturer in History at Brasenose College, Oxford and a Velde Visiting Scholar Awardee for 2011-12, will talk about the poet and historian Samuel Daniel (1562-1619).

#### **MARCH 14, 2012, 3:00 p.m. in RBML**

Willis Regier, the director of the University of Illinois Press, is also the curator of the first spring exhibition in The Rare Book & Manuscript Library, *Wise Animals: Aesop and His Followers*. Bill will share with us his interest in the complex history of the Fables, and give us a guided tour of the exhibition.

#### **APRIL 11, 2012, 3:00 p.m. in RBML**

James Akerman, the director of the Hermon Dunlap Smith Center at the Newberry Library in Chicago, will talk about the history of the atlas.

#### **MAY 9, 2012, 3:30 p.m. in RBML**

Winners of the 2012 Baldwin and Fletcher book collecting contests will be announced. All are welcome!

## Appendix IV

### Courses taught in the Midwest Book & Manuscript Studies Program

2011/12

#### Archival Studies

##### LIS 581 Administration and Use of Archival Materials

LIS 584 Arrangement and Description for Archives and Museums

LIS 590CA Community Archives - Heritage and Identity

LIS 590PA Personal Archiving

#### Book, Manuscript, Printing, and Library History and Studies

##### ARTH 425 Manuscripts and Early Printing

FR 443 France and Modernist Magazines: International Publishing Networks and the Avant-Garde

HIST 520 Problems in Chinese History: Literary Culture and Communication in Ming Qing China

LIS 490BA Book Arts Seminar

LIS 512 History of Libraries

LIS 514 History of Children's Literature

LIS 590BB Bookbinding: History, Principles, and Practice

LIS 590BK The Picture Book: History, Art, and Visual Literacy

LIS 590BP Library Buildings and Society: From Past to Present

LIS 590BT Special Topics in Book Arts

LIS 590CP Rare Books, Crime, and Punishment

LIS 590GP Great Printers and Their Books

LIS 590HB History of the Book

LIS 590LP History and Techniques of Letterpress Printing

LIS 590MC Medieval Codicology: The Medieval Book from Sheep to Shelf

LIS 590MM Medieval and Early Modern Manuscripts

LIS 590PB History and Practices of Book Collecting

LIS 590PM Manufacture, Description, Uses, & Preservation of Paper in the Scholarly World

LIS 590PO The Book as Physical Object

LIS 590SU Historical Bindings (Suave Mechanicals: Studying Historical Bindings)

#### Conservation and Preservation

##### LIS 582 Preserving Information Resources

LIS 586 Digital Preservation

LIS 590AV Audiovisual Materials in Libraries and Archives

LIS 590GN Conservation of General Collections

LIS 590PC Preservation and Conservation for Collections Care

MUSE 420 Collections Management

## **Information Organization and Resources**

### **LIS 511 Bibliography**

- LIS 530A Music Librarianship and Bibliography**
- LIS 590BC Rare Book Cataloging**
- LIS 590DB Descriptive Bibliography**
- LIS 590RM Records and Information Management**
- LIS 590EB Enumerative, Descriptive, Historical and Textual Bibliography**
- LIS 590SR Reference Sources for Rare Books**
- LIS 590TL Theological Librarianship**

## **Miscellaneous Courses**

### **LIS 490MU Museum Informatics**

- LIS 590EP Electronic Publishing: Technologies and Practices**
- LIS 590EX Planning, Production & Practice of Library and Museum Exhibitions**
- LIS 590LI Legal Issues in Library and Information Science**
- LIS 590MH Special Collections in Museums and Historical Settings**
- LIS 590SL Special Library Administration**
- LIS 590SP Collection Development for Special Collections**

## Appendix V: Events in RBML

### **2011-2012 Public Programs Sponsored by RBML**

#### **New Carl Sandburg Documentary Introduced by Film's Director**

16 September, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** Room 66 Main Library

**Attendance: 49**

**Summary:** The Rare Book & Manuscript Library and the Colloquium Committee of the University of Illinois Library presented the new, feature-length documentary, "The Day Carl Sandburg Died."

Producer and Director Paul Bonesteel introduced "The Day Carl Sandburg Died" and took questions from the audience.

Six years in the making, "The Day Carl Sandburg Died" both recovers and replaces the legend of Carl Sandburg. Beginning with a focus on Sandburg's gestation in the milieu of early twentieth-century radical politics, the film combines interviews of contemporaries such as Pete Seeger, Studs Terkel, Yevgeny Yevtushenko, and Norman Corwin, along with footage of performances of Sandburg's works. Appreciations from a later generation of artists and historians, among them, Ted Kooser, Dan Zanes, Sean Wilentz, Penelope Niven, and Geoffrey O'Brien bring to life Sandburg's persistent hold on a corner of contemporary culture.

Featuring rare archival film footage, as well as images from the Carl Sandburg Archive in The Rare Book & Manuscript Library, "The Day Carl Sandburg Died" reintroduces a poet, biographer, ethnomusicologist, and a radical who became a popular culture icon.

***"Out of many good ones, one principal good one"***

#### ***Celebrating the King James Bible at 400***

14 September, 2011, 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** The Rare Book & Manuscript Library, a *No. 44 Society* Event

**Attendance: 66**

**Summary:** Opening remarks and a tour of the exhibition were given by exhibition curator, Valerie Hotchkiss.

***The LetterMPress Project: A Talk By Designer, John Bonadies***

12 October, 2011, 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** The Rare Book & Manuscript Library, 346 Library, a *No. 44 Society* Event

**Attendance: 41**

Local graphic artist and web designer John Bonadies talked about his "LetterMPress" project, a virtual letterpress environment—released first on the iPad—that will allow anyone to create authentic-looking letterpress designs and prints.

The design process is the same as the letterpress process—you place and arrange type and cuts on a press bed, lock the type, ink the type, and print. You are able to create unlimited designs, with multiple colors, using authentic vintage wood type and art cuts. And you can print your design directly from LetterMpress or save it as an image for import it into other applications.

**The 2nd Annual Joan Friedman Lecture in Book History:**

***American Paper Mills: Five Hundred and Still Counting: A Talk by John Bidwell, Astor Curator and Head of Printed Books & Bindings Department at the Morgan Library & Museum***

21 October, 2011, 5:00 p.m.

**Location:** The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

**Attendance: 54**

**Summary:** Sponsored by the Rare Book & Manuscript Library and GSLIS Midwest Book & Manuscript Studies Program, Bidwell, an expert in the history of papermaking, gave an account of his attempts to identify and describe paper mills operating in this country between 1690 and 1832. Many of these mills have been unrecorded until now. New information found in archival sources, census returns and newspaper reports has made it possible to follow the fortunes of a rapidly growing trade, an important source of cheap newsprint during the colonial period, and a vital component of book publishing projects during the early industrial era. By 1832 Americans were competing against imported goods with a complete array of wrapping, writing, printing, and specialty papers, some of them made on the recently invented cylinder and Fourdrinier machines. Technological



developments were noted, the business exploits of prominent papermakers were mentioned, and the lecture was illustrated with contemporary views of mills and manufacturing facilities.

***CSI 15th Century: The Mysterious Case of the Holkham Hall Prayerbook: A Talk by Josephine Koster of Winthrop University***

9 November, 2011, 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** The Rare Book & Manuscript Library, a *No. 44 Society* Event

**Attendance: 27**

**Summary:** Oxford University MS Holkham Misc. 41 contains a collection of prayers written by a late fourteenth-century woman for a group of women readers. We don't know who the anonymous author may have been, who her readers were, who made the manuscript, or even exactly how it came to be in the Oxford University collections. In this talk, Professor Koster will spoke about the detective work she has been carrying out to identify the author, her audience, and the trail this prayerbook has taken over the last six centuries, focusing on how a combination of modern bibliographic technology and old-fashioned archival research have been needed to establish its provenance.

**The Dickensian Reading Circle**

3 November, 2011, 3:00 p.m. *A Christmas Carol* (1843)

10 November, 2011, 3:00 p.m. *The Chimes* (1844)

17 November, 2011, 3:00 p.m. *The Cricket on the Heart* (1845)

8 December 2011, 3:00 p.m. *The Battle of Life* (1846)

15 December 2011, 3:00 p.m. *The Haunted Man* (1848)

**Location:** The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

**Attendance: 9 or 10 for each session**

**Summary:** This five-session Book Club in November and December read all the Holiday Books by Charles Dickens and examined first editions and other rarities.

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens was a success from the moment it appeared in 1843 and has remained a beloved holiday story. Less well known is that Dickens continued the series throughout the 1840s with four other stories that used what he called "the Carol philosophy to strike a sledgehammer blow" for the poor, uneducated and repressed.

Readers purchased the text, *A Christmas Carol and Other Christmas Books* at the Illini Union Bookstore.

### **Holiday Cheer Party and Book Brag!**

14 December, 2011, 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** The Rare Book & Manuscript Library, a *No. 44 Society* Event

**Attendance: 27**

**Summary:** The No. 44 Society's Annual Holiday Cheer Party and Book Brag featured new acquisitions by club members, placed on display in The Rare Book & Manuscript Library's Seminar Room.

### ***Samuel Daniel and the "Collection of the History of England:" A Talk by Velde Visiting Scholar Andrew Boyle***

8 February, 2012, 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** The Rare Book & Manuscript Library, a *No. 44 Society* Event

**Attendance: 22**

**Summary:** For its February, 2012 meeting, *The No. 44 Society*, welcomed Andrew Boyle, Lecturer in History at Brasenose College, Oxford and Velde Visiting Scholar Awardee in The Rare Book & Manuscript Library for 2011-12. Boyle spoke about the poet and historian Samuel Daniel (1562-1619) and his year in the United States continuing his census and collation of Daniel's best known work, *The Collection of the History of England*, for which he is producing a new edition and articles on its history and reception.

### **Make Your Own Valentine Workshop, Sponsored by The Soybean Press**

11 February, 2012

**Location:** The Soybean Press

**Attendance: 20**

**Summary:** The Valentine's workshop was a blast! Creative and enthusiastic participants came out and put their Valentine's ideas in print—letterpress style. The heart-shaped paper was also a success.

**Agora Days at University High, Sponsored by The Soybean Press**

21 February—24 February, 2012, 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** Soybean Press

**Attendance: 59**

**Summary:** Uni High students printed mini broadsides of their own creative works.

***The True History of St. Valentine's Day: A Lecture by Professor Bonnie Wheeler, Southern Methodist University***

13 February, 2012, 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

**Attendance: 55**

**Summary:** Co-sponsored by The Department of Religion, The Medieval Studies Program, and The Rare Book & Manuscript Library, this special lecture by Professor Wheeler was an enlightening and entertaining look at the backstory to our annual cultural celebration of romantic love.

At present Wheeler is finishing a project on reputation in medieval texts. At SMU she directs the SMU Medieval Studies Program. She is editor of the book series "The New Middle Ages" (New York: Palgrave Macmillan). She has edited and co-edited twelve books. She is editor of the International Arthurian Society/North American Branch's quarterly journal "Arthuriana". Among her national elected positions, she is Vice President of the Council of Editors of Learned Journals; councilor of The Medieval Academy of America; and on the national nominating committee of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. She appears frequently as historical and literary consultant for Arts and Entertainment (A&E) Network, History Channel, and BBC.

***Wise Animals: Aesop and His Followers: Opening Remarks and Tour by Willis Goth Regier***

14 March, 2012, 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** The Rare Book & Manuscript Library, a *No. 44 Society* Event

**Attendance: 70**

**Summary:** In his talk, Regier, the Director of the University of Illinois Press, ranged through the history (and many myths!) of the Aesopic tradition and gave a well-

appreciated and attended tour of selections from the excellent holdings of The Rare Book & Manuscript Library, as well as several texts from his personal collection.

***Aesop Story Time: A Special Storytelling Performance by Lauren Chenevert of the Center for Children's Books***

26 March, 2012, 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

**Attendance: 28**

**Summary:** Lauren Chenevert of the Center for Children's Books delighted a crowd of 4-8 years olds (and parents!) with a special storytelling performance based-on Aesop's "Fables."

***"New Poems and Old:" A Reading by University of Illinois Emeritus Professor, Laurence Lieberman***

29 March, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

**Attendance: 39**

**Summary:** The author of fourteen books of poetry, three books of criticism, and published in journals ranging from the *The Atlantic Monthly*, to the *Southern Review* and *The Nation*, Lieberman has been a creative force and amanuensis for American Poetry for many decades.

Also inhabiting an office exactly one floor above the Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Lieberman happily read from both his latest work, as well as poems from prior collections. He was introduced by Creative Writing Program professor, Janice Harrington.

**Local Book and Print Artists Sale and Show: Sponsored by the Soybean Press**

31 March, 2012, 12:00 p.m.

**Location:** Indigo Gallery, Champaign

**Attendance: 50**

**Summary:** The Soybean Press hosted a sale of print and book arts at the Indigo Gallery in Downtown Champaign on Saturday, March 31st from 12pm to 4pm. It featured the work of local book artists and printmakers and included artists books, print art, blank books, relief printed greeting cards, hand-made paper, and more.

***“A Brief History of the Atlas:” A Talk by James Akerman, Newberry Library***

11 April, 2012, 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** The Rare Book & Manuscript Library, a *No. 44 Society* Event

**Attendance:** 77

**Summary:** James Akerman, the Director of the Hermon Dunlap Smith Center at the Newberry Library in Chicago, gave a very well-attended talk about the history of the atlas.

Akerman has been Director of the Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography at the Newberry Library since 1996, having worked at the Newberry since 1985. He holds a Ph.D. in Geography from Penn State University and is the author of many studies of the social and political aspects of cartography, railroad and road maps, and the history of atlases. He has edited or co-edited four collections of essays in the history of cartography, including *Cartographies of Travel and Navigation* (2006), and *Maps: Finding Our Place in the World* (2007), both published by the University of Chicago Press.

**Boneyard Arts Festival Events**

19 April, 2012, 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

**Attendance:** 36

**Summary:** The Rare Book & Manuscript Library will be displaying the work produced this year by the Soybean Press. The press produced eight fine press broadsides for the visiting authors of the Carr Reader Series in conjunction with the University of Illinois Creative Writing Department.

In addition, RBML Curator of Rare Books Marten Stromberg and [who?] played some of the Civil War music that he and Scott Schwartz have been performing, along with (of course) some Woody Guthrie.

***Shakespeare's Birthday Celebration! It's Time to Party Like It's 1564!***

23 April, 2012, 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

**Attendance:** 30

**Summary:** Once again, The Rare Book & Manuscript Library hosted a celebration of Shakespeare's Birthday. Almost all attendees read from Will's works and dramatic personae from a concurrent Shakespearian production enlivened the festivities with their

favorite passages. Cake and ale (non-alcoholic) were served to those who recited fourteen lines or more from the immortal Bard!

### **Special Exhibition Opening!**

#### **“Seeds to Symmetry to Structure: Crystallography and the Search for Atomic-Molecular Arrangement:” A Talk by Seymour Mauskopf, Duke University**

30 April, 2012, 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

**Attendance:** 47

**Summary:** Mauskopf, Professor Emeritus and Director of Focus Interdisciplinary Programs at Duke, was the first Edelstein International Fellow in the History of Chemical Sciences and Technology (Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry, University of Pennsylvania, and The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, 1988-1989). In spring, 2000, he was the Price Fellow at the Chemical Heritage Foundation, Philadelphia. In 1998, he received the Dexter Award for Outstanding Contributions to the History of Chemistry from the American Chemical Society.

His talk traced the evolution of crystallography from its beginnings to the twentieth century.

### **Guided Tour of "Crystallography" Exhibition**

9 May, 2012 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** The Rare Book & Manuscript Library, a *No. 44 Society* Event

**Attendance:** 44

**Summary:** Vera Mainz and Greg Girolami, curators of the new RBML exhibition, "Crystallography," gave a guided tour of the cases, text panels, and mineral samples.

Professor Girolami also summarized, briefly, the history of crystallography as a discipline. Crystallography and an X-ray experiment in 1912 led to the discovery of DNA in 1953. The exhibition commemorated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that experiment.

### **Special Seminar Presentation:**

#### **"Correcting Books in Late Medieval England:" A Lecture by Oxford University Professor, Daniel Wakelin**

15 May, 2012, 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

**Attendance:** 26

**Summary:** Co-sponsored by The University of Illinois Program in Medieval Studies, this

talk by Wakelin, the Jeremy Griffiths Professor of Medieval Palaeography at the University of Oxford, ran through the key points of his current research project regarding book correction in late medieval England. He also discussed some first impressions of his work with two medieval manuscripts housed in The Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

**“UNESCO, Libraries, and Inclusive Knowledge Societies:” A Talk by University of Illinois Professor and Director of the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs, Barbara J. Ford**

30 May, 2012, 4:00 pm

**Location:** The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

**Attendance: 52**

**Summary:** Professor Ford was appointed by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to be a member of the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO. She provided an overview of UNESCO's work important to libraries, including issues of digital heritage, freedom of expression, information literacy, and technologies. Ford also described the funding challenges facing UNESCO with the recent end of contributions by the U.S. government.

The current Mortenson Center associates, representing twelve countries, were introduced and were available for conversation after the presentation.

The event was co-sponsored by the University of Illinois Library Colloquium Committee, the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs, and The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

**Bloomsday! A Special Literary Celebration at Mike 'n Molly's**

16 June, 2012, 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** Mike 'N Molly's, Downtown Champaign

**Attendance: 30-50**

**Summary:** Lovers of the work of James Joyce celebrated on Bloomsday, June 16th at Mike n Molly's in downtown Champaign. There was Irish music, readings of Joyce and more.

## Appendix VI: projects /apprenticeships

### Practica

**Jina Park:** Review & correction of the organization of the flat files, while performing a detailed conservation assessment of the same.

**Beth Saffer:** Review of bibliographies of important illustrated books and lists of private presses to locate stx items that should be transferred to RBML (by a sophisticated comparison of dealer and auction prices, number of copies in OCLC, & other factors). She generated lists that were handed off to IPM to be used for transferring said materials.

**David Baron:** Assessment of curriculum connections between faculty and RBML (Finding: we teach 22 classes per month on average!) and development of online exhibition on fencing books.

### Curatorial Interns:

**Kalie Wetovick & Rachel Lavenda:** Digitized paper class lists & created a hierarchically organized wiki version of physical and digital class lists by topic/audience and course number. Especially useful for the preparation of other future classes and the access of historical ones.

*note: their work can be found at <http://go.illinois.edu/rbxwiki> under **collection subject guides***

**Sultana Vest:** Helped with several events related to the Soybean Press: the Soybean Press Book Fair and IMC Zine Fest. She also did some digital work.

**Bryan Flota:** Reviewed major bibliographies of San Francisco Fine Press material to identify desiderata for our collection as well as to review significant presses and artists to see where the collection could be supplemented.

Reviewed books in the circulating collections to identify 51 items that were inscribed by their authors, some with extensive manuscript material, such as a tipped-in letter and an unidentified and seemingly original poem. (mostly 2011-12 but went into 2012-13).

**Tom Ackerman:** Tom has started a project to review dealer catalogs and implement processes to simplify the processing and retention of said catalogs. (still in progress).

**Damon McGee:** Archival processing and conversion of Archon files to MODS format for experiment with Blacklight system.

### Volunteers

**Alison Fenlon:** Ali started as a volunteer assisting with the Midwest Hip Hop Archives, by doing research on artists and resources in the Chicago Hip Hop community and by acting as a knowledge base throughout the process of meeting with studios and other contacts. She is now working on the project as a Graduate Hourly, helping to organize our base of contacts, keep track of the network of their relationships, and will eventually be the primary processor of digital and physical material coming into the archives.

**Bob Blissard, Gene Rinkel, and Ernest Gullerud:** Sandburg archival project and review, assessment, and rescue of the large collection of German-American imprints from the Ratterman Collection currently scattered throughout the stacks.



**Carol Berthold:** Began by organizing Wells and Merwin collection information files, then worked to verify pre-1650 manuscript holdings against our records, and now works on entering the information from our large and useful “provenance” file into our online catalog records.