Professor Stigler explains the importance of a unique manuscript in Special Collections that tells the story of the youthful Isaac Newton’s discovery of mathematics and of the principle of universal gravitation.

Library treasures on display

By Stephen Stigler, Library Society Chairman and the Ernest DeWitt Burton Distinguished Service Professor, Department of Statistics and the College and Member, Committee on Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science

The pleasure of returning to the Library this year, to the remarkable new spaces of the Special Collections Research Center, has inspired us to initiate an experiment. All Library Society meetings will continue to have as their central focus a talk by a specially selected scholar, and often the talk will be related to an exhibit in the splendid new exhibition space. Those exhibits are and will remain a marvelous focus of attention, and they show simultaneously the breadth and depth of our collections and the skill of our bibliographers.

But there are many treasures in our collections that do not fit well in a full exhibit. Starting with the February 29 Library Society meeting, we added a special feature—a one-night-only exhibit of a single treasure, surrounded with a very few other works to give it context.

In February that work was a unique manuscript, the single most telling piece of evidence that the story of Isaac Newton discovering the mathematical principles of universal gravitation from observing an apple’s fall in his garden was grounded in fact. The manuscript was accompanied by two early works of Voltaire that spread the story.

At our next meeting on May 23, the exhibit will be of a published work of art and science that played a pivotal role in improving public health in Victorian Britain. We hope members will come to tour the new main exhibition and enjoy the main course of a related address by Aden Kumler of our Art History Department, with a brief dessert of a small, unrelated exhibit to follow.

May 23 – 5 pm: Professor Aden Kumler
Love’s Labors in the Ruins: The Curious Case of the Carmelite Missal
Special Collections Research Center
Recently, the Library Society’s Steering Committee held its annual meeting to select titles to purchase with funds from the Library Society. Thanks to members’ support this year, $41,407 was spent to acquire 22 essential titles.

Unfortunately, not all titles requested could be funded. Following are a few that remain available for funding via a donation to the Library Society. If interested, please send a check for the cost of the book, with the title in the comment field, to The Library Society, 1100 East 57th Street, Room 180, Chicago, IL 60637.

- **Maps of the Czech Republic, 1986—$760**
  - The Library has been updating its holdings of topographic maps for the Eastern European countries, where they were restricted during Soviet times. A donation of $760 will purchase all 217 sheets now available.

- **Endangered Languages.** Peter K. Austin, ed. London: Routledge, 2012—$1,450
- **Anthropological Linguistics.** Bambi Schiefflin, ed. London: Routledge, 2010—$1,340
- **Cognitive Linguistics.** Adele E. Goldberg, ed. London: Routledge, 2011—$1,750

These multi-volume sets of previously published articles—many written by University of Chicago faculty—represent seminal thinking on their topic.

- **Reprinted Collection of Directories of Industries and Factories in Taiwan, China, Korea and Sakhalin, 1930—1944—$4,310**
  - These Japanese factory directories contain valuable research information for scholars in China, Korea, Russia and Japan studies.

**William O. Petersen, 1926—2012**

It is with great sadness that the Library announces the passing of William O. Petersen, life member of the Visiting Committee to the Library and the Library Society Steering Committee. He was a longtime friend, active volunteer and avid champion for the Library, and he will be greatly missed.

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**Gift of the James W. Crawford, M.D., Ph.D. Library of the Behavioral Sciences**

A lumna Susan Crawford, AM ’55 (Comparative Human Development) and PhD ’70 (Graduate Library School) recently gifted the library of her late husband, James W. Crawford, MD ’54 (Psychiatry), PhD ’61 (Biopsychology), to the University of Chicago Library.

James Weldon Crawford (1927–2009) was a Fellow of the National Institute of Neurological Disease and Blindness and Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Chicago. His research focused on neurophysiology and neuroendocrinology. For over forty years, he devoted his life to patient care and held professorships at the University of Illinois and at Rush University. He was an early advocate of social systems theory in the behavioral sciences at a time when the psychoanalytic focus was principally on the individual. As department chair at Ravenswood Hospital and Medical Center, he founded one of the first community mental health centers in the United States.

Over the past half century, Dr. Crawford collected a library of over 2300 volumes in the behavioral sciences. This valuable collection spans the years 1776 to 2011 and illustrates the shifting paradigms in psychiatry and psychological thinking during that period. It provides an overview of the major theories that have held sway in the field but also details the sociological origins and political conditions that shaped study of the behavioral sciences in the twentieth century.

- **Therapeutic technique, theory, and history are all broadly represented, including:**
  - Classic works in biological and behavioral sciences
  - Landmarks of the psychoanalytic movement
  - Core texts on social experiments in mental health
  - Evolution of psychotherapy and biological psychiatry

The collection is in excellent condition, having been carefully maintained. Dr. Crawford wished to gift the collection to support students and the university’s exemplary program in the behavioral sciences.

The books are now integrated into the general collections of the University of Chicago Library. Faculty, students, and staff are welcome to check them out for use in their research.