

Celebrating Our Friends: Recent Gifts to the Special Collections Research Center

Introduction

A broad and diverse group of friends has helped to build the University of Chicago Library's extraordinary collections. In the early decades after the founding of the University in 1891, many supporters of the new institution made gifts to the Library. Among the early donors featured in the 2001 Special Collections exhibition, *Building For a Long Future: The University of Chicago and Its Donors 1889-1930*, were Chicago book and manuscript collectors and civic leaders Frank W. Gunsaulus, Emma B. Hodge, Ebenezer and Fannie Lane, Mrs. Erskine M. Phelps, and Mrs. George M. Eckels. Most of them had no formal ties to the University and were motivated by personal connections and a desire to help ensure the success of the ambitious educational venture. They were soon joined by a second generation of donors who had graduated from the University in its first decade, for example Shirley Farr and Harold Swift. Early faculty took an intense interest in expanding Library resources in their fields of research and teaching; and collections purchased in this period, among them the New Testament manuscripts that were named in honor of Edgar J. Goodspeed, the Reuben T. Durrett Collection of Kentucky and the Ohio River Valley, the Stephen A. Douglas Papers, were a direct result of faculty involvement in building Library collections.

After the 1953 founding of Special Collections, many friends responded to the forceful efforts of founding Curator Robert Rosenthal to develop the collections through gifts. Faculty members Earl J. Hamilton, George Williamson, Barry Karl, and many others; alumni and trustees including Harvey Plotnick and Arthur W. Schultz; and Chicago collectors such as Joseph Halle Schaffner, Samuel and Marie Louise Rosenthal, Ludwig Rosenberger, and Louis Szathmáry continued to express their devotion to the institution and commitment to strengthening its resources with their gifts.

The bonds between alumni, faculty, staff, and other collectors, and the University of Chicago Library, have intensified over the past decade. As donors become increasingly sophisticated about options for the disposition of their collections, they are seeking assurance that materials will be made accessible for use by scholars and students, carefully maintained and preserved, complement existing collections or provide the foundation for new ones, and support current and emerging academic programs. Friends of the University of Chicago Library care deeply about all of these matters. They formed collections with passion and a desire to foster pursuit of lifelong learning, and their decisions about the collections' future have been guided by knowledge of the University and the Library.

As the current exhibition, *Research at the Center*, illustrates, access, use, and preservation have always been the focus of Special Collections at the University of Chicago. In conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the Special Collections Research Center, *Celebrating Our Friends* includes a selection of recent gifts from alumni (Case 1), faculty (Case 2) staff and other friends (Case 3). While such a sampling, however broad, cannot represent the full range of gifts that have enriched Special Collections over the years, it is

presented with gratitude to all of our friends for perpetuating a legacy of support for the University's research and teaching mission.

Daniel Meyer, Susanna Morrill, and Catherine Uecker selected items included in this exhibition.

Alice Schreyer, Director
Special Collections Research Center

Case 1 FRANK J. PIEHL

In 2002, Frank J. Piehl (Ph.D., 1952) presented 247 printed items from his Collection of Works By and About Eugene Field, children's poet and journalist, to the University of Chicago Library. The collection also includes autograph and manuscript materials that will come to the Library at a later date. Discussions about this gift go back to an exhibition organized in 1995 to mark the centennial of Chicago's Caxton Club and the 100th anniversary of Field's death that included items from Frank Piehl's collection and the Library's. Following the exhibition, Piehl considered a variety of options for the disposition of his collection and chose "the satisfaction of preserving the collection in one place and advancing knowledge by way of the aid that it provides to scholars and others."

Frank Piehl's collection was formed to illustrate the publishing history of Field's works and includes first editions; printings in anthologies, periodicals, and keepsakes; variant issues, states, and bindings; privately printed, limited, and trade editions. The copies are in extraordinary condition, many with associations that document Field's connections in the Chicago bibliophile, newspaper, and publishing communities.

In addition to its interest for Chicago history, which was the initial motivation for the collection, Field's career sheds light on the Arts and Crafts movement, publishing, and book collecting at the turn of the 19th century. Among Field's collecting cronies was Frank Wakeley Gunsaulus, an early donor to the Library. In continuing this tradition, Frank Piehl found "the knowledge that my collection will be preserved at the university where I received my doctorate degree in chemistry in 1952 is most gratifying."

Case 2 JAMES L. WEIL

James L. Weil (A.B., 1950) is a poet, editor, and publisher who has been writing poetry since high school. In addition to a business career, between 1968 and 1981 Weil operated the Elizabeth Press, which published works by the poet William Bronk among others. Shortly after he closed the Elizabeth Press, Weil returned to publishing poetry, but not as a business. Since that time he has published limited edition broadsides, chapbooks, pamphlets, and collections of verse. Often designed by Jerry Kelly and printed at his Kelly-Winterton Press, the pieces are distributed to a small group of individuals and institutions, among them the University of Chicago Library. An active member of the Keats-Shelley Society, each year Weil issues a special publication marking Keats's birthday.

The series of publications received from James Weil have substantially enriched the Modern Poetry Book Collection. In the last few years he has supplemented gifts of books published by him with poetry publications issued by a number of 20th-century small presses. Dating primarily from the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, these materials are essential sources for students of 20th-century poetry and printing. They also illustrate the role of small presses in disseminating the work of well- and lesser-known contemporary poets. Among the presses represented are Longhouse Press in Vermont; Spoon River Press in Peoria, Illinois; and American Weave Press in Cleveland, Ohio.

Case 3 WILLIAM I. ELLIOT

Research at the Center features selections from the papers of University of Chicago Divinity School alumnus William I. Elliott (D.B., 1957), together with others that have come to the Library through his efforts to help build contemporary poetry collections at Chicago. Elliott, a teacher, poet, and translator, began collecting works of modern poetry as a graduate student at Chicago. Until his recent retirement, he taught English literature at Kanto Gakuin University in Yokohama, Japan, where he was the founding director of the Poetry Center and the founding editor of the journal, *Poetry Kanto*, published in conjunction with the Center's annual poetry festival.

Over the past decade, Elliott has presented hundreds of printed books to the Library's collections. He acquired many of these works from participants in the Poetry Center, contributors to *Poetry Kanto*, or others in the flourishing expatriate circle of English-language poets in Japan of which he is a part. His gifts include signed volumes of contemporary English-language poetry from many countries, most inscribed to him; signed volumes of contemporary Japanese poetry, most inscribed to him; and translations of Japanese poetry, primarily into English, co-translated by Elliott, in particular the works of Tanikawa Shuntarô, Japan's best-known post-war poet. These gifts are extending the range of the contemporary poetry collection to include small press publications and translations that would not otherwise have been acquired by the Library.

Case 4 BEN KLEIN COLLECTION OF MINIATURE FILM POSTERS, GIFT
OF ARTHUR, ANDY, PETER, AND BETH KLEIN

Ben Stein, the grandfather of Peter Klein (M.B.A., 1991), was an avid movie fan. He worked at a printing company for many years and acquired a large collection of miniature movie posters, mostly from the 1940s-1960s. Peter's father, Arthur Klein, also worked at the printing company. After Ben Klein retired, he established a small business to use and sell the posters. He helped movie theatres put advertisements together and sold the miniature posters to collectors.

The Ben Klein Collection contains approximately 9,000 items representing about 5,000 movies. Mostly arranged in alphabetical order by movie title, there is a separate series of actors and actresses including files for Lucille Ball, Marlon Brando, Claudette Colbert, Bette Davis, Laurel and Hardy, Marilyn Monroe, Boris Karloff, and others. Among the films represented are well-known classics such as *Rope* and *Bringing Up Baby*, as well as

lesser-known Westerns and science fiction movies. As faculty members Tom Gunning and James Lastra observed, the posters reveal information about how films were marketed and the iconography of stars, while the small format makes them convenient to consult. The Ben Klein Collection of Miniature Film Posters complements existing cinema history resources in the Special Collections Research Center, including movie stills, marquee cards and lantern slides of coming attractions.

Case 5 WENDY DONIGER

Wendy Doniger is Mircea Eliade Distinguished Service Professor of the History of Religions in the Divinity School, the Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations, the Committees on Social Thought and on the Ancient Mediterranean World, and the College. Her research and teaching interests are cross-cultural and interdisciplinary, centering on Hinduism and mythology. Doniger's mother, Rita Roth Doniger, was a book and art collector of wide-ranging tastes. She formed a collection of rare books, including important English and American 19th- and 20th- century literary works, illustrated books in fine condition, early books, popular medical works, and various other titles that appealed to her. Lewis Carroll and George Cruikshank were authors and illustrators of particular interest.

The passion for books was inherited by Wendy Doniger, who cherished the volumes from her mother's library for their association with her own past as well for their intrinsic interest. Over the years Doniger has given a number of these books to friends and colleagues to whom she felt they would have special meaning, but when she began to consider what to do with the remainder her mind turned to the Library's needs. She generously offered to give as a gift to the Library those titles it did not already have. Doniger was excited by placing the books where they would be used by students and researchers, in the process making more room on her shelves for her own growing collections.

A selection from the 58 titles presented by Wendy Doniger to the Special Collections Research Center is on view.

Case 6 NEIL HARRIS AND TERI EDELSTEIN

In their book collecting Neil Harris, Preston and Sterling Morton Professor of History; and his wife, art consultant Teri Edelstein, former director of the Smart Museum of Art and former deputy director of the Art Institute of Chicago, pursue a keen interest in graphic design, color printing, and printing techniques. Their collection includes examples of illustrated books aimed at a mass audience, for example children's picture books, as well as a more elite one, as with limited edition illustrated books.

In 1995 Harris curated an exhibition, Planes, Trains, and Automobiles, in Special Collections, drawing on books in his own library as well as items in Special Collections' Encyclopaedia Britannica Collection of Literature for Children. Since that time, he and Edelstein have added to the Library's collection of historical children's literature on a consistent basis each year. Their gifts include international children's books as well as those reflecting Chicago's important role in children's book publishing, primarily in the interwar and post-World War II years.

More recently Harris and Edelstein have been developing their collection of illustrated books from the first half of the 20th century. During this period the French illustrated book experienced a revival, as publishers such as Edouard Pelletan and René Keiffer produced limited editions for an eager bibliophilic audience. Focusing on non-process color printing for book illustration, Harris and Edelstein have acquired many works illustrated with etchings, engravings, wood engravings, lithographs, pochoir, and other techniques of fine color work. They have refined the chronological scope of their collection to the years between the start of World War I and the end of World War II. To the Library's great good fortune, they are donating books outside these parameters to the Special Collections Research Center, where they have formed the core of a fascinating collection for the study of color printing techniques, book illustration, relationships between commercial and fine printing, and the market for limited edition books.

Case 7 ALEX S. TULSKY HISTORY OF MEDICINE COLLECTION, GIFT OF
 KLARA GLOTTMAN TULSKY, M.D. IN MEMORY OF ALEX S.
 TULSKY

Dr. Alex S. Tulsy (1911-2000) was a Chicago native who graduated from the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago. Dr. Tulsy practiced obstetrics and gynecology in Chicago for nearly 50 years, and he taught obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Illinois College of Medicine. In his later years he formed a library of the history of obstetrics and gynecology, which his family decided to present to an institution where the books would be carefully preserved and also made available for use by students and scholars. Gifts were made to several Chicago institutions of titles that would extend existing holdings. With its already deep collections in obstetrics and gynecology, the University of Chicago Library was honored to receive 58 titles as a gift from Dr. Tulsy's wife, Klara Glottmann Tulsy, M.D. in Memory of Alex S. Tulsy.

Books in the Tulsy gift, many of them with striking engraved anatomical plates, chart the development of obstetrics and gynecology as a specialized field of medicine from the more general practice of anatomy. Included are editions of classics in the field previously lacking in the collection, and less well-known works that provide insights into attitudes toward women, children, and the medical profession. They will be of great interest to historians of medicine, art, and gender.

Case 8 THE DAVID F. WHEELER COLLECTION OF STANLEY ELKIN.
 GIFT OF CHARYS WHEELER

As a student of literature and Russian at Macalester College, David Wheeler began to collect the works of novelist Stanley Elkin. He aimed to compile a bibliography of Elkin's writings and as a senior wrote letters to Elkin's publishers and agents requesting detailed information on the printing and distribution of his works. The project was not completed, but Wheeler continued to collect modern literature after graduation. In 1982-83 he attended the Columbia University School of Library Service, where he pursued his bibliographic and bibliophilic interests. During the late 1980s he was one of the co-founders of an archive of American music in New York; and he expressed a lifelong passion for film in a book he edited, *No, But I Saw the Move: The Best Short Stories*

Ever Made Into Film; with a Foreword by Bruce Jay Friedman (New York, N.Y.: Penguin Books, 1989).

Following David Wheeler's untimely death, his mother, Charys Wheeler of Geneva, Illinois, a devoted student in the University of Chicago's Basic Program of Liberal Education for Adults, sought a suitable home for her son's Elkin collection. After several conversations that pointed to an excellent "fit" of the collection with comprehensive holdings of other contemporary American novelists Richard Stern, Saul Bellow, and Philip Roth, Charys Wheeler decided to donate the collection to the University of Chicago Library.

Stanley Elkin attended South Shore High School in Chicago and received bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana. He taught at Washington University in St. Louis for 35 years prior to his death in 1995, and he published 10 novels and seven collections of shorter pieces. Elkin is considered a "serious funny" writer and widely regarded for his energetic, imaginative language and characters whose lives move seamlessly between comedy and tragedy.

Case 9 CURT BOCHANYIN

Library bibliographers spend their careers developing subject collections within their assigned areas of responsibility, acquiring sources needed for current work by students and faculty as well as others that enhance historical strengths and future research potential. Bibliographers bring scholarly expertise and close awareness of the University's teaching and research programs to their work and leave an unmistakable personal stamp on the collections they shape. During his long tenure, Curt Bochanyin developed an extraordinary knowledge of the Library's Bible holdings, and he was committed to adding needed rare editions to the collection. Soon after his recent retirement, Bochanyin turned in earnest to a longstanding project to compile a bibliography of "Printed Editions of the Greek New Testament in the University of Chicago Library" from the first printing through 1831, with extensive notes on editorial and printing features of key editions. He also continued his acquisitions, but now in the capacity of Library donor. His intimate knowledge of the subject and first-hand understanding of the Library's needs are formidable ingredients for a successful acquisitions program.

Over the course of just a few months, often taking advantage of his travels and vastly improved access to offerings of obscure printings by book dealers via the Internet, Bochanyin located and donated several scarce and fine works, significantly enriching the Library's outstanding Greek New Testament collection. A selection from his gifts, which include Foulis Press, Pickering, and Stephano-Elzevir editions, is shown in this case.