



Annual Report for the period July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014

ACTIVITIES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND CONTRIBUTIONS

■ INTRODUCTION ■

The Rare Book & Manuscript Library remains one of most active libraries on campus. We do not view our library as merely a repository of rare materials, but rather as a place of inspiration for our students and faculty. We serve as a cultural center for our region as well, and for national and international communities of scholars. 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. We believe that in a great special collections library, ideas should interact with the lengthy tradition of scholarship that preceded them and with the latest theories. Amidst all the public engagement activities, the penchant for collecting has not diminished. And as we build upon our collections and curatorial strength, we also explore new technologies—from digitization to blogging to bio-imaging—and beyond.

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 exciting public programming.

Below we list some of the major activities and accomplishments of the Rare Book & Manuscript Library during the last year.

■ COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT ■

ACQUISITIONS

During this period, the Library made the landmark acquisition of the Gwendolyn Brooks papers, duly celebrated in a campus-wide event. We also reached the long sought-after goal of 1200 incunabula (and event that will be celebrated in the near future). We continue to build upon our strengths with new and important acquisitions of early modern manuscripts and imprints, English literature and drama, and history of science items, among other topics. In addition, we have worked on collection strengths such Bibles, theater history (English, Spanish, Italian, and Neo-Latin), Reformation imprints, astronomy, the Arts and Crafts movement, the French Revolution, travel books, animal husbandry, and Artic exploration. The knowledge and education of our staff

allows us not only to teach with the collections but also to establish desiderata and fill in lacuna when possible. Notable acquisitions are listed in Appendix I.

TRANSFER OF BOOKS FROM STACKS AND DEPARTMENTAL LIBRARIES

Since 2011, RBML has had official responsibility for “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. We have also rewritten the guidelines for transferring books from stacks to RBOS in an effort to save rare items from theft and decay. In addition, we have consulted with departmental libraries on how to handle materials they deem rare, if they are unwilling to transfer such items to RBML. We attempted a project to bring in “seminal works in the history of science from the 20th century,” but were stymied by bibliographers who refused to take valuable works out of circulation. Clearly, the issue of oversight over the scattered special collections in our system needs to be addressed at the highest levels so that every library is made more aware of RBML’s responsibility and authority in this matter. 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.

CONSERVATION

Our conservation priorities are driven by exhibitions and teaching needs primarily, as well as relative cultural value. We remain frustrated by the lack of a proper database for tracking Conservation needs and turn-around times, but have high hopes for a resolution to this issue with the introduction of Aeon software in RBML in 2014. A new conservation assessment system developed by RBML will help prioritize conservation.¹

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. As books are used, we generally stabilize them 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. In addition to the 2975 books stabilized with museum board or pambinders, we also measured some 72 books for archival boxes this year.

VAULT ORGANIZATION

Public Services planned and undertook a major shift of collections to make room for new holdings and to bring better organizational sense to our named collections area.



CATALOGING

For the past seven years, The *Quick & Clean Rare Book Cataloging Project* has been one of the most important (and efficient) contributions to improved access in the University of Illinois library

system. In all, the Quick & Clean Catalogers have provided cataloging—and access— for over **85,000** items in the collections. High-level cataloging of our most unique resources has brought previously “hidden” items to light at the incredibly economical cost of about \$15 per title. The cost is actually lower when one takes into account the high number of original records 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 have been cataloged by Q&C catalogers. Moreover, the project serves as a vital training ground for the next generation of rare book catalogers, since our workforce is comprised of GSLIS students and graduates and because we view the project as part of our teaching mission. In 2013-14, 7845 titles were cataloged, 4528 titles received original cataloging, and 2580 records were enhanced.

RBML does not have a permanent, full time rare book cataloger. This means that our Q&C hourly, normally grant- or endowment-funded employees are doing all the cataloging of recent acquisitions as well as special projects to make hidden collections accessible. In addition, this dedicated crew has now taken on the daunting task of cleaning up the minimal and error-ridden records that accrued to our catalog thanks to library-wide retrospective cataloging projects in the past that took no pains to protect special collections cataloging from the ravages of 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 is a major concern for RBML.

ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS

An “assessment” of our archival collections was made last year and updated in a thorough report by one of our Graduate Assistants in 2013/14. Much of the housing has been stabilized and we have noted collections in need of further processing. Archon does not always serve our needs adequately and we eagerly look forward to migration to the new A-Space. We hope to have a new AP archival processor to our staff soon. This will finally enable us to make progress in this area. Our goal has been to develop 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 by patron requests, the uniqueness of the item, and special projects. For descriptions of some of these projects, see: http://www.library.illinois.edu/rbx/Digital_Projects.html. Project Unica, the Emblem Project, and *She-books* continue apace, while other projects have had to be delayed due to lack of staffing. We do not have any dedicated staff to manage the many digital projects (both digitization and digital humanities) in which we are involved, but several staff members have added more duties to their responsibilities to manage aspects of digitization: Dennis Sears oversees Project Unica on online exhibitions, Caroline Szylowicz shepherds the Emblem project as well as the Kolb database, and Valerie Hotchkiss edits the She-Book series for the University of Illinois Press and is curating the Shakespeare Lives! web presence. Other worthy projects such as *The Anatomy of the Book*, the *Early Modern Classroom*, and even the *Midwest Hip Hop Archive* have languished for want of time and staff. A position request for a Digital Projects Manager was rejected this year. We will continue to be hampered in our progress because of understaffing. RBML has a policies in place for digitization projects to insure accessibility, security, access, and

management of collections for all digitization projects. A recent decision to move our digitized books to Hathi Trust may make the items we digitize more accessible in a timelier manner.

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.

■ 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 offer instruction with rare materials on a regular basis, working with faculty and students in RBML. We also teach courses in the Midwest Book & Manuscript Studies Program. RBML staff also reach out to high school and even grade school teachers in the area to involve students of all ages in primary research. In 2013-14 RBML staff taught approximately 133 courses using RBML materials, and some 87 class meetings on special collections topics occurred offsite as part of the MBMS Program that RBML administers jointly with GSLIS. A total of 1,798 students attended courses held in-house in RBML.

TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARIANS

We take seriously our role as mentors for the next generation of special collections librarians, routinely recruiting students and guiding them toward careers in special collections librarianship. We will continue to train future special collections librarians in hands-on work by offering undergraduate positions, GAships, 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. Last year, we introduced a new category of volunteer, the Curatorial Intern, designed for unpaid GSLIS students who want experience in a special collections library.

It should be noted that RBML is a leader in trying to diversify the world of special collections librarianship in very real and tangible ways. For many years, we have been working to give underrepresented groups the proper kind of training so that they can go forward as capable librarians, recognized for their true merit. For example:

- 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.
 - In 2014, we joined the campus-wide Career Empowerment Program with one of our two Librarians of Tomorrow. This is a 7-week program that provides employment and job preparation training for underrepresented youth—and our student was terrific. (More libraries should participate!)
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- 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.
- We work closely with area high schools to inspire young people to study primary sources and to consider professions as scholars or librarians. Camp Cursive drew a diverse participants of multiple ethnic and socio-economic groups. Numerous programs have gone out to local schools and we regularly bring students in to RBML. Next month, for example, we host four groups of 5th graders from area schools studying artists' books. This sort of outreach is almost unheard of in a rare book library, but we believe it is making a difference. In at least two cases, a high school students who experienced our library through such a program have gone on to work here—and two of them have gone on for the MLS degree.

Rather than looking for quick fixes to diversity, the Rare Book & Manuscript Library is deeply committed to training a more diverse generation of special collections librarians with the expertise and experience they need to truly succeed.

VOLUNTEERS

We continue work with four volunteers from the community. This program is not easy to manage, given the security concerns and supervisory commitment necessary, but these relationships lead to moral and monetary support for the library.

■ PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ■

EXHIBITIONS (IN-HOUSE, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL)

We researched, curated and mounted 7 in-house exhibitions and 3 traveling or loan exhibitions from July 2013 to June 2014. 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 II)

VISITING SCHOLARS

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 2013/14, our visiting scholars were Mark Bland and Natasha Moore. Bland’s research interest was Ben Jonson, and Moore’s was William Allingham. Other, non-funded scholars from around the world worked on Carl Sandburg, the Cavagna collection, Milton, Mathematics, Renaissance pedagogy, and a host of other topics represented in our collections.

THE NO. 44 SOCIETY AND CAMPUS BOOK COLLECTING AWARDS

The No. 44 Society (our book collectors’ club), completed its eighth year in May 2014. 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 or expert visitors on various aspects of book collecting. The 2013/14 schedule of events is attached (Appendix III).

The Harris Fletcher Award and The T.W. Baldwin Prize for the best essays written for a class and making use of primary resources in the Rare Book & Manuscript Library were awarded to GSLIS student Brian Davidson won for his LIS 590HB paper, *Leaves of Glass: Shattered Books and Their Refractions* and John Gough won for his LIS 590 EXL research project, *Slinging Ink: The Penmanship of H. P. Behrensmeyer*.

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. We regularly teach a two-week course on letterpress printing. In addition, we have pursued a full program of outreach and engagement, collaborating with the Creative Writing Program, the Carr Reader Series and Uni High, among others. With the departure of Steve Kostell and Marten Stromberg, the future of Soybean Press is uncertain.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

To reach out to the community of users interested in all things bibliographical, 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. (APPENDIX IV) 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.

NEWSLETTER

Our monthly e-newsletter from RBML, which won a campus award for its design and content, is edited by Dennis Sears and offers a venue for publicizing our many public events and educating our constituents about our collections and services. Archive of newsletters:
<http://www.library.illinois.edu/rbx/newsletter/previous.html>

SOCIAL MEDIA

RBML was one of the first rare book libraries in the country to establish a blog. 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. A video series is planned for the near 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. There are plans to move the Public Programs Manager and Registrar to this area by the end of 2014.

PERSONNEL

Faculty: **4** (one is a three-year position)
Academic professional: **1**
Civil Service: **1**

Graduate Assistant: **1** (.5 endowment funded, **5** State funded)
Student Assistants **1.5 FTE**
Grant/Endowment-funded hourly catalogers: **3 FTE**

As the statistical snapshot below makes clear, these few people have accomplished an enormous amount within RBML over the past year. See APPENDIX V for a chart comparing our staff with other rare book libraries.

USER SERVICES (CIRCULATION AND REFERENCE)

Head Count: **4,410**

Registered Reading Room Users: **1,036**

Number of items used in Reading Room: **3,937**

Internal Reference questions answered: **~1,911** (underreported via Desktracker)

External Reference questions answered: **~475** (underreported via Desktracker)

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

COLLECTIONS

Acquisitions: **1,914 items**

Archival acquisitions: **63 cu feet**

Cataloging: **10,425** (7845 titles were cataloged, 4528 titles received original cataloging, and 2580 records were enhanced.)

TEACHING AND OUTREACH

Courses taught: **133** in RBML; **87** outside of RBML

Students in courses and presentations: **1,798**

Courses:

Valerie Hotchkiss (LIS590EX: *Planning, Production & Practice of Library and Museum Exhibitions*) taught Fall Semester, 25 students

Marten Stromber taught LIS 580LE Rare Book and Special Collections Librarianship), Fall Semester, 25 students

Marten Stromberg, Caroline Szylowicz, Anna Chen and Valerie Hotchkiss, Team taught 8-week OLLIE course on Special Collections, Fall and Spring Semester, total 30 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: **29** with total of **952** participants

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

GOALS FOR 2013/14

- Continue to work with DCC on digitization projects, perfecting guidelines and procedures for this process.
- 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 and improve conservation efforts.

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 accommodations 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

Notable Acquisitions 2013-14

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| <p>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</p> | | <p>The deluxe edition (limited to 26) in quarter vellum with the letter I is specifically requested.</p> <p>In addition to the unusual merits of the translation, seldom if ever has the poem been presented in so finely designed and printed an edition as this from Juan Nicanor Pascoe's Taller Martín Pescador in Tacámbaro, Michoacán, Mexico. The resulting eighty-eight page large quarto is of spacious proportions. The paper, made by Pasquale De Ponte in San Lucas Tepetlaco, is of just the right shade of green, neither too dark for legibility nor too coy for seriousness.</p> <p>Twenty-six copies, lettered from A to Z, were set aside to be bound in quarter vellum hard covers with a handsome slipcase, by Jace Graf of Cloverleaf Studio in Austin, Texas.</p> |
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| Propertius, Sextus | Elegiae | Bologna, Franciscus de Benedictis for Benedictus Hectoris, 1487 | item 60 in Catalog 1461. Price 6000 GBP Folio (290 x 200mm). 58 lines, Roman Letter, printed guide letters (some spaces left for Greek), 2 headings printed in red, without the first blank leaf. 18th century English calf, spine gilt (rubbed). First edition of Beroaldo's immensely detailed commentary on Propertius, and a copy much studied in England. Some poems show signs of having been intensively read, others more cursorily. First printed in 1472, his works were often included with those of Catullus and Tibullus. |
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APPENDIX II

Rare Book & Manuscript Library Exhibition Activity FY 2013

Marcel Proust: Writing Without End

19 July—23 August 2013

Curator: Caroline Szylowicz

Location: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Summary: 2013 marked the 100th anniversary of the publication of *Du côté de chez Swann* ("Swann's Way"), the first part of Marcel Proust's lengthy literary masterpiece, *In Search of Lost Time*, long known as *Remembrance of Things Past*. This exhibition traced a lifetime of writing, through books and manuscripts, from Proust's early publications while he was still in school and to his first attempt at a novel. It also explored his aesthetic and stylistic development through his study and translations of works by John Ruskin, and to the all-consuming adventure of *A la recherche du temps perdu*, which occupied the author from 1908 until his death in 1922.

The exhibition was curated by Caroline Szylowicz, the Kolb-Proust Librarian and Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts at The Rare Book & Manuscript Library. The library's Proust collections are the most extensive in North America, with over 1100 letters from Marcel

Proust, as well as manuscript and proof pieces, Proust's printed works, and a comprehensive collection of secondary sources.

The handout for the exhibition won the Division Four (brochures) prize in the annual exhibition awards sponsored by the Rare Books & Manuscripts Section (RBMS) of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) division of the American Library Association (ALA). This was the first "Leab" award ever garnered by RBML.

Life on the Moon: Scientific and Literary Reflections

30 August—13 December 2013

Curators: Marten Stromberg and Patrick Fadely

Location: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Opening Event: 30 August 2013, 3:00—5:00 p.m. Dr. Simon J. James from Durham University lecture: "The Idea of a Planned World: H. G. Wells's *The First Men in the Moon*." Lecture co-sponsored by the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities.

Additional Programming:

An event series entitled: "See You on the Moon."

The event series, "See You on the Moon," accompanied the "Life on the Moon" exhibition in The Rare Book & Manuscript Library. These events were sponsored by the Rare Book & Manuscript Library, the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities (IPRH), the Center for Advanced Study, the Station Theatre, the Parkland Planetarium, the Asian-American Cultural Center, the Astronomy Department, the U of I Concert Jazz Band, the Pygmalion Music Festival, Orchard Downs, the Japan House, the Art Theatre, the Art + Design Department, the Independent Media Center, and the Iron Post in Urbana.

Wolf, a roving play at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts

September 12-16, 5:30 pm www.unreliablebestiary.org

Moon Festival, at Orchard Downs and the Japan House

September 19

Art Exhibition at the Independent Media Center

September 27, (A Pygmalion Music Festival event)

A Dark Night at the Theatre, at the Station Theatre, Urbana

October 15, 7 pm www.stationtheatre.com

Exhibition Tour, at the Rare Book & Manuscript Library

November 13, 3-5 pm

Myths by Moonlight, at the Staerkel Planetarium, Parkland College, Champaign

November 15, 7 pm, \$4 parkland.edu/PLANETARIUM/

Moon Viewing and, “A View of the Moon: Lecture by Jim Kaler,” at the Rare Book & Manuscript Library, followed by direct observation hosted by Leslie Looney at the University of Illinois Observatory,

November 19, 7 pm

Moon Music by the U of I Concert Jazz Band, at the Iron Post, Urbana

November 20, 7 pm

Summary: From Lucian's True History up to H.G. Wells' *The First Men in the Moon*, this exhibition and programming traced the scientific and literary background of speculation about life on the moon. Books and manuscript exhibits from the Rare Book & Manuscript Library at Illinois illustrated the history of writing about the Moon, from the Roman Lucian, through the first telescopic observations of the Moon, its investment as a proxy for thinking anew about human society and multiple worlds, and on into the opportunity for stories of science-based adventure. Also on display were three artifacts from the Apollo 16 mission; including a moon rock sample on loan from NASA, and two artifacts used on the moon's surface on loan from Kennesaw State University. A beautifully produced and printed catalog to the exhibition was produced.

From Babylon to Baseball: Recent Additions to the Rare Book & Manuscript Library

24 January—16 May 2014

Curators: Valerie Hotchkiss, Marten Stromberg, Anna Chen, Caroline Szylowicz, Tad Boehmer, Tony Hynes, Chloe Ottenhoff, Dennis Sears, and Sarah Lindenbaum

Location: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Summary: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library has made a number of important book and manuscript additions over the past few years. This exhibition showcased over thirty exciting new pieces.

Collections and items highlighted range from a 4000 year old Babylonian clay tablet to scarce baseball reference works once owned by the American League President's Office. Further exhibits include two Incunabula (pre-1501 imprints), a number of never-before-seen items from the new Gwendolyn Brooks Papers, two recent Carl Sandburg acquisitions, two Theatre Royal, Drury Lane playbills, job printing examples from Californian Peter Koch, and perhaps the only known writing specimen of John Webster, dramatist and contemporary of Shakespeare and author of *The Duchess of Malfi* (1614).

Also on display were original drawings by the graphic artist and famous Dickens illustrator, George Cruikshank, a letter from Marcel Proust to his close friend Reynaldo Hahn, the fantastic, if not exquisite 1832 book of parrot illustrations by Edward Lear, and a postcard from H. G. Wells to his brother Fred taking credit for the original idea of the atomic bomb.

A handlist for the exhibits was also produced.

Helga Sandburg Crile, 24 November 1918—26 January 2014: A Commemorative Exhibition

12 February—6 March 2014

Curator: Dennis Sears

Location: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Summary: In memory of the recently deceased Helga Sandburg Crile, the youngest daughter of Carl Sandburg, RBML opened a temporary exhibition. Poet and author herself, she was a good friend to the Sandburg collections at Illinois. The exhibition displayed a small selection of her donated items, as well as other associated items from the Sandburg collections.

Fire Burne & Cauldron Bubble: Witchcraft at the Dawn of Modernity

30 May—8 August 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 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. This exhibition showcased a number of texts illustrating the rise and fall of the West's long history of fascination with witchcraft and demonology.

A website and a printed guide accompanied the exhibition.

Knot Forgotten: The Tennyson Library of Crochet at Illinois

June through August 2014

Curator: Gilbert Witte

Location: The Marshall Gallery and Library 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.

Knot Forgotten Events:

"Crochet and Kvetch" on Wednesday, July 9 at 3:00 p.m. in the Library's 4th floor staff lounge.

Lunchtime exhibit tours on Tuesday, July 15 and Thursday, July 24 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Lorado Taft statues at the east side entrance of the library were dressed to impress in crocheted attire during the month of July, thanks to Rachel Suntop.

Knot Forgotten Extravaganza, Friday, July 18:

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.

Exhibition Loans and Off-Site Exhibitions

Carl Sandburg in Elmhurst

Curator: Marten Stromberg

Location: Elmhurst Historical Museum, Elmhurst Illinois, 11 December 2013 through 20 April 2014

Summary: RBML lent three items and curatorial expertise to this exhibition documenting Carl Sandburg's experience living in Elmhurst, Illinois. Exhibits lent included one of Sandburg's pipes, an eyeshade, and a first edition of his *Rootabaga Stories*.

Social Paper

Location: Columbia College, Chicago, 3 February through 25 April 2014

Summary: Jessica Cochran from Columbia College borrowed nineteen works from the “Combat Paper” collection in RBML to support an exhibition of works that charted the evolution of the art of hand papermaking in relation to recent discourse around socially engaged art.

From Beans to Genes: Selected Early Works from Genetics and Natural History

Location: Spurlock Museum, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 12 June through 14 June 2014

Summary: RBML lent four items for this exhibition that accompanied the 8th Annual Arthropod Genomics Symposium, 12-14 June 2014.

APPENDIX III

2013-2014 Public Programs Sponsored by RBML

1. Exhibition Opening

"The Idea of a Planned World": H. G. Wells's The First Men in the Moon

Date: 30 August 2013, 3:00—5:00 p.m.

Location: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Attendance: 76

Speaker: Simon J. James, Professor of Victorian Literature in the Department of English Studies, Durham University

Sponsors: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library and The Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities

Summary: H. G. Wells is now best known for Victorian science fiction such as *The Time Machine* and *The War of the Worlds*. In his own time, however, Wells was more famous for his utopian and political writing. His later Edwardian scientific romances combine the fantastic with social thought. *The First Men in the Moon* gives extended consideration to the imagined life in the moon of the "Selenite Society," both a utopian image of Wells's own dreams for the Earth, and a dystopian nightmare of an entirely planned world. Professor Simon J. James, of Durham University, UK, the author of much scholarly work on Wells, gave an account of *The First Men in the Moon* in the context of Wells's wider work, and referred to the unpublished material in the book's manuscript, which is held in the Rare Book & Manuscript Library's H. G. Wells Collection. The talk was filmed and posted on YouTube. It was the first in a series of events supporting the exhibition, "Life on the Moon: Literary and Scientific Reflections."

2. September 2013 No. 44 Society Meeting

Date: 11 September 2013, 3:00—5:00 p.m.

Location: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Attendance: 46

Speaker: Graham Arader, Arader Galleries, New York City

Sponsors: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library and *The No. 44 Society*

Summary: We welcomed Graham Arader, New York gallery owner and book dealer. Arader talked about getting primary source material into the hands of students and the history of his innovative career as a rare book and map dealer. We also honored the winners of the 2012-13 Fletcher and Baldwin Essay Contests.

3. Reading Group Meeting

Date: 3 October 2013, 4:00—5:00 p.m.

Location: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Attendance: 10

Sponsor: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Summary: Group Members to Discuss William Maxwell's *Folded Leaf*

The Real Thing Reading Group meets during the academic year to discuss books for which the Rare Book & Manuscript Library holds the manuscript (usually the author's own!). To date, we have read works by Carl Sandburg, H.G. Wells, and Washington Irving, among others. This year's first meeting was held at 4 p.m. on Thursday, 3 October, in RBML. Tad Boehmer led the discussion on *The Folded Leaf*, a 1945 novel by Illinois author William Keeners Maxwell. Centered on the close friendship between two very different boys growing up in 1920s Chicago, the story is partially set on a university campus, clearly based on the University of Illinois.

4. October 2013 No. 44 Society Meeting

“Tour of ‘Life on the Moon’ Exhibition

Date: 9 October 2013, 3:00—5:00 p.m.

Location: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Attendance: 26

Speakers: Marten Stromberg and Patrick Fadely

Sponsors: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library and *The No. 44 Society*

Summary: The exhibition, “Life on the Moon: Literary and Scientific Reflections,” highlighted the history of scientific and literary speculation about life on the moon. It

included books from the rare book collection at Illinois tracing the history of lunar speculation all the way back to Roman times. Also on display were three artifacts from the Apollo 16 mission, including a moon rock on loan from the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA), and two artifacts from Kennesaw State University.

5. VOICE: MFA Reading

Date: 10 October 2013, 8:00–10:00 p.m.

Location: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Attendance: 44

Speakers: Natalie Mesnard, Rachel Samanie, and Sean MacIntyre

Sponsors: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library and University of Illinois Creative Writing Program

Summary: VOICE is the graduate student reading series hosted by the MFA in Creative Writing Program at UIUC.

6. Halloween Event

Date: 31 October 2013, 4:00–5:00 p.m.

Location: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Attendance: 17

Sponsor: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Summary: For the Rare Book & Manuscript Library Halloween Party, people dressed and affected their favorite literary character.

7. Reading Group Meeting

Date: 7 November 2013, 4:00–5:00 p.m.

Location: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Attendance: 11

Sponsors: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Summary: This year's second meeting was held at 4 p.m. on Thursday, November 7 at 4 p.m. in RBML. Participant readers (all were welcome!) discussed Graham Greene's 1957 psychological drama, *The Potting Shed*. We referred to the author's typescript with his corrections and additions.

8. Master Class

Date: 13 November 2013, 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Location: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Attendance: 13

Instructor: Christian Dupont, Atlas Systems

Sponsors: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library and *The No. 44 Society*

Summary: RBML hosted rare book librarian and Atlas Systems representative Christian Dupont on October 9 at 10 a.m. in The Rare Book & Manuscript Library for a hand's-on look at rare books, manuscripts, and prints held by the Rare Book & Manuscript Library. The presentation, "Dante's Fortunes in Print, Picture, and Poetry," included a sixteenth century copy of the *Commedia* expurgated by ecclesiastical censors; the first mentions of Dante and translations of his verse to appear in English; striking illustrations for the *Inferno* by Gustave Doré, William Blake, Salvador Dalí, Robert Rauschenberg, and other artists; and original manuscripts of W. S. Merwin's verse translation of *Purgatorio*, edited and corrected in the poet's own hand. This event was re-scheduled from October 9.

9. November 2013 No. 44 Society Meeting

"To Hell and Back: Illustrating Dante's *Inferno*"

Date: 13 November 2013, 3:00—5:00 p.m.

Location: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Attendance: 37

Speaker: Christian Dupont, Atlas Systems

Sponsor: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library and *The No. 44 Society*

Summary: Dante and his *Divine Comedy* have been alternatively celebrated and shunned over the past 700 years. Visiting Atlas-Aeon Systems representative and rare book librarian Christian Dupont delivered an engaging presentation and discussion of rare books, manuscripts, and prints that exemplified Dante's varying fortunes through the centuries. Dupont has extensively studied cultural receptions of Dante and the collecting of his works. His numerous essays on these subjects have appeared in "Dante Studies,"

“Harvard Library Bulletin,” and “Studies in Bibliography” among other publications. This event was re-scheduled from October 9.

10. Exhibition Programming

**“A View of the Moon,” Lecture by Jim Kaler,
Followed by direct observation hosted by Leslie Looney**

Date: 19 November 2013, 7:00–8:00 p.m. (lecture,) 8:00–10:00 p.m. (observation)

Location: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library and University of Illinois Observatory

Attendance: 74

Speaker: James Kaler, University of Illinois Professor Emeritus of Astronomy

Sponsor: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library and University of Illinois Department of Astronomy Observatory

Summary: The Moon has been an object of speculation and myth from time immemorial. Before the advent of telescopic astronomy people thought that the dark spots on the Moon might have been caused by shadows of the Earth's mountains or contained vast bodies of water. It was imagined to be a possible site for extraterrestrial life and a future colony; even before rocket technology people dreamed of traveling there and exploring its surface. Today, careful scientific observation, great leaps in astronomy, and actual visits to the lunar surface have brought us much closer to the truth. We continue to make discoveries about the Moon and investigate its history and composition.

Astronomer and Professor Jim Kaler delivered a talk about the Moon and the history of its observation and exploration. An actual Moon rock was on display as well as many other exhibits documenting the history of speculation about life on the Moon. Following the lecture, Leslie Looney hosted a Moon observation session at the Campus Observatory, with views through the recently-restored 12" Bashear refracting telescope.

11. Exhibition Programming

Concert: “A Trip to the Moon”

Date: 20 November 2013, 7:30—closing

Location: The Iron Post, 120 S Race St, Urbana, IL

Attendance: 36

Sponsor: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library, with the U of I Concert Jazz Band

Summary: Interplanetary melody, interplanetary harmony, a trip to the Moon on gossamer wings! The University of Illinois Concert Jazz Band took us on a trip to the Moon and beyond with their performance of songs devoted to that old yellow Moon. It was a night of rocket blasts, spaceship lullaby's, and, of course, Moon dreams.

12. December 2013 No. 44 Society Meeting

“Holiday Cheer Party and Book Brag”

Date: 11 December 2013, 3:00—5:00 p.m.

Location: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Attendance: 33

Sponsor: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library and *The No. 44 Society*

Summary: Members and all those interested in sharing their book and manuscript collections were invited to bring new and interesting acquisitions for displays and holiday cheer braggadocio.

We also raised a non-alcoholic glass to John Milton, whose birthday is December 9.

13. Reading Group Meeting

Date: 12 December 2013, 4:00—5:00 p.m.

Location: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Attendance: 10

Sponsors: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Summary: The reading group considered two H. G. Wells short stories, “The Country of the Blind,” and “The Door in the Wall.” Professor Charles Blair, our resident Wells expert, agreed to share his findings from close study of the manuscripts as readers compared with the printed versions. The manuscripts were also on display.

Date: 12 December 2013, 3:00—5:00 p.m.

Location: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Attendance: 33

Sponsor: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library and *The No. 44 Society*

Summary:

14. February 2014 No. 44 Society Meeting

**"Conservation and Care of Rare Materials,"
and Essay Contest Winners Announced**

Date: 12 February 2014, 3:00—5:00 p.m.

Location: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Attendance: 38

Speaker: Henry Hébert, University of Illinois Library Conservator of Rare Books

Sponsor: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library and *The No. 44 Society*

Summary: Henry Hébert, the Rare Book Conservator at the University of Illinois Library

gave a talk about conservation and care of rare materials. Winners of the 2013 Fall Semester Fletcher and Baldwin Essay contests were also be announced.

15. April 2014 No. 44 Society Meeting

“Fresh Press Field Trip”

Date: 9 April 2014, 3:00—5:00 p.m.

Location: Fresh Press, University of Illinois

Attendance: 15

Sponsor: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library and *The No. 44 Society*

Summary: *No. 44 Society* and all printing fans were invited for a field trip to the Fresh Press! Attendees learned how to “pull” a piece of paper from Press spokesmen Steve Kostell and Eric Benson, both professors in the UI School of Art and Design. The Fresh Press uses indigenous plants and agricultural waste to make environmentally friendly paper products.

16. Boneyard Arts Festival

"Art and Music of the Spanish Civil War," Presentation and Flash Exhibition of Pete Seeger
Materials

Date: 10 April 2014, 3:00—5:00 p.m.

Location: Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Attendance: 25

Speakers/Performers: Marten Stromberg and friends

Sponsor: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library and the Boneyard Arts Festival

Summary: Seventy-five years ago, on April 1st, Francisco Franco declared victory against the Republican Forces in Spain, marking the end of the Spanish Civil War. The end of the war also resulted in a return home for those surviving international volunteers who went to Spain to fight for the Republican cause. Here at Illinois we hold a large set of papers from some of these volunteers, as well as a collection of propaganda posters from the war. We showed posters from the collection and featured some of the music of the international

brigades, as recorded by the Almanac singers (including the late Pete Seeger) in 1943. Like other members of the Young Communist League of America, Pete Seeger leafleted for the cause of the volunteers during his time at Harvard in the late 1930s.

17. Annual Shakespeare's Birthday Celebration

Date: 23 April 2014, 3:00—5:00 p.m.

Location: Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Attendance: 25

Sponsor: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Summary: Shakespeare lives again and again through this annual celebration that merely asks attendees to memorize and recite at least fourteen lines from the immortal bard—all for a piece of his birthday cake.

18. Celebration of the Acquisition of the Papers of Gwendolyn Brooks

Date: 24 April 2014, 4:00—5:00 p.m. and 7:30—9:30 p.m.

Location: Room 66 Library (afternoon,) Lincoln Hall Theater (evening)

Attendance: 55 (afternoon,) 200 (evening)

Sponsors: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library, the Departments of English, African American Studies, Religion, Theater, and Music; the University Library; the University of Illinois Office of Public Engagement; the Center for Advanced Studies; and the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts.

Summary: To welcome the papers of poet and writer Gwendolyn E. Brooks (1917-2000), the University of Illinois Rare Book & Manuscript Library and many campus partners are organized an evening of poetry, remembrance, and song called; “Full of Pepper and Light: Welcoming the Gwendolyn Brooks Papers to the University of Illinois.”

Those in attendance were treated to poets and scholars reading and thinking about the poems and legacy of Brooks, the third Poet Laureate for the State of Illinois (following Carl Sandburg,) and the first African-American writer to win a Pulitzer Prize.

Performers included the University of Illinois Black Chorus, led by Professor Ollie Watts Davis, a troupe of players led by Brooks' daughter Nora Brooks Blakely, and many "friends of Gwen," including Haki Madhubuti, co-founder and director emeritus of the Gwendolyn Brooks Center for Black Literature and Creative Writing. Readers and commentators also included Robert Ramirez, Anna Chen, Janice Harrington, Cary Nelson, Amos Kennedy, Jr., Audrey Petty, Laurence Lieberman, and David Wright. Admission was free and the event was filmed.

A contest invited High School students to create a one to five minute video inspired by Brooks' poem, "Speech to the Young: Speech to the Progress-Toward." Cedric Jones from Champaign Central supplied the winning entry and received a spot in the program, as well \$300 towards his favorite High School club.

The celebration kicked off just six months after Brooks' papers arrived at Illinois. Spanning more than six decades, they include some of her earliest surviving poetry and prose, as well as early scrapbooks and clippings of pieces she published as a young woman in *The Chicago Defender*. In addition, the collection contains extensive correspondence, manuscripts, and informal jottings, annotations, and observations. The largest portion of Brooks' papers document her career after leaving mainstream commercial publishing to produce her works with small presses and Black-owned imprints, including her own imprint, The David Company.

The afternoon session, "Gwendolyn Brooks: Beyond the Word Maker, a Black Poet and Activist," was a lecture by Haki Madhubuti, the former Director of the Gwendolyn Brooks Center at Chicago State University and author of over twenty books of poetry and prose. Due to popular demand, the session had to be moved from the Rare Book & Manuscript Library. This poignant remembrance was also filmed.

19. Artist's Visit

Printer Amos Kennedy Workshop and Poster Sale

Date: 25 April 2014, 7:00 p.m.

Location: Urbana [co][lab]

Attendance: 35

Sponsors: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library and the College of Art & Design

Summary: Amos Paul Kennedy, Jr., letterpress printer and book artist, exhibited his work at the Urbana [co][lab] on Friday, April 25th, at 7 pm. Featuring witty and often confrontational slogans that suit his bold and unabashed style of letterpress printing, prints were shown, signed, and sold at the event.

With the help of the Soybean Press, Kennedy also printed a poster commemorating the Gwendolyn Brooks celebration "Full of Pepper and Light."

Kennedy had recently completed a successful Kickstarter campaign to fund a printing plant in Detroit, relocating from his old print shop in Alabama.

The Amos Paul Kennedy, Jr. Collection in the Rare Book & Manuscript Library of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign contains artists' books, postcards, and posters. Through his strong graphics and bold typography, Kennedy addresses passionately issues of race, freedom, and equality, often incorporating proverbs and tales of the Kuba and Yoruba people of Africa, as well as the work of African-American poets such as Paul Laurence Dunbar.

20. May 2014 No. 44 Society Meeting

Date: 14 May 2014, 3:00—5:00 p.m.

Location: Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Attendance: 24

Speaker: Paul Gehl, Custodian of the John M. Wing Foundation on the History of Printing at the Newberry Library in Chicago

Sponsor: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library and *The No. 44 Society*

Summary: Paul Gehl gave a talk about the University of Illinois Cavagna Collection, an enormous collection of imprints and manuscripts assembled by Count Count Antonio Cavagna Sangiuliani di Gualdana (1843-1913), Italian nobleman, writer and bibliophile. The collection consists of 138 portfolios of unbound manuscripts arranged alphabetically by place, 290 bound volumes of manuscript material (ca. 50 items earlier than 1600) and 100 volumes of later transcripts from Italian archives.

21. Annual James Joyce Bloomsday Celebration

Date: 16 June 2014, 3:30–5:00 p.m. (afternoon,) 7:00–9:00 (evening)

Location: Mike ‘n Molly’s

Attendance: 15 and 45

Sponsor: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library and Mike ‘n Molly’s, Champaign

Summary: In the afternoon, we met to reenact parts of “Scylla & Charybdis” from Joyce’s *Ulysses*. So naturally, we also read from Hamlet and showed the first edition of *Ulysses* AND Shakespeare's first folio.

For the second event, we met for the revelry!! Music, Speaks, Drinks, Eeks, and all the Craic you can handle. There were numerous readings from *Ulysses*, the *Wake*, and more, as well as an open mic and musical stylings.
