MSU Students Explore Book History in Special Collections

In the Fall, Professor Liam Brockey, Department of History, partnered with Special Collections to offer MSU’s first-ever course on the history of the book. The senior seminar drew nine enthusiastic students, who explored book history from the earliest printing technology to contemporary popular culture.

“Book history is an opportunity for students to understand how the availability of written texts has affected the development of science, religion, and culture,” explained Professor Brockey. “Teaching the course in conjunction with Special Collections staff allowed us to present the topic both in the abstract and in its physical reality.”

Each week combined theoretical readings with hands-on sessions led by MSU librarians. Asian Studies librarian Xian Wu discussed printing in Asia, for example, and rare books librarian Patrick Olson guided students through the manuscript era and the birth of printing. In each hands-on session, students were able to closely examine many relevant examples from Special Collections holdings.

“For years, it’s been my dream to have our collection used in a course like this,” said Peter Berg, Head of Special Collections. “I’m delighted that we were able to work with Liam Brockey to make the course a reality!”

Students were delighted with the course, too! “The class is an amazing hands-on experience,” said one participant. Her classmate agreed: “Every book or piece we looked at enhanced our understanding of what we were learning.”
A Letter from the Director

The times they are a-changin’... Bob Dylan sang, way back when. Some of the changes we’re seeing now could not have been predicted—like a songwriter winning a Nobel Prize in literature, and the Chicago Cubs winning the World Series.

The MSU Libraries are seeing some surprising changes, too. As I write, we’re moving a significant number of print volumes to our expanded Remote Storage facility. High-use and moderate-use materials will remain in the Main Library, with only seldom-used titles being moved. One criterion of infrequent use: the item hasn’t been checked out in 15 years or more. Materials are now retrieved from Remote Storage on a daily basis, and articles can be scanned and delivered electronically.

Moving seldom-used titles out of the high-traffic Main Library will relieve severe overcrowding. Over the last 25 years, nearly all our branch libraries have been closed to return space to their host departments. With each closure, we built more stacks to hold branch collections and at the same time saw our daily traffic increase. In the last few weeks of the semester, when library use peaks, it is now routine to see scores of students sitting on the floor because every seat in the building is occupied.

Expanded use of Remote Storage will allow us to provide students with more group study rooms, more collaborative technology areas, and a long-desired digital scholarship lab—and more seating. Special Collections stacks will move to an expanded location with superior environmental control to preserve its rare and unique holdings.

These changes will position the MSU Libraries to remain an active and essential partner in the teaching, learning and research mission of the University, while still providing access to the rich physical collections built over the last century. It is a strange and yet wonderful time!

Cliff Haka
This Spring Semester, we hosted five GIS and map related workshops including one on how to use kites for aerial photography—an inexpensive, simple alternative to drones.

Data was compiled by Joshua Sanchez, User Experience & Assessment Librarian, from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. Graphics are from freepik.com.
**What’s in a name?**

Dr. William G. Lockwood explains:

The proper name for those people long known as “Gypsies” remains a complicated issue. Some groups prefer the term *Roma* and others reject it. Those sharing a common historic origin prefer the term *Romanichal* or *Traveler* in England; *Cale* in Spain; *Manoush* in France; *Sinti* in Germany and elsewhere in Central Europe.

The question of a name is urgent because of the extremely negative connotations acquired by the term “Gypsy.” It has come to signify a population that is dirty, lazy, dishonest, criminal and sickly. Historically, Gypsies were commonly accused of witchcraft, poisoning, and child theft. All over Europe, there was great persecution of Gypsies culminating in the Holocaust, during which a half million Gypsies were murdered. After the fall of Communism, there was another wave of persecution in each of the newly “democratic” East European nations. No wonder that Gypsies might want to change their name.

Deborah Margolis, Area Studies Librarian, with items from the William G. Lockwood Collection of Romani Ethnology and Gypsy Stereotypes. The collection has outstanding research potential on topics such as Folk culture, genocide of European Roma, the media’s depiction of gypsies, gypsy stereotypes, politics and laws related to gypsies, literature, and gypsy music.

“We’re leaving a legacy for a future generation. We’re hoping that our donation will, in fact, strengthen Roma Studies.”
Throughout their long marriage, Bill and Yvonne Lockwood have had shared interests in ethnic groups, interethic relations, and foodways. In the 1950s, they connected with the Roma community where they lived in northern California. Bill and Yvonne celebrated and danced with Romani at extravagant slava gatherings. The vibrant Romani music, embellished clothing, and highly seasoned food spoke of a culture with centuries of deeply held tradition.

These positive interactions with the Roma community led Bill to change his career path from Geology, where he had a B.A. and some graduate work, to Cultural Anthropology. It also led Yvonne from Slavic Studies to the Field of Folklore.

In 1957, Bill joined the Gypsy Lore Society and purchased the first items in his collection—articles on Roma in the Balkans. From then on, Bill was devoted to collecting everything he could on Romani Ethnology and Gypsy Stereotypes.

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Now, the Lockwoods are generously donating one of the world's finest collections on the Roma to MSU. Special Collections has received more than 5,700 books, journals, sheet music, posters, and original artworks and 425 music recordings spanning the 19th and 20th centuries. The MSU Museum will receive a marvelous set of artifacts, including model gypsy wagons, traditional Romani costumes, Russian lacquer boxes, tarot cards and fortune telling relics, knives and basketry.

The Lockwoods have also established endowments for Special Collections and the Museum to acquire new materials, provide conservation treatment as needed, and digitize portions of their collections. And, they have made plans for a generous future gift to establish the William G. and Yvonne R. Lockwood Endowed Romani/Gypsy Librarian, a position which will be responsible for Romani/Gypsy Studies at the MSU Libraries with a secondary appointment as Romani/Gypsy Curator at the MSU Museum.

And finally, Special Collections has received more than 4,800 ethnic and foreign cookbooks gathered during decades of travel. “I’ve always been a bibliophile,” says Bill. “When we'd go to a conference, in say, Romania, we'd schedule a week or two weeks extra to travel around the country.” The Lockwoods have travelled extensively, especially in Eastern Europe, with extended fieldwork in Bosnia and Austria and scores of shorter trips.

“We realized very early on that food was an introduction to different cultures,” recalls Bill. “As a scholar, it was the introduction that food provides to other cultures that grabbed me.”

Bill Lockwood received his PhD from the University of California at Berkeley in 1970, and is now Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at the University of Michigan. Yvonne Lockwood received her PhD from the University of Michigan, and is now Curator of Folklife Emerita at the MSU Museum. Both Lockwoods have extensive bibliographies of published research.

Bill and Yvonne hope to establish MSU as a world-class site for Gypsy/Romani Studies. Yvonne explains, “We’re leaving a legacy for a future generation. We’re hoping that our donation will, in fact, strengthen Roma Studies. As far as I know, there’s nothing quite like that in the United States.”
Supporting library student employees on Giving Tuesday

On November 29, 2016, MSU Libraries participated in Giving Tuesday—a global day of giving—as part of a university-wide fundraising initiative called “Spartans Will. Empower.” Units across MSU were asked to select a fund to raise money for with a focus on improving student lives.

Raising funds for the Swanson Endowment for Library Student Employees was an obvious choice for the library. The annual income from this fund is used to provide competitive library student employee wages with a preference given to Honors College students. Of all the funds we could have selected to raise money for on the Day of Giving, the Swanson Endowment for Library Student Employees offered the most direct possible impact on student lives by providing them with much-needed financial aid to support their education.

Once the project fund was selected, the next step was to spread the word about the initiative. As Giving Tuesday approached, we began telling people about our goal through email and social media channels.

Starting at about 8:00 a.m. on Giving Tuesday, donations to the endowment began steadily pouring in. Thanks to our generous donors, we surpassed the goal of raising $3,000 for the endowment fund and reached over $4,500 by 10:30 a.m. By 11:59 p.m. that night, our project was 186% funded, reaching a total of $5,567. Given that we exceeded our project’s goal, an additional $1,000 bonus was added to the endowment fund by MSU.

To all those who donated or shared the cause on social media, thank you for making Giving Tuesday a success! Your support means the world to us, and we could not have achieved our goal without you.

Honoring Faculty: The Annual Faculty Authors Reception

In 1998, the MSU Libraries established the Stanley C. and Selma D. Hollander Faculty Book Collection to honor MSU faculty authors who published books, multimedia works, musical scores, and recordings the previous year. In the reception this April, we acknowledged 209 faculty authors and recognized 267 titles! These publications covered an impressive variety of disciplines—everything from a Caribbean music album to a book about DNA replication.

Special thanks to MSU Federal Credit Union for their generous support of the Faculty Authors Reception, and congratulations again to all the MSU faculty authors!

From left: Yuya Kiuchi and Francisco Villarrual, Human Development and Family Studies; Patricia Edwards, Department of Teacher Education; Jodene Goldenring Fine, Counseling, Educational Psychology, and Special Education.

bit.ly/facultypublications
Special Collections Endowments: Extending Our Reach

Special Collections is extremely fortunate to have endowments provided by generous supporters. With this assistance, we’re able to purchase many rare works to enrich our collection—each one representing a special opportunity for students and researchers. In the last year, endowments have made possible these magnificent additions to Special Collections:

The Patricia A. Anderson Library Endowment Fund for Children’s Books
- The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss. First edition, 1957.

Michigan State University Class of 1994 Library Endowment Fund

Thomas W. and Marilyn M. Culpepper Special Collections Fund
- Epitome Astronomiae Copernicanae by Johannes Kepler, 1635.

Force Family Special Collections Endowment for the Popular Culture Collection
- Poor Will's Almanack collection. 13 pieces, 1804-1833.

Beatrice V. Grant Cookbook Endowment
- American Cookery by Amelia Simmons. 1812 edition.
- Le Cuisinier Français by François Pierre de la Varenne. 1658.
- The Housekeeper's Encyclopedia by Mrs. E.F. Haskell of Monroe, Michigan. 1861.

Special funding from
- Podarok Molodym Khoziyam [A Gift to Young Housewives] by Elena Molokhovets
- Tried, Tested, Proved: Housekeeping in Alabama by the ladies of Anniston and other towns. 1893.

Dr. Carter M. and Ruth C. Harrison Endowment Fund for the Preservation of Special Collections
- Student employees supported by the fund create custom-sized, protective boxes for fragile items in Special Collections.

Professor Stanley C. Hollander and Selma D. Hollander Endowment for Special Collections

Special funding from
- Maison Rustique, or, The Country Farme by Charles Estienne; adapted by Gervase Markham. 1616.
- Markham’s Masterpiece Revived: Containing All Knowledge Belonging to the Smith, Farrier, or Horse-leach by Gervase Markham. 1675.

Charles and Ruth Schmitter Fencing Collection Endowment Fund

Alan and Shirley Brocker Sliker Library Endowment
- Student employees supported by the fund prepare food ephemera for access and digitization. Conservation treatments are also supported by the fund.

These incredible additions to our collection would not be available without support from people like you. Thank you!
The Library Environmental Committee presents

**W.J. Beal Botanical Garden Tours**

- **Dermatologically Important Plants**
  Thursday, July 13, 2017 • 12:10—12:50 p.m.

- **Plants and the Geometry of Nature**
  Thursday, August 3, 2017 • 12:10—12:50 p.m.

Tours led by **Peter Carrington**, Assistant Curator of the W.J. Beal Botanical Garden.

All tours begin near the pond, in the Southeast corner of the Beal Garden.

*In case of inclement weather, please join us in the Main Library Beal Classroom (3-West).*

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**Dictionario Salvat (Picos)** was created in 2016 by Guy Laramée, a Montreal-based book artist. This book sculpture depicts a mountain range inspired by a Brazilian landscape in the Marumbi range of the state of Paraná. Laramée carved it out of a Spanish encyclopedia from the 1930’s and painted it to perfection. The book invites us to contemplate the accumulation of knowledge and accept the “unknowable” side of spiritual consciousness. Visit Special Collections to see this extraordinary piece in person!