

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS HISTORY

Overview:

Although Special Collections as a department has its earliest roots in the 1908 founding of the Hawaiian Collection, its early organizational history can be traced more directly to 1968. It was during this year that both the Pacific Collection and the University Archives were separated from the Hawaiian Collection and formally established as separate collections. At roughly the same time that the Archives was created (in November of 1968), the Rare Books Collection was also founded, drawing from a larger body of material designated as Closed Shelf items. The new Archives, Pacific and Rare Books Collections thus joined the Hawaiian and Government Documents Collections on Sinclair Library's third floor. At the time, the Hawaiian and Pacific Collections were overseen by curator Janet Bell, with Government Documents under the supervision of Eleanor Au (née Chong). The newly formed Archives were under the supervision of archivist Frances Jackson, who also became the Rare Books librarian. Dr. Ira Harris was then serving as director of Sinclair Library, and therefore was *de facto* "head" of the five collections housed on the third floor.

On September 1, 1969, Charles M. Adams – a librarian and archivist from the University of North Carolina, Greensboro – began his tenure as director of Sinclair Library. As with Dr. Harris, Adams' duties included oversight of the various collections housed in Sinclair. That same year, Renée Heyum arrived to assume her position as the Pacific Collection's first fulltime curator.

The separation of the Pacific Collection and University Archives and establishment of the Rare Books Collection, followed by the arrival of Adams and Heyum, laid the groundwork for the establishment of Special Collections as a department, a development which was formalized by late 1972, with the Hawaiian and Pacific Collections, Rare Books, and University Archives initially falling under this new designation. Dr. Adams briefly served as department head, but by the time of his retirement in June 1973, Eleanor Au had been designated as Head of Special Collections.

By 1977, when the various third floor collections began migrating from Sinclair Library to Hamilton Library's newly completed Phase II, Special Collections was comprised of the Hawaiian and Pacific Collections, Rare Books, Book Arts, University Archives, Government Documents and Map Collection. The first annual report to be generated by the department is dated 1978/1979, and is signed by Eleanor Au in her capacity as Head of Special Collections.

Since Special Collections' establishment as a department, various individual collections have come and gone. Following a 1980 library services reorganization, the Government Documents and Maps Collections (by then housed on the ground floor of Phase II) were transferred away from Special Collections and consolidated in a new unit composed of Government Documents, Maps and Microforms (including Reprography). The Charlot Collection became a part of Special Collections in 1981. The Congressional Papers collection came under Special Collections jurisdiction at the time of the first donation to that collection, in 1997. In 2004, the University Archives and the Congressional Papers were separated from Special Collections and became the foundation of the new Archives and Manuscripts department.

However, throughout its history as a department, the cornerstones of Special Collections have remained the Hawaiian and Pacific Collections.

Hawaiian Collection:

The Hawaiian Collection is the world's foremost collection of published materials about the Hawaiian Islands, from the 18th century to the present. It dates from the Spring of 1908, about a year after the founding of the College of Hawai'i (later the University of Hawai'i), when \$350 worth of Hawaiiana books were purchased by the fledgling institution. At that time, the Board of Regents decided to "Complete, as far as possible, the books on and about Hawai'i now in the College Library."

In 1927, 1,500 books in the University library were recataloged into a separate Hawaiian Collection, which was housed in a special room. While use increased, it was not until 1935 that the Collection had a full-time librarian, Janet Bell, in charge.

The generosity of private collectors and donors has been central to the growth and reputation of the Hawaiian Collection. The wealth of material in this collection has been greatly enhanced through private gifts, among the earlier being those from Alatau L.C. Atkinson, Joseph S. Emerson, James Tice Phillips, and William Drake Westervelt.

The primary purpose of the Hawaiian Collection is to support the teaching and research functions of the University. Community members and researchers from all over the world also use it heavily.

The acquisition policy is comprehensive. All aspects of Hawai'i and all levels of writing are collected in print and non-print formats. Motion pictures, DVD, video and audio recordings are acquired. There are no limitations regarding chronological period, country of origin or language. Manuscripts such as letters, personal papers, and diaries of individuals are sought. Local newsletters, scripts, scrapbooks, sheet music, variant editions, juvenile books, pamphlets, ephemera, and other materials add depth and breadth. A special effort is made to obtain publications in the Hawaiian language and their translations into English.

The Collection's strengths are in nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first century published materials, with particular emphasis on government and institutional publications (including those of the University of Hawai'i). It has one of the best collections on Captain James Cook, and maintains solid accumulations on other early voyages and travels to the Islands. There is also a strong assemblage of works, including oral histories, dealing with Hawai'i's various ethnic groups.

Unique holdings of manuscript material include those of Francis Bishop, 1832-1835; Lady Jane Franklin, 1792-1875; David Gregg, 1853-1863; Thomas Jaggar, 1907-1953; John Rae, 1853-1872; Charles Warren Stoddard, 1882-1883; Thomas Thrum, 1880-1920; and Robert Catton, 1894-1932. There are also the William Northey Hooper papers, historian Ralph Kuykendall's notes, letters signed by Hawaiian royalty, and plays by Aldyth Morris. Data concerning significant manuscript holdings are listed in the National Union List of Manuscript Collections.

Archival records are availed for the Dole Corporation, the Hawai'i Sugar Planters' Association, the Hawai'i Literary Arts Council, the Hawaiian Professional Songwriters' Society, the Mānoa Valley Papers, and other Hawai'i organizations.

Curators for the Hawaiian Collection have included: Janet Bell (1935-1970); David Kittelson (1971-1982); Chieko Tachihata (1982-1998); and Joan Hori (1999-present).

Pacific Collection:

The Pacific Collection at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Hamilton Library offers materials relating to the island regions of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia. Internationally recognized for the excellence of its holdings, the Pacific Collection contained over 89,000 volumes in 2000. Approximately 3,000 volumes are added to the collection each year. The Pacific Collection receives 1,200 journals and periodicals annually, subscribes to 33 newspapers, and has over 10,000 reels of microfilm materials. In addition, over 350 videotapes and other audiovisual materials concerning the Pacific Islands are located in the Wong Audio-Visual Center in Sinclair Library.

The history of the Pacific Collection dates back to the origins of the Hawaiian Collection at the University of Hawai‘i. As the holdings of materials on Hawai‘i grew, there was also an expansion of interest in the Pacific Islands. Janet Bell, who oversaw much of the development of the Hawaiian Collection, included Pacific acquisitions in her work.

When the Pacific Islands Program began in 1950, faculty recognized the need for emphasis on library resources. In 1957 the Rockefeller Foundation awarded \$30,000 for a five-year acquisitions program, during which faculty purchased out-of-print materials and microfilmed archival resources in Europe and the Pacific Islands.

Until 1961, books in the Pacific Collection were shelved with the library’s general collection. However, beginning that year, items were recataloged and reshelved in a distinct Pacific section, which remained under the curatorial supervision of Janet Bell. By 1962, Ms. Bell noted in a *Hawaii Historical Review* article that the collection contained roughly 5,000 books and pamphlets, a catalog of some 19,000 cards and “quantities of microfilm from all over the world.” By the late 1960s, the Pacific Islands holdings had grown to such an extent that, in 1968, these materials were formally separated from the Hawaiian holdings to create two distinct collections, Hawaiian and Pacific.

In 1969 Renée Heyum, formerly of the Musée de l’Homme in Paris, arrived in Honolulu to take up her post as the first Pacific Curator. Under Ms. Heyum’s expert guidance, the Pacific Collection grew and began to assume major prominence in the world of research. Renée Heyum worked closely with the Pacific Islands Studies Program (today known as the Center for Pacific Islands Studies), and with support from the Program began a series of annual acquisitions trips to the Pacific. The first took place in 1974, when Ms. Heyum visited the various districts of what was then the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Micronesia).

Renée Heyum instituted an acquisitions policy that became the standard for future development of the Pacific Collection: the Library would obtain any and all materials in any language or format that related to the island nations of the Pacific. This comprehensive acquisitions program marked the Collection for special distinction, as no other library in the world attempts to collect comprehensively for the entire Pacific region. The acquisitions travel enabled the Curator to obtain the elusive publications produced in the islands (government documents, church items such as Bibles and hymnals, private sector studies and reports, and books from local publishers), and the

Collection quickly became known for its strength in this area. When Ms. Heyum retired in 1987, Dr. Karen Peacock became curator. Since then, Pacific Specialist Lynette Furuhashi and Curator Peacock have worked to build on the strengths of their predecessors and to expand Collection activities in the areas of instruction and use of new technologies.

The close alliance with the Center for Pacific Islands Studies (CPIS) has continued over the years, with Center funding providing for staff and acquisitions travel. The Collection also benefits from the generosity of donors, including the many gifts from Robert Kiste (Professor of Anthropology and former director, Center for Pacific Islands Studies), Leonard Mason (Professor Emeritus of Anthropology), Norman Meller (Professor Emeritus of Political Science) and Douglas Oliver (Professor Emeritus of Anthropology), among others. The Pacific Collection receives donations of books and archival materials from University of Hawai'i faculty and students, colleagues in the island nations and researchers from the U.S. mainland, Europe, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand.

The Pacific Collection contains comprehensive holdings of popular news magazines, scholarly journals and a host of other periodicals that concern the region. The Library has made special efforts to obtain newsletters and other serial publications produced in the island nations. The Pacific Collection also subscribes to all of the newspapers published in the island region.

Conference proceedings, and publications of political parties and movements document the social, cultural, and political changes in the island nations.

Short stories, poetry, literary magazines, anthologies and novels by Pacific Islands authors reflect the rise of indigenous literature over the last thirty years. The Collection also includes fiction by all Western authors.

The Pacific Collection houses the world's most complete holdings of post-World War II government documents published in the island nations, especially Micronesia. Annual reports of government agencies, planning documents, surveys, census studies, legislative journals, legal codes and statistical series record the history of colonial governments and independent Pacific governments.

Extensive linguistic materials such as dictionaries, grammars, and original works that represent all the Pacific Islands languages form an invaluable resource for the study of Pacific linguistics.

The Pacific Collection is a repository for all publications of the South Pacific Commission, a regional body with publications that relate to the many facets of development.

The University of Hawai'i Library is a founding member of the Pacific Manuscript Bureau, and houses all microfilm produced in this cooperative venture to preserve archival records concerning the history of the Pacific Islands.

Historical and modern maps of the Pacific Islands are held in the Map Collection of Hamilton Library, and include holdings of aerial photographs of the former Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. (The Map Collection was severely damaged by a major flood in October 2004, and restoration work on many of these items is ongoing.)

The Pacific Collection holds the published accounts of nearly every major voyage to the Pacific, and has also collected many reprints and facsimile editions of the more

significant of these travels. The Library also houses microfilm of many of the logs and other archival records from those voyages most heavily studied by scholars.

The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands Archives, a record of 2,169 reels of microfilm, documents the entire American period in Micronesia through correspondence, memoranda, reports, surveys, maps, and other documents, all preserved on microfilm. A computer index to the Archives is part of the Library's online catalog. Other institutions housing this microfilm collection include the U.S. National Archives, and the archives of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Republic of Palau.

Since the 1980s, the Pacific Collection has acquired photograph collections. While a number of small collections contain material of great interest, the most prominent is the Trust Territory photograph collection. Through a federal grant the Pacific Collection has been able to create a digitized database of selected photographs and slides from the Trust Territory Collection. Containing over 6,000 images, this resource is available for free viewing online. As of 2006, the Pacific Collection is in the process of making another extremely valuable photo collection, the Steve Thomas Traditional Micronesian Navigation Collection, available online. This photo collection is part of a larger collection of unpublished papers, audiovisual and photographic materials (including oral history transcripts and 35mm slides), publications and miscellaneous items related primarily to traditional navigation on the island of Satawal, Yap.

Curators for the Pacific Collection have included Renée Heyum (1969-1987) and Karen Peacock (1987-present).

Other Special Collections:

Rare Books:

With the establishment of the University Archives in November, 1968, archivist Frances Jackson assumed the care of the to-be-developed Rare Books Collection. At the time, the library had a Closed Shelves category for volumes deemed needful of special attention, in order to prevent their mutilation and loss. Upon assuming her dual role as archivist and rare books librarian, Ms. Jackson began the process of dividing these materials into two categories: Those that would require direct administrative control would remain as closed shelves materials, with all others comprising the new Rare Books Collection, to be housed in a secure area next to the Archives on the third floor of Sinclair Library. (These materials would later be transferred to Hamilton Library, along with the Hawaiian and Pacific Collections.)

The Rare Books Collection covers every subject and all periods, except those within the scope of the Hawaiian, Pacific, or Asia Collections (each of these collections in turn has its own "Rare" designation for books of particular value). This collection is particularly strong in literature and natural history. Expensive limited editions of the 20th century are included.

Criteria for materials include:

- Language: Although English, French, German and Latin are the principal languages, other languages are not excluded;

- Geography: British and U.S. publishers, with some French and Italian publications;
- Imprint date: Books printed before 1700; books in English before 1720; Books printed in the Americas before 1800; books printed in the United States before 1820; and West Coast books printed before 1880;
- Books of aesthetic importance or typographical interest: Fine printing; books from private presses; books designed by important typographers; books with fine illustrations, including photographs; books with fine binding;
- Books whose irreplaceability or uniqueness makes them rare: Limited editions (300 copies or less); first editions (especially of 19th century British or American authors); association and autographed books of significance;
- Books subject to loss or damage: Fragile or unique format; fine or loose plates or illustrations; literary curiosities;
- Books of substantial market value: Although the inflation factor makes it difficult to assign dollar values, materials of \$500 or higher are generally reviewed for possible rare designation.
- Books of importance to established special collections.

Due to budget constraints, there is not an active acquisitions program for rare books. Rather, most additions have been received as gifts or transfers from the main stacks.

Book Arts Collection: This collection was initially established in 1973, with materials formerly designated as either “Rare” or “Closed Shelf.” It gathers examples of printing as an art and craft, and bookmaking through the ages. It includes examples of early forms of books, small presses, elegant private presses, noted printers and book designers, finely illustrated editions, and miniatures and broadsides.

Material is primarily in English with imprints mostly in the 19th and 20th centuries. Additions are primarily through gifts. No effort is made to keep the collection current.

John a. Carollo-Edward Gorey Collection: In 1998, John A. Carollo donated the first of what is a continuing gift of books authored by or illustrated by Edward Gorey. Mr. Carollo has also deposited on extended loan a collection of posters, prints, journal articles, ephemera, and memorabilia, all relating to Edward Gorey. To date, the collection holds 130 books and over 650 other items.

Juvenile Collection: This is a collection of rare children's books. It includes examples of early books, renowned anthologies, first editions of children's authors, noted illustrators, limited and numbered copies, and significant inscribed copies.

Holdings are primarily in the English language, published in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The Tsuzaki/Reinecke Creole Collection: Begun in 1971 with a grant to assist Dr. John Reinecke and Dr. Stanley Tsuzaki (both of the Linguistics Department) in the compilation of *A Bibliography of Pidgin and Creole Languages* (University of Hawai'i Press, 1975), the collection eventually grew to contain some 500 volumes of books, pamphlets and manuscripts, as well as about 2,500 unbound pieces (including offprints, Xerox copies of printed and manuscript articles, draft conference papers, unpublished term papers, and photocopies of theses and dissertations from all parts of the world. The Tsuzaki/Reinecke collection was transferred to the Special Collections stacks in 1979.

Charlot Collection: The Jean Charlot Collection was opened in 1982, following a bequest by the artist that was at the time valued at more than one million dollars. The collection is a major archive of documents and art works relating to the artist and writer Jean Charlot and to those with whom he came in contact over a long career in France, Mexico, the United States and the Pacific. Holdings include roughly 1,500 books, 5,000 words of art, and 60 file drawers of manuscripts, letters, articles, ephemeral publications, memorabilia, and photographs. Most of the collection was part of the artist's personal library and reflects his many interests, not only in art but also in literature, religion and Hawaiian culture. It is especially strong in 19th century Mexican art history. Also included is a virtually complete set of the 772 prints created by Charlot during his lifetime. Color progressives showing the work in its various "states" accompany many images. The collection also contains copies of the 52 books illustrated by the artist along with copies of his 51 books, plays, and portfolios. These works of art date back to Charlot's childhood in late 19th century France, and continue through his Mexican, American and Hawaiian periods. Included in the collection are books, prints, drawings, sculpture and audio-visual works.

Miscellaneous: The Benjamin Wist Textbook Collection of early schoolbooks used in Hawai'i was created in honor of an early Teacher's College dean and was transferred from the College Library to Special Collections when the College Library was absorbed by the general collection.

The Social Movements Collection is a pamphlet collection of socialist literature covering roughly 1900-1930. Collected by Eugene Bechtold, it was purchased from a California book dealer in 1966. It excludes trade books and journals and contains some 500 pamphlets.

[Individual collection descriptions initially compiled by Eleanor Au, date unknown; revised by Lynette Furuhashi, December 2000. Current edition compiled and revised by Stu Dawrs, July 2006.]