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2008 Annual Report for the Bentley Rare Book Room

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Bentley Rare Book Gallery Annual Report 2007-2008

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Executive Summary

The mission of the Bentley Rare Book Gallery is to acquire, preserve, make accessible and promote the use and appreciation of the rare collection in order to enhance and support the research and teaching mission of Kennesaw State University and to share this rich resource with the citizens of Georgia.

The collection is a reflection of the history and development of the book and the impact the written and printed word has had and continues to have on human progress.

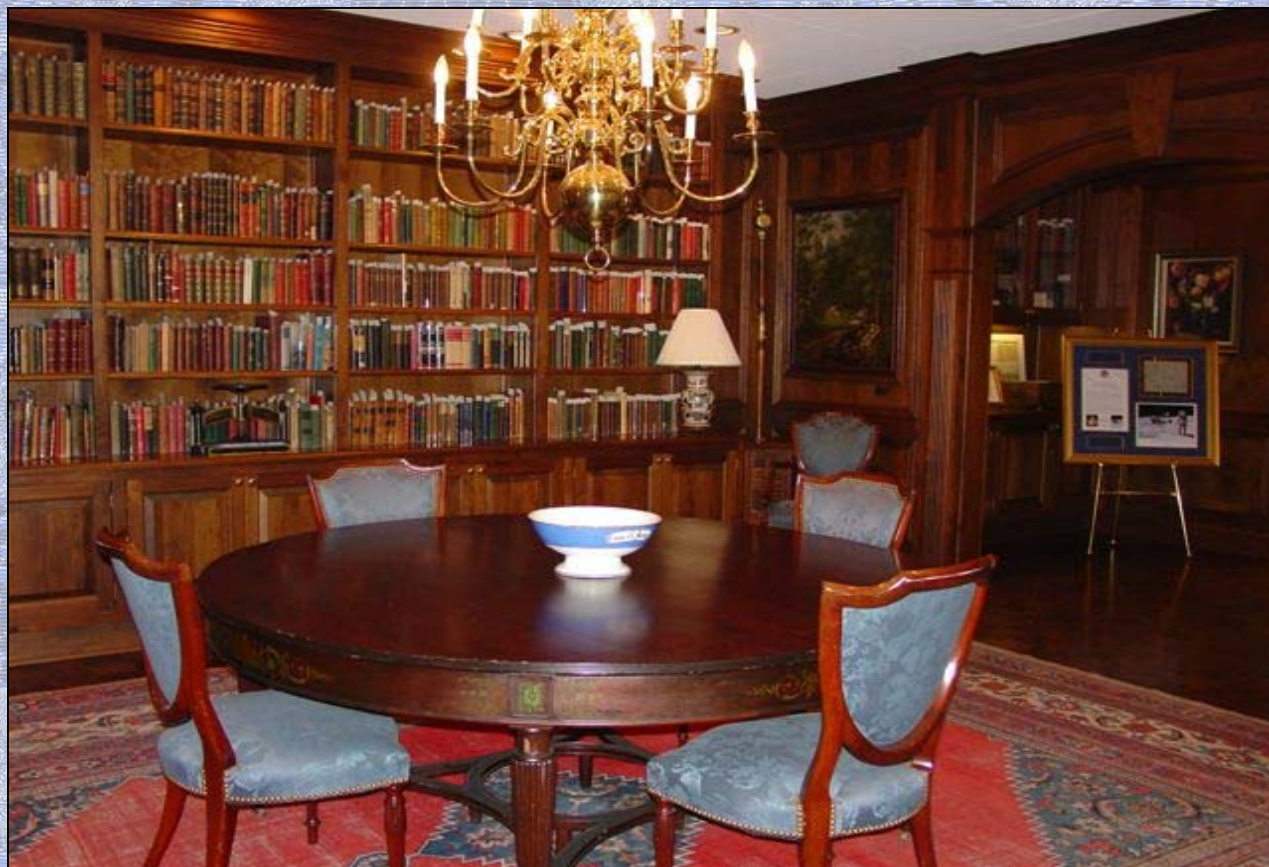
In the year 2007-2008 the rare collection was an integral resource in the academic curriculum and the Bentley Rare Book Gallery regularly served as a classroom. Presentations were given for a wide range of campus classes. Faculty and students appreciate the opportunity to examine first-hand the influential books, newspapers, and artifacts from the eras they study in their academic discipline.

Through its dynamic outreach workshops and exhibitions campus visitors and community members appreciate the rich history represented in the collection and the importance and value of preserving the collection for future generations.



Robert B. Williams
Assistant Vice President for
Library Services and
Curator of The Bentley Rare
Book Collection.

The Bentley Rare Book Gallery



Instruction: Academic Collaboration and Curriculum Integration

Visitors attending Rare Book Gallery presentations have the opportunity to hold history in their hands. In the 2008 fiscal year 183 instructional classes were held in the gallery attended by 1,955 KSU students and 559 campus visitors.

Faculty and Bentley Rare Book Room staff collaborate in these presentations; selecting rare materials that are relevant to the class curriculum. Students attend from a broad range of academic classes including: English literature, composition and world literature classes, American and European history classes, graduate level writing and education classes, honors classes, mass communication classes, art classes, and senior and freshman seminar classes.

Faculty and students also arrange individual appointments to use materials from the collection for academic research throughout the academic year.

Campus visitors are impressed with the depth and breadth of the collection, its use in the curriculum, and its accessibility to visiting scholars and community members. It is a showcase for the Kennesaw State University academic mission.

Our campus visitors in 2007-2008 included: National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Dana Gioia, Georgia Congressman Phil Gingrey, visiting government and business leaders from South Korea, and visiting scholars from the Republic of Georgia, China, and Spain. Local visitors included The Cobb Leadership Association, The Cobb Educational Consortium, The Georgia Writers Association, The Shakespeare Tavern Theatre Troupe, and Cobb County High School honors literature classes.

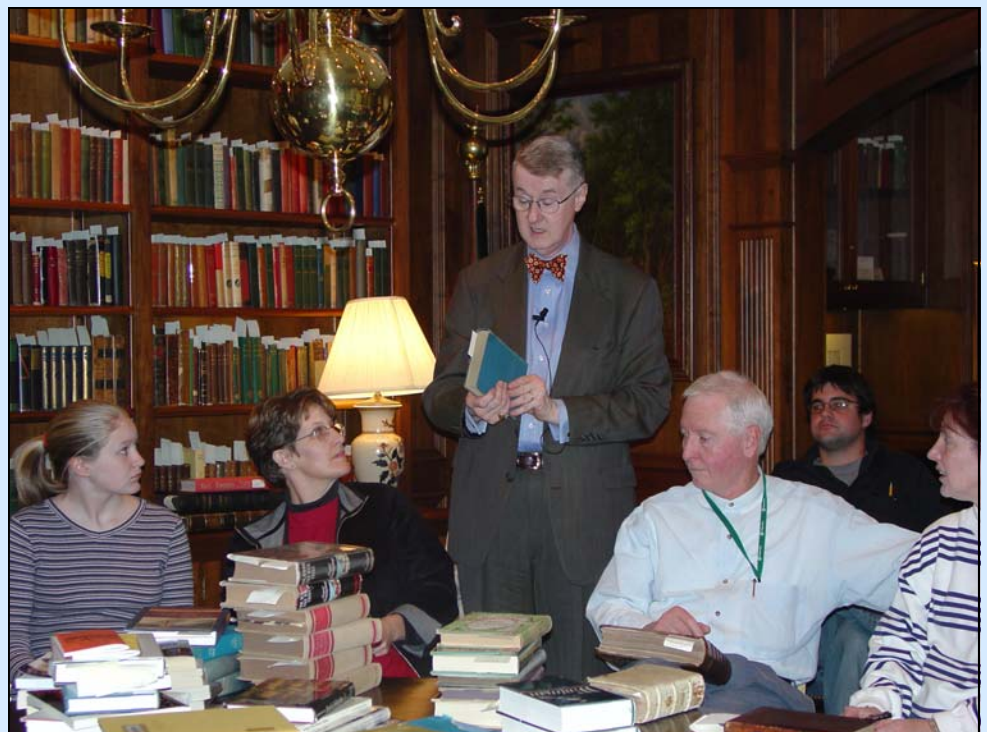


Instructional Participants	Freshman	Sophomore	Juniors	Seniors	Graduate	Campus Community	Campus Visitors
total 2,514	666	427	105	492	19	246	559

Top right: NEA Chairman Dana Gioia, Congressman Phil Gingrey and KSU President Papp examine the 1577 edition of Raphael Holinshed's *Chronicles of England and Scotland*, a source used by Shakespeare for his history plays.

Center right: Students have a "hands on" experience with rare and historic materials.

Right : Curator and Assistant Vice President of Library Services, Robert Williams conducts a class on identifying and collecting rare books.



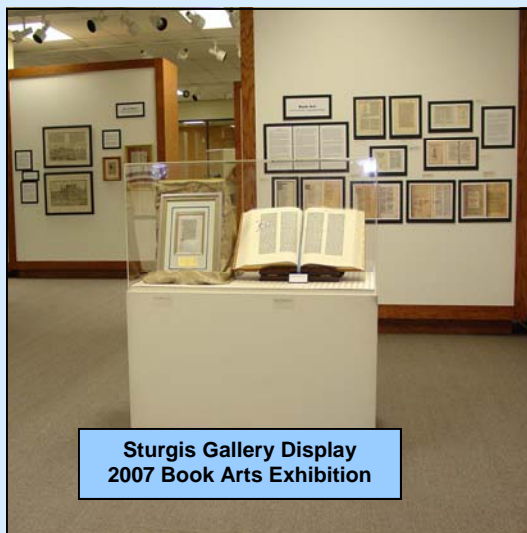
Outreach: Dynamic Interaction With The Community



Constitution Week 2007



Display of colonial newspapers



Sturgis Gallery Display
2007 Book Arts Exhibition

Selections from the rare collection are exhibited every year as part of a dynamic outreach program for the campus and community.



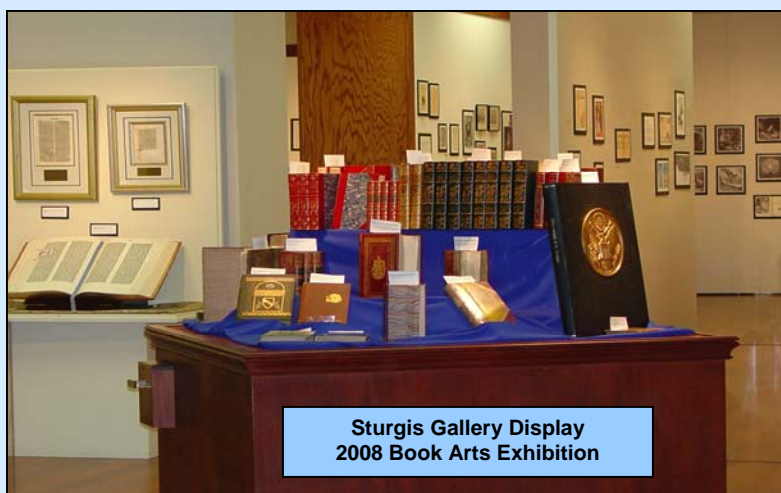
Newspapers and pamphlets printed during the creation and ratification of the Constitution were exhibited on campus during the Constitution Week Celebration activities.

The "Book Arts, Art in Books, Books As Art" exhibition of 226 books and digitized images from the rare collection was attended by 842 campus and community visitors during its 2007 and 2008 shows in the Sturgis Art Gallery. Excellent reviews by the Atlanta Journal Newspaper attracted new visitors to the campus and showcased the academic endeavors of the university.

Rita Impey-Imes and Rita Spisak exhibited selections from the rare collection and presented a workshop entitled "Holding History in Your Hands - Inspiring Reading" at the 2008 Children's Literature Conference.

Mr. Robert Williams taught the popular 2007 "Great Books" class through the Continuing Education Center. It was well-attended by devoted readers from the local community.

"Book Art, Art in Books, Books as Art" Rare Books Exhibition	Campus Visitors	Community Visitors	total Visitors
2007 June 7 to July 26 (7 weeks)	401	90	491
2008 June 5 to July 19 (6 weeks)	212	139	351
			842



Sturgis Gallery Display
2008 Book Arts Exhibition

Donors: Gifts and Generous Support

The Bentley Rare Book Gallery has been the recipient of generous gifts and support from donors throughout its existence. The first and most notable being Mr. Fred Bentley Sr., who was instrumental in its inception, and who continues to donate to the collection and to Kennesaw State University. He was the first inductee into the Friends of the Arts Golden Circle Lifetime Recognition Honor Society. This year the gallery was given two new important collections by high-profile donors, the General Charles Duke Collection and the Don Russell Clayton Collection.



On October 17, 2007 Apollo 16 astronaut, General Charles Duke donated artifacts from his 1972 moon landing to the Bentley Rare Book Collection. In a special ceremony General Duke described his historic moon landing to a fascinated campus audience and then presented his lunar rover map, lunar module checklist, and twenty-four Georgia flags from the Apollo 16 moon mission to the Bentley Rare Book Gallery.

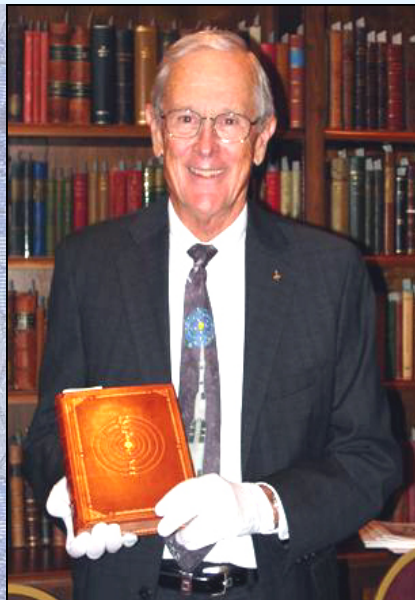
Above: Mr. Fred Bentley welcomes General Duke and his wife, Dorothy to the Bentley Rare Book Gallery.

Top right: The lunar rover map from the Apollo 16 moon landing.

Right: General Charles Duke holds Galileo's 1641 book from the Bentley Rare Book Collection.

Bottom left: Galileo's illustration of the solar system from the 1641 text.

Bottom right: Astronaut Duke in 1972 before his flight to the moon.





On September 26, 2007 Don Russell Clayton generously donated his personal research collection of Christmas Cards, letters, photographs, lithographs, books, magazines, articles, and memorabilia about Athos and Sara Menaboni and Robert W. Woodruff to the Bentley Rare Book Gallery.

This collection will be an important resource for art scholars studying the work of Athos Menaboni, considered the “second Audubon” for his naturalistic paintings of wildlife.

One of Menaboni’s many notable patrons and friends was Robert W. Woodruff, President of Coca-Cola. Mr. Woodruff commissioned Menaboni to paint his personal Christmas Cards for the years 1941 to 1984. Mr. Clayton shared a friendship with both the Menaboni and Woodruff families. The Robert W. Woodruff Foundation donated a substantial gift to KSU to create the Don Russell Clayton Gallery in honor of this friendship.

The Menaboni Christmas cards from the Don Russell Clayton Collection were loaned by the Bentley Rare Book Gallery for the “Athos Menaboni: Conversations with Nature” exhibit. This exhibit by the KSU College of the Arts opened May 18, 2008 in the Don Russell Clayton Gallery.

Mr. Clayton, was inducted into the Friends of the Arts Golden Circle Lifetime Recognition Honor Society on May 18, 2008 in recognition of his generous donation of Athos Menaboni art to the university.



Top left: “Mourning Dove” a 1962 lithograph from an Athos Menaboni painting from the Don Russell Clayton Collection.

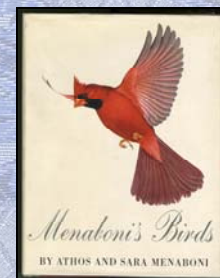
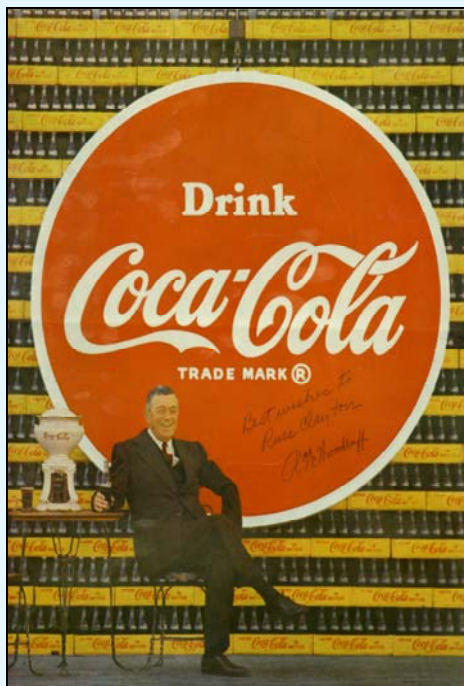
Top right: Former Governor Joe Frank Harris, Elizabeth Harris, School of the Arts Dean Joseph Meeks and Don Russell Clayton with his Golden Circle Award.

Above: Photograph of Athos and Sara Menaboni from the Don Russell Clayton Collection.

Left: Coca-Cola poster signed by Robert W. Woodruff from the Don Russell Clayton Collection.

Center left: “Robin and Buckeye, Ichauway Plantation” 1961 Christmas Card by Athos Menaboni created for Robert W. Woodruff.

Bottom left: Cover from the 1950 signed edition of Menaboni’s Birds from the Don Russell Clayton Collection in the Bentley Rare Book Collection.



Collections: Acquisitions, Preservation and Digitization

New Acquisitions

The Bentley Rare Book Gallery is a growing resource. Each year new texts and artifacts are acquired through careful purchase or through gifts from generous donors.

In the 2008 fiscal year 351 items were purchased and 1,198 items were donated by the following donors:

Fred Bentley Sr.
Don Russell Clayton
Mark and Mary Harvey
Harding F. Bancroft
Marie Littlejohn



Preservation

Thanks to the efforts of the university's HVAC team and the installation of new sensors and control units there was significant improvement in environmental control in the Bentley Rare Book Gallery.

This improvement will help protect the rare collection from mold and mildew and insure its survival for future generations.

Digital Initiatives

A large format digital scanner was purchased for the library in 2007. Images from the rare collection were scanned and mounted for the "Book Art, Art in Books, Books as Art" exhibitions. The remarkable clarity of the reproduced images

allowed exhibition visitors to appreciate the many beautiful engravings in the collection and increased the number of items available for display without creating undue stress on the original texts.

Highlights: Rare Book Gallery Guests, Events, and Activities



- Jul 07 2007 Book Arts Exhibition in the Sturgis Gallery. University students from China visit. VSU Master of Library Science faculty of visit.
- Sep 07 Campus Constitution Day exhibit of rare materials. Don Russell Clayton Collection donated.
- Oct 07 General Charles Duke, Apollo 16 donation. Open house sessions for Friends of the Library.
- Nov 07 Senior French & Spanish presentations.
- Dec 07 Cobb Educational Consortium visit. Catherine Armstrong's book signing event.
- Jan 08 Fred Bentley Sr. and Cobb Leadership visit.
- Feb 08 Reception hosted for NAACP donation.
- Mar 08 Republic of Georgia visitors. Shakespeare Tavern Theatre Troupe visit. Children's Literature Conference presentation. Georgia Writers Spring Fest visit.
- Apr 08 NEA's Dana Gioia and Phil Gingrey visit. Open house sessions for National Library Week. South Korean business delegation visit. Senior French & Spanish presentations.
- Jun 08 Grand Opening of the 2008 Book Arts Exhibition.

Top center: Scanned image of Henry VIII from Portraits of Illustrious Personages of Great Britain, 1821-1834.
Above: Scanned image of the "Knights Tale" woodcut from the 1542 edition of Chaucer's Works.

Statistics 2005 to 2008

Bentley Rare Book Gallery Visitors 2004 to 2008	Campus Visitors	Community Visitors	Total	Rare Book Exhibitions Displayed in the Sturgis Art Gallery 2005 to 2008		Visitors
July 2004 to June 2005	1,676	403	2,079	"A Mirror on the Millennium"	2005 October 27 to December 20 (9 weeks)	671
July 2005 to June 2006	2,047	381	2,428	"Book Art, Art in Books, Books as Art"	2007 June 7 to July 26 (7 weeks)	491
July 2006 to June 2007	2,734	489	3,223	"Book Art, Art in Books, Books as Art"	2008 June 5 to July 19 (6 weeks)	351
July 2007 to June 2008	2,172	574	2,746	Total Visitors		1,513

Bentley Rare Book Gallery Appointments by Function 2005 to 2008	Classroom and Research Activity and Percentage of total appointments.	Meeting Room Activity and Percentage of total appointments	Total Gallery Appointments
July 2004 to June 2005	127 Appointments 75%	43 Appointments 25%	170
July 2005 to June 2006	180 Appointments 87%	27 Appointments 13%	207
July 2006 to June 2007	183 Appointments 89%	23 Appointments 11%	206
July 2007 to June 2008	183 Appointments 87%	27 Appointments 13%	210

Strategic Plan: To Improve Access and Preservation

Outreach:

Creation of a Bentley Rare Book Gallery webpage that will increase the visibility of the collection, contain links to the special collections catalog, include visual samples of the rare materials and exhibits, and provide a schedule of events and services for the campus and community. Expand the program for public exhibitions and create new opportunities to attract potential donors.

Accessibility:

In collaboration with the University Archives create digitized images and metadata records of rare materials using Contentdm software and make these records available through the Bentley Rare Book Gallery website. Create indexes for the rare newspaper collection to improve access for user research.

Preservation:

Assess the condition of rare bindings and using archival materials and methods begin a systematic repair of deteriorated bindings. Upgrade the environmental control systems in the gallery and adjacent rooms to insure optimal preservation conditions for the collection.

Facility Improvements and Expansion:

Renovate the adjacent storage room to expand the shelving area for rare materials. Increase the classroom and presentation space dedicated to the rare collection to better serve the growing university classes and community outreach programs.

Rare Book Staff



Curator and Assistant Vice President for Library Services
Robert B. Williams

Assistant Curator
Rita Impey-Imes

The Bentley Rare Book Gallery
can be reserved for class presentations and meetings and
is open for research by appointment.

call 770-423-6535 or 770-423-6186
or e-mail Rita Impey-Imes
rimpeyim@kennesaw.edu

The Bentley Rare Book Gallery
Horace W. Sturgis Library
Building 17 Ground Floor Room G37
1000 Chastain Road
Kennesaw, GA 30144

