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Special Collections

2021-2022 Annual Report

Prepared by Micaela Terronez
Revised 09/2022

❖ Purpose of Special Collections

Special Collections consists of Augustana's collections of rare books and manuscripts, as well as the college archives. The primary mission of Special Collections is to collect, preserve, and make available materials which serve the teaching and research needs of Augustana College and the local community. Materials in Special Collections support the Augustana College curriculum and assist in faculty teaching and student learning. Materials also further the research of Augustana students, faculty, and staff, independent researchers, and the general public. Special Collections attempts to support and foster intellectual curiosity and provides an opportunity for users to develop rhetorical and critical thinking skills, cultural stewardship, empathy and engagement with materials, and acceptance of ambiguity through interactions with primary materials.

In addition to its functions as a teaching and research facility, Special Collections hosts exhibitions on a rotating basis. These exhibitions are prepared by library staff and feature a variety of materials from the collections; visitors are welcome to view the exhibitions during open hours.

❖ Staff

Micaela Terronez, Special Collections Librarian (since August 2021)
Harrison Phillis, Special Collections Assistant (since 2019)

Student workers:

Cait Duffy '23

Stephanie Carreno '23

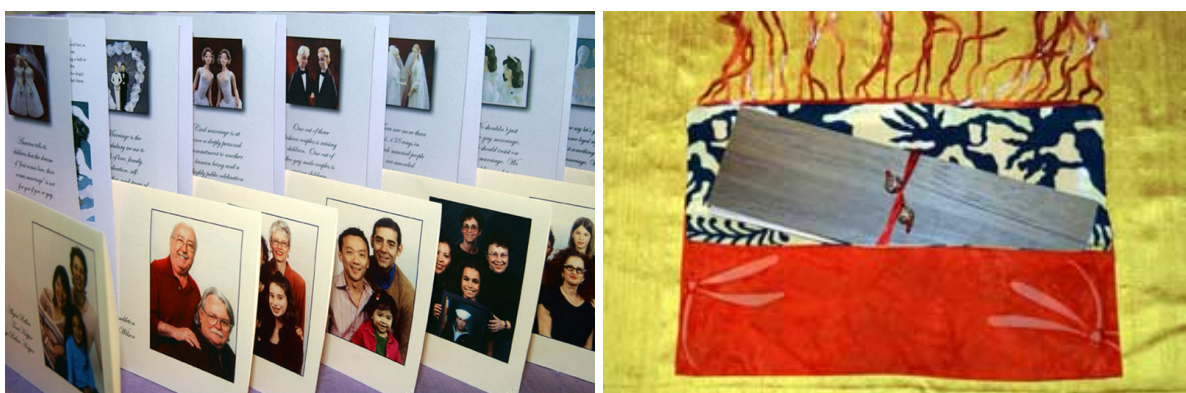
Maame Vander-Pallen '22

❖ Book Acquisitions

Special Collection acquired over **30 new items** by purchase to assist with some gaps within the Rare Book collection. Included are artists' books that highlight a variety of methods, styles, and identities. We also focused our spring additions on acquiring more example copies of well-known publications by Black authors and creators.

Some publication highlights:

- A signed copy of Langston Hughes, *Simple Speaks His Mind*.
- *The Life of John Thompson, a Fugitive Slave; Containing His History of 25 Years in Bondage, and His Providential Escape. Written by Himself, 1856.*
- A fine collector's edition of *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison, including ownership marks for a well-known Black lawyer.
- Artist books from Islam Aly, an Egyptian-born, lowan artist.
- Miniature book examples from Pat Sweet.
- Queer-focused artists' books created by Cheri Gaulke and her partner, Sue Maberry.



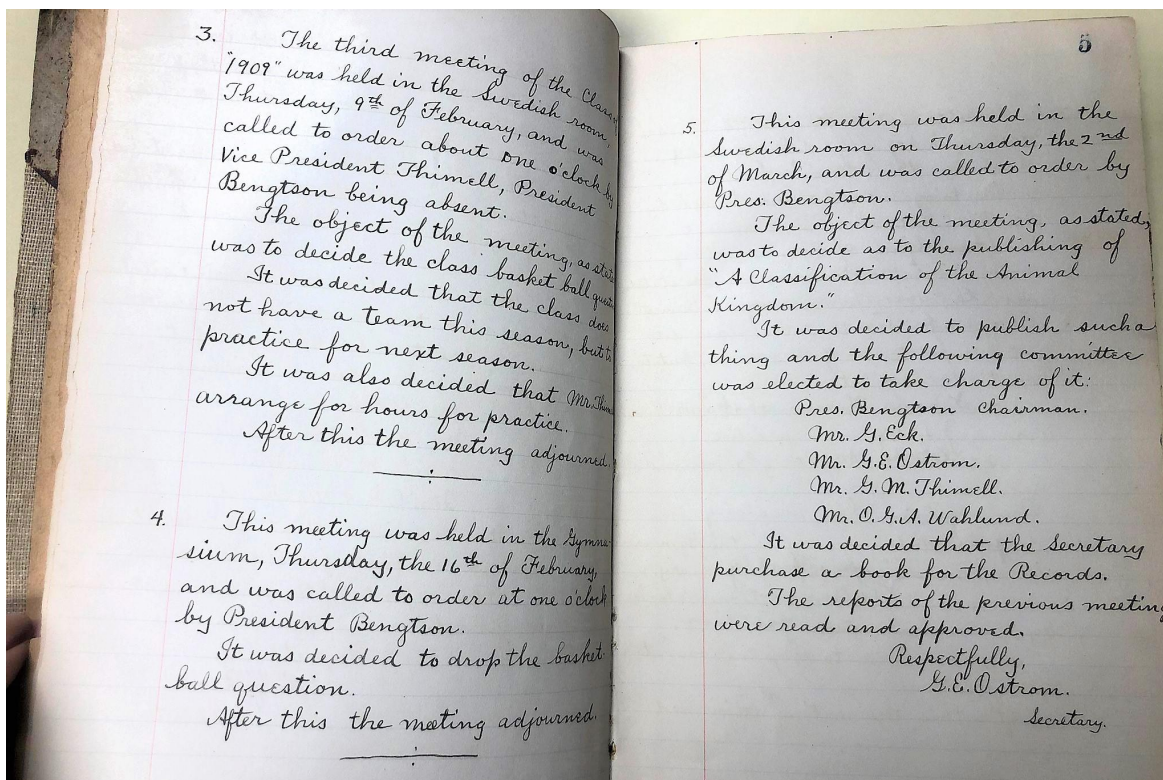
Books by Cheri Gaulke and Sue Maberry, courtesy of Vamp and Tramp Booksellers.

❖ Collection Processing and Additions

The majority of this academic year was dedicated to processing accessions from 2019-2022. Together, we processed **nearly 40 new collections/items** from a variety of college and community donors. With newly trained student workers, our direction will now turn towards processing some of the older accessions and unprocessed collections in our backlog. Harrison and the student workers also assisted in building a new spreadsheet for managing the archival collections and workflows.

Some highlights of newly accessioned items:

- 2020.001: Class of 1909 secretary book, donated by Marci Koriolek
- 2021.009: COVID-19 oral histories, transferred by Dr. Brian Leech
- 2021.018: Black Student Union organizational records
- 2022.002: Carl Tolpo papers, donated by Peggy Hamstrom
- 2022.004: Latinx Unidos records
- 2022.008: Ross Paulson addendum, donated by Linnea Anderson



The 1909 secretary book was found at a yard sale in Florida. Being more than a century old, it is in great condition.

❖ Class Visits

Special Collections hosted a total of **22 classes** this year from a variety of disciplines and courses including:

- First-Year Inquiry courses
- ARHI 165: Survey World Art I
- ENGL 265: History American Literature (NEW)
- ENGL 305: History of Children's Literature
- HIST 133: American Environment
- HIST 300: Gateway Research
- HIST 440: Senior Inquiry Practicum
- SOAN 221: Inequality in America
- SOAN 225: Contemporary Social Issues (NEW)
- SOAN 303: Social Science Research Methods
- GEOG 123: Intro to Urban Studies (NEW)
- PSYC 180 Psychology of Activism (NEW)

❖ Reference Inquiries

We started using [Gimlet](#) in September, which allows us to capture reference data about patron interactions and assistance. It took some time to reacquaint ourselves with a new system, but now our staff and students are more familiar with its use for routine patron visits over the phone, email, and in person. We started utilizing a “Reference Tracker,” a paper-based system to remind ourselves to add in-person visit information.

We assisted with a total of **170 “initial” reference questions**. Of these, **48 were marked with a “continued inquiry” tag** which meant additional tasks would be conducted with the patron (e.g., digital reproduction request, consultation appointment, etc.). Of our reference questions, students asked the most inquiries. Most of our questions are asked via email and in person.

Asked by

Student	72
Community Member (local and non-local)	38
Faculty (current or retired)	32
Staff or Administrative Employee	14
Alumni (including family members/descendants)	12
News media or local organization	2

Format

Email	82
In Person	73
Phone	13
Video Chat (all platforms)	2

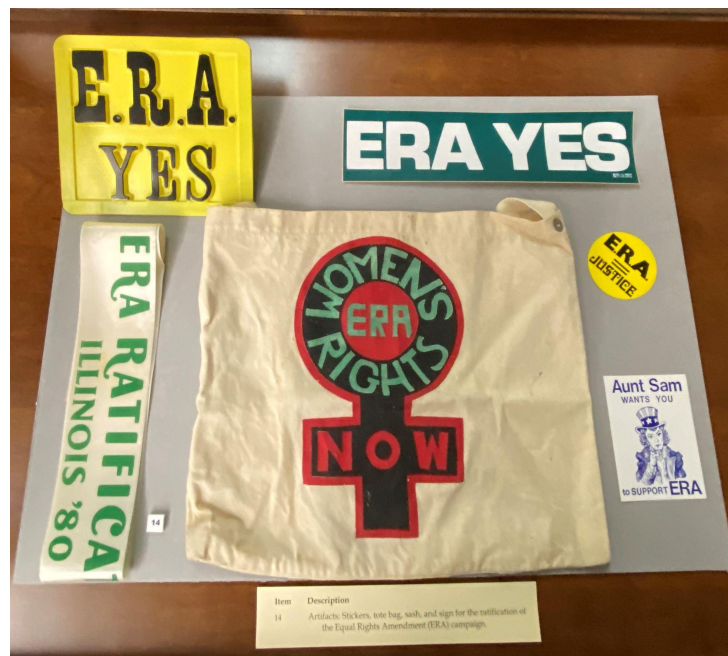
❖ Overall Visitor Numbers

We assisted over **500 individuals** in our Reading Room during the 2021-2022 academic school year between class sessions and in-person reference. These statistics derive from our patron database, which includes all Augustana and non-institutional visitors.

❖ Exhibitions

Student workers and staff assisted with curating several exhibitions throughout the library in various spaces.

- National Organization for Women, QC Chapter (Reading Room)
- What are Artists' Books? (Reading Room)
- Ruth Kumata materials (Library third floor)
- From Augie to Broadway: Phil McKinley Collection (Library second floor)
- Student organization displays, including Black Student Union and Asian student organizations (Library second floor)



ERA artifacts: QC National Organization for Women Chapter

Next semester, Cait Duffy '23 will curate an exhibit on banned books and will include two new purchases, editions of *Native Son* and *Invisible Man*. We also plan to utilize some of the new artists' books and alternative publishing examples in second-floor exhibits.

❖ Other Outreach and Engagement

Below is a selection of outreach events and assistance provided by our department at Augustana and within the community.

- Quad Cities Archives Fair
- International Women's Fair
- Blue, Gold, Bold 2022 Fundraising
- Rock Island Public Library preservation presentations

❖ New Website

Our new website mostly mirrors the former site with a few minor changes. Overall, it'll be a more suitable place for making quick edits and more relevant content available.

New website link: <https://library.augustana.edu/specialcollections>

Search Collections

Special Collections contains published and unpublished resources in a variety of formats. To search one of our core collections, select one of the options below. Please contact us for assistance if you have any questions or concerns.



Manuscript Collections

- Personal papers (such as letters, diaries, and scrapbooks)
- Organizational records (such as meeting minutes and membership records)
- Other formats: photographs, audiovisual materials, artifacts, computer files, or archived web content



Book Collections

- Augustana institutional publications
- Early printed works and first editions
- Diverse genres: women's prescriptive literature, children's literature and illustrations, artists' books

Screenshot of the new website.

❖ Assistant Project Highlights

Harrison has been creating enclosures for fragile and easily damaged items. Each of these need to be created specifically for the item in question, by taking measurements, and cutting acid-free board for a precise fit. This ensures keeping out light and dust.

He has also been working on researching information about Chauncey Morton, the student who was accidentally shot and killed in Andreen in 1958 by another student. This research is being funded by the SAGA Grant and is being overseen by Dr. Monica Smith, the Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Chauncey is often remembered as the ghost of Andreen and the project aims to tell his story to remember

him as the person he was, and not as a ghost. This project has involved searching the collections as well as local newspapers and online databases to piece together the events of the case.

❖ **Student Project Highlights**

Maame is assisting us with a survey of the uncataloged and donated books in our stacks. The survey includes condition notes, known duplicate copies at Augustana, local copies, and recent market prices. As a whole, this data will help me in deciding if the publications are relevant and worth cataloging in the collections.

Stephanie is assisting us with a survey of the collections and how well we have done in collecting efforts, specifically with group organizations and clubs. Increasingly, we have seen students interested in donating materials. This information will serve as a starting point for directing our efforts in outreach and collection growth with student organizations.

Cait is starting her first processing project on finalizing an inventory in ArchivesSpace for the Homecoming Collection. We hope to have the project finalized before Homecoming 2022.

❖ **Some Goals and Priorities for 2022-2023**

- Summer conservation survey/ enclosures assistance
- J-term instruction (4-credit course)
- More outreach programming
 - Artists' books and mimeograph visiting artists
 - Social media posts and highlights
 - Pop-up exhibits and fairs
- Reassessing digital preservation at Augustana College
- Building guidelines for college offices, especially those with limited collections and those with gaps
- Grant research for assisting with conservation and digitization efforts
- Analyzing our efforts within campus collecting efforts and outreach