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Special Collections

2022-2023 Annual Report

Prepared by Micaela Terronez, Special Collections Librarian
June 2023

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.

FROM THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARIAN

Special Collections is a place like no other on campus. Where else can you find a medieval manuscript, a clay tablet from 2000 BCE, or some of the earliest photographs of the Augustana campus? Despite the unquestionable variety of materials available, it is the connections and encounters with students, faculty, staff, and community members that make Special Collections a space for exploration and research. From social media posts to a three-week course in archival research, I saw the greater impact of patrons learning about how to locate, access, and implement primary sources within their own endeavors.

As we end the 2022-2023 academic year, I am especially grateful to the Special Collections staff and library workers that provide much of the behind-the-scenes work for the department. Our 2022-2023 Annual Report highlights our major projects within engagement and development from the past year.

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Micaela Terronez, Special Collections Librarian

Harrison Phillis, Special Collections Assistant

Student workers: Cait Duffy '23, Stephanie Carreno '23, Madeline Kusar '24, and Allie Rial '26

Support staff: Taylor Waugh (Technical Services)

Volunteer: Carla Tracy

INSTRUCTION

Special Collections hosted **18 classes** this year from a variety of subjects, primarily including History, Art History, English, and First Year Inquiry (FYI). Most classes incorporated the following objectives:

- Introduction to the space, policies, and core collections
- Familiarity with reading, understanding, and articulating primary sources
- Awareness of archival silences (or gaps) in historical records and narratives



Students in HIST 267 reviewing materials about the Black Power Symposium.

HIST 267 Archival Research

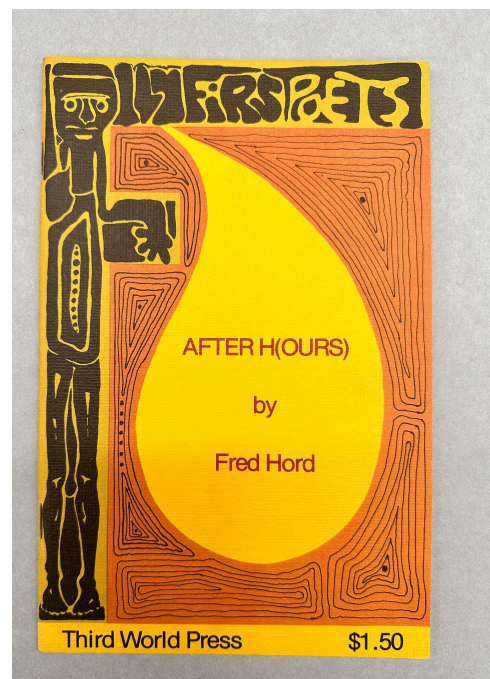
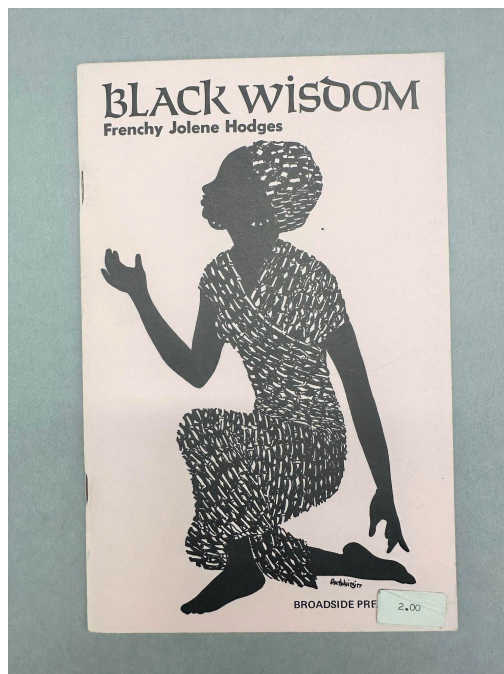
Special Collections also welcomed 19 students for a three-week course on archival research and implementation. The course served as an introduction to the archival resources located within Augustana College's Special Collections and other institutions and communities. Students learned how to ethically locate, assess, and implement primary sources in their research and creative projects through readings, hands-on activities, and discussions. Further, students developed a critical understanding of the silences and power structures present in cultural heritage institutions.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT - BOOKS

Special Collections focused acquisition efforts on purchasing more items from small presses, as well as self-published or created materials. The department acquired over **30 new items** with the assistance of the Ernest and Mary Belle Espelie funds. To support outreach and instruction for this year, most of the items included Black, independent publications, or artists' books.

Highlights

- Several publications from Third World Press and Broadside Press, two independent and Black-owned publishers. Example authors include Dudley Randall, Fred Hord, and Angela Jackson.
- A new pop-up book describing ukiyo-e artworks, *Hokusai Pop-ups*.
- Children's books that primarily highlight Black women authors. Authors include Virginia Hamilton, Eloise Greenfield, and Pearl Bailey.
- *Fifty Years in Slavery* by Harry Smith (1891), a narrative about enslaved life in Kentucky.
- Artists' books by Illinois artists, Ann Tyler and Hannah Batsel.



Students from ENGL 275: Introduction to African American Literature examined these selections from Broadside Press and Third World Press during their visit to Special Collections.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT - MANUSCRIPTS

Special Collections also acquired nearly **20 new items or collections** from Augustana affiliates and community members. These donations to Special Collections serve as resources for understanding the history and culture of Augustana and the local community.

Highlights

- 2022.018 Howard Druckmiller World War II papers: The collection includes minutes and correspondence of the Quad City Area War Manpower Committee, as well as a bound volume of newsletters from the War Price and Rationing Board.
- 2022.027 Office of Residential Life records (2022 accession): Includes one COVID-19 care package (Fall 2020), 9 scrapbooks from various years (1987-2001), and 1 folder with Augustana Culture House and Eco House ephemera.
- 2022.032 Fal E. Wood scrapbook: World War II scrapbook created by Fal E. Wood, a former Augustana student (1938-1940, 1946). Includes photographs, news clippings, greeting cards, and recommendation letters from Augustana affiliates.

Beyond processing new materials into the collections, the department provided further access to two of the presidential collections: MSS 5 Conrad Bergendoff papers and MSS 6 Clarence Woodrow Sorensen papers. Both collections included legacy inventories that are unsearchable via our current collection management system. To provide further access to these materials, Taylor Waugh (Technical Services) reviewed over 200 boxes of archival materials for re-description and provided data entry for each box. The completed inventories are available at the following links:

- [MSS 5 Conrad Bergendoff papers](#) (160 boxes)
- [MSS 6 Clarence Woodrow Sorensen papers](#) (140 boxes)

REFERENCE AND VISITORS

We assisted with **190 reference questions** over email, by phone, and in person. Students and community members inquired the most about our collections and services. Overall, nearly **470 patrons** from Augustana and the broader community visited the Reading Room for instruction, research, and engagement. These statistics derive from our patron database and mostly encompass student visitors. Though most of our non-Augustana affiliate visitors derive from Iowa and Illinois, we also welcomed out-of-state patrons from Texas, Colorado, Maine, Wisconsin, Idaho, Ohio, California, and Kansas.

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

For our off-campus outreach, Special Collections joined the Quad Cities Archives Fair to highlight our collections and resources. In addition, Micaela Terronez also provided a presentation on Special Collections at the Rock Island Public Library in December 2022.

With on-campus engagement, we hosted two events that introduced students and the Augustana community to independently-created publications. In October, Rich Dana, an artist and curator from Iowa City, Iowa, provided a short talk and workshop on DIY, low-cost printing methods for students in the library. Via the Lang Fellowship matching grant from the Rare Book School, students had the opportunity to create their own published materials via mimeographs, hectographs, and spirit duplicators. Several publications from the event are now available via the Zine Collection and Special Collections. We also acquired a copy of Rich Dana's popular guide for creating similar works titled, *Cheap Copes!* (Obsolete Press, Coralville, Iowa).



Students created their own publications via two drop-in workshops.

In May, we also hosted an open house that introduced visitors to over 40 new artists' books in the collections. Artist books are book-like objects created for artistic expression. Many of the book acquisitions include topics regarding gender and sexuality, BIPOC experiences, social activism, politics, migration, and more.



Special Collections welcomed 20 guests to the Artists' Books Open House.

Exhibitions

Student workers and staff assisted with curating several exhibitions this year including:

- Old Books, Same Problems (Reading Room)
- Native American Histories (Reading Room)
- Poetry Book Selections (Reading Room)
- Student organization displays (Library second floor)



Created by Cait Duffy '23, the exhibit "Old Books, Same Problems" highlighted banned books from the collections.

Social Media

This year we continued our efforts to become more active on social media. Thanks mostly to the creativity and writing of student workers, we uploaded several posts describing Special Collections resources and collections for the broader public. We also experimented with Instagram stories and videos for sharing some of the most hidden collections in the stacks.



Created by Stephanie Carreno '23, one of the library's most-liked Instagram posts described the history of Casa Latina and Latinx Unidos.

STAFF AND VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

Here is a glimpse at some of the work that occurs behind the scenes in Special Collections.

Harrison Phillis (*Special Collections Assistant*): Harrison conducted an inventory of the Mississippi Valley and Rare Book collections and will complete the inventory for the remaining three book collections over the summer, along with an inventory of the manuscript collections. He also conducted large digitization projects including a college catalog for a researcher, as well as the first 7 issues of the Journal of Geoscience Education for the National Association of Geology Teachers to be used in an online database of the journal that they are assembling. Harrison processed a few collections such as the African Students Association records and described the Augustana College Audiovisual Collection. Continuing projects include

maintaining the vertical files, creating proper enclosures for fragile items, and responding to a myriad of reference and research questions over the phone, by email, and in person.

Stephanie Carreno (*Student worker*): Stephanie served as the primary writer and creator of our social media content this year. She also assisted with the final processing of the Latinx Unidos records and the data entry of patron records.

Cait Duffy (*Student worker*): Cait helped to build inventories for two collections this year: the Carl Tolpo papers and the Mattie McClane (Kristine Kaiser) papers. She also curated an exhibit highlighting historical copies of banned books.

Allie Rial (*Student worker*): Allie completed an oral history transcription of Lizandra Gomez-Ramirez discussing her experience with organizing the Our Lady of Guadalupe Tribute. She also helped prepare outreach materials for the Artists' Books Open House.

Madeline Kusar (*Student worker*): Madeline reviewed and completed an inventory for duplicate materials in our stacks. In an effort to minimize duplicate copies, she checked on the condition and number of cataloged materials.

Taylor Waugh (*Technical Services*): In addition to providing better inventories for the Bergendoff and Sorensen papers, Taylor assisted with the re-housing of materials held in these collections to new, archival-quality boxes and folders.

Carla Tracy (*Volunteer*): Carla reviewed and inventoried two collections: the Mark Schwiebert papers and the American Association of University Women records.