

Books & Friends

Vol. 21, No. 1

2005



Since the last issue of Books & Friends, many changes have occurred in the Rare Book Room. Walls have been painted an inviting deep red, exhibition space has been rearranged, new Oriental carpets welcome the feet of visitors, three new permanent displays showcase items from the collections, and many new items have been added to the holdings. We hope you will approve, and enjoy.





Jimmye Kimmey: President's Letter



Dear Friend:

A book, a reader, a teacher. The absolute minimum for a school. And, if you had to do without one, it would not be the book. (Or the reader. Or the teacher.)

So, we might be Friends of the UNT Students, or Friends of the UNT Teachers. But we choose to be Friends of the UNT Libraries. (Since students and teachers are befriended by books, we neglect nothing, and no one essential.)

We show our friendship by buying and cherishing books, by inviting friends to listen to musicians perform and to poets read. We publish the poems; so far we do not produce CD's of the musical performances, but there's no good rea-

son why not (except, of course, financial).

We also invite friends to come to the Rare Book Room to see fascinating displays from the Library collection, to eat edible books (!), to admire artists' books, or just to pull up a chair and read a book.

Do you feel friendly toward books? Then, by all means, do join us. We, and books, welcome more friends.

Sincerely yours,



Since I'm the new President of the Friends of the UNT Libraries, I need to introduce myself. I did my undergraduate work in government at the University of Texas, then to Columbia for graduate work in international relations and American foreign policy. I then spent ten most enjoyable years teaching at Barnard College and being a Research Fellow at the Institute for War and Peace Studies at Columbia.

After that, I decided I wanted to stretch some different muscles and I spent the next ten years as Executive Director of the Association for the Study of Abortion. Having succeeded in our purpose by 1977, we disbanded and I found myself headed for seminary (Union Theological) and ordination as a priest in the Episcopal Church. I was on the bishop's staff for the next dozen years as Executive, then Canon, for Ministry Development. Finally came retirement to Denton and appointment as Priest Associate at St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church.

A first order of business as President of Friends will be to focus on increasing the visibility and membership of our organization. Increased membership will mean that we can be of more service to the university libraries. We hope to do that in a variety of ways, but one we are working on now is to make our annual banquet and speaker more noticed by and attractive to the UNT and Denton communities.



Executive Board of the Friends of the Libraries



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Mary Durio, Curator, Rare Book & Texana Collections

Major Changes

If you haven't visited the Rare Book Room lately, there have been quite a few changes. We've painted the walls a warm, dark red color that has been getting rave reviews. The trim-work and metal doors are no longer institutional grey, but a glossy black. The various exhibit cases have been rearranged and expanded, creating two distinct display areas, one at the front of the room for the changing exhibits, and one at the back of the room for our ever-growing Miniature Book Collection. In addition, we have a new display case along side the Miniatures for showcasing a selection of items from the Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution Archives, now housed in the Rare Book & Texana Collections (See article in this issue). Two cases of examples of printing equipment form a continuing display showing students

where books came from in the days before Amazon.com.

The Rare Book Room has also been "warmed up" by the addition of several new Oriental rugs - a feast for the eyes, and a treat for the feet!

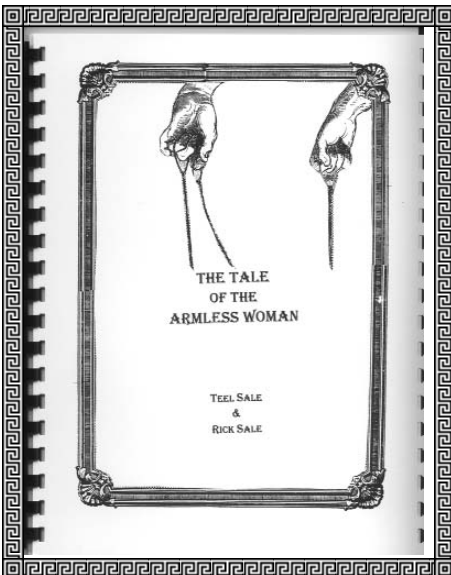
Our reference collection has been expanding, as have our other holdings. Pop-Ups, Miniatures, Pat Warde, and the Texana Collections have all recieved significant additions.

One slightly off-key note in our decor is the large grey steel map cases in the main room. Although the cases themselves are less than lovely, they contain the collection of over 800 original World War I and World War II posters that once belonged to the University Historical Collection, and have been transferred to us

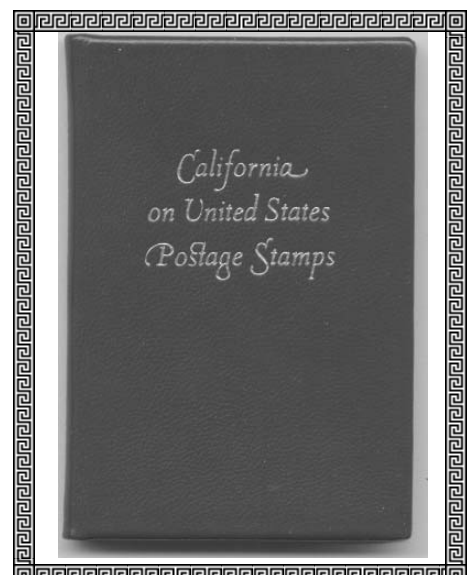
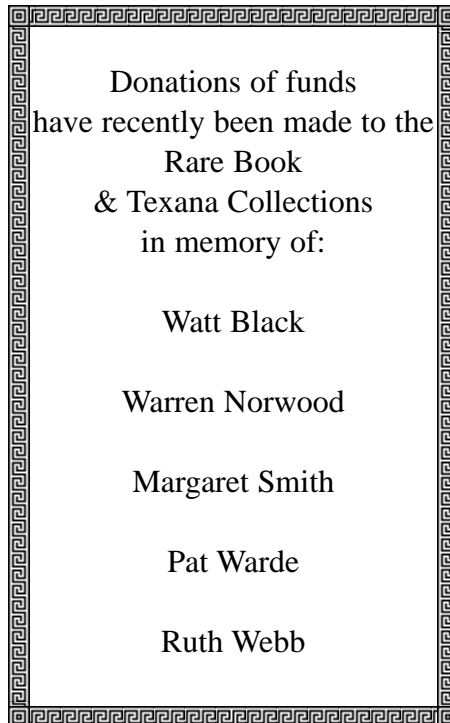
from the Government Documents Department. Definitely a case of not judging something by it's container!

On a less obvious level, thanks to our Building Manager, we have been able to replace all of the UV filters on our lights, thereby greatly extending the lives of our treasures. We also have two small dehumidifiers for the vault, and two air purifiers to help remove dust and mold from the air. Some new preservation equipment, including a UV testing light, a new book vacuum, and some other pieces are giving us a better chance of preserving our at-risk materials.

All in all, it's been what they call "a rapidly changing environment" lately. We hope you can all come and see what has been accomplished, and perhaps help us with things yet to do!



Sale, Teel & Rick. Tale of the Armless Woman. [Denton, Tex.: s.n., 2005. Copy #2 of 10. Artist's book, donated to the Rare Book Room in memory of storyteller Finley Stewart.

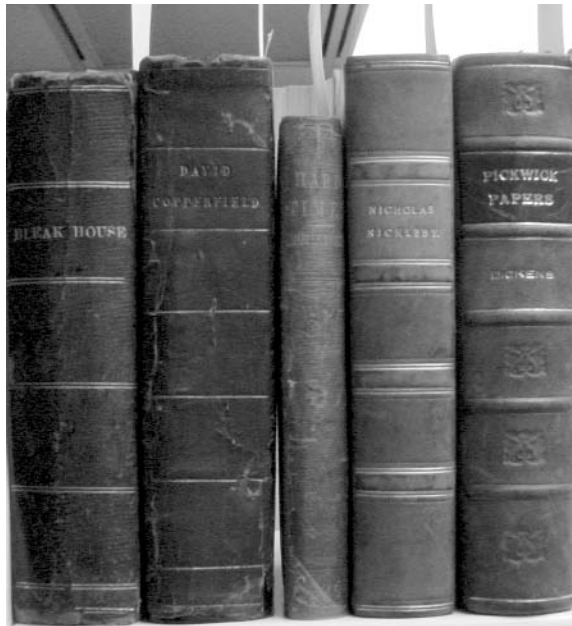


Weber, Francis J. California on United States Postage Stamps. Worcester, Mass.: St. Onge, 1975. Donated to the Miniature Book Collection in memory of Audrey Arellanes. Shown slightly reduced.

Vann Victorian Endowment Established

Dr. J. Don Vann, Regents Professor of English, professor emeritus at UNT and member of the Executive Board of the Friends of the UNT Libraries, has graciously founded the Vann Victorian Endowment. With this generous donation, he has ensured that the staff of the Rare Book & Texana Collections will be able to acquire rare and important works of Victorian-era British fiction.

The endowment will provide funds to purchase significant works to add to our holdings. We hope to purchase landmark works of fiction and to obtain



works that retain their original Victorian bindings, complete with period advertising. This endowment

will be very beneficial to not only literature students, but also to historians, typographers, artists, book designers, educators, and to those who aspire to gain a deeper understanding of society and cultural trends through various stories that the Victorian book as artifact can tell us.

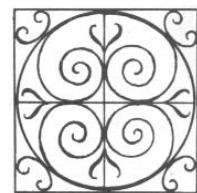
Seeing an original Charles Dickens novel in “parts” as it was originally published brings an entirely new dimension to the work. Though Dickens was not the only one to write in parts, he took an approach to the

method that others did not. He wrote the stories as he went along, and responded to the reactions of his audience at the time.

The works of Dickens are becoming even more important in the Rare Book & Texana Collections, due again to Dr. Vann’s generous donation. In addition to establishing the Vann Victorian Endowment, Dr. Vann - one of the foremost Dickens scholars in the world - is also donating his collection of Dickens first editions.

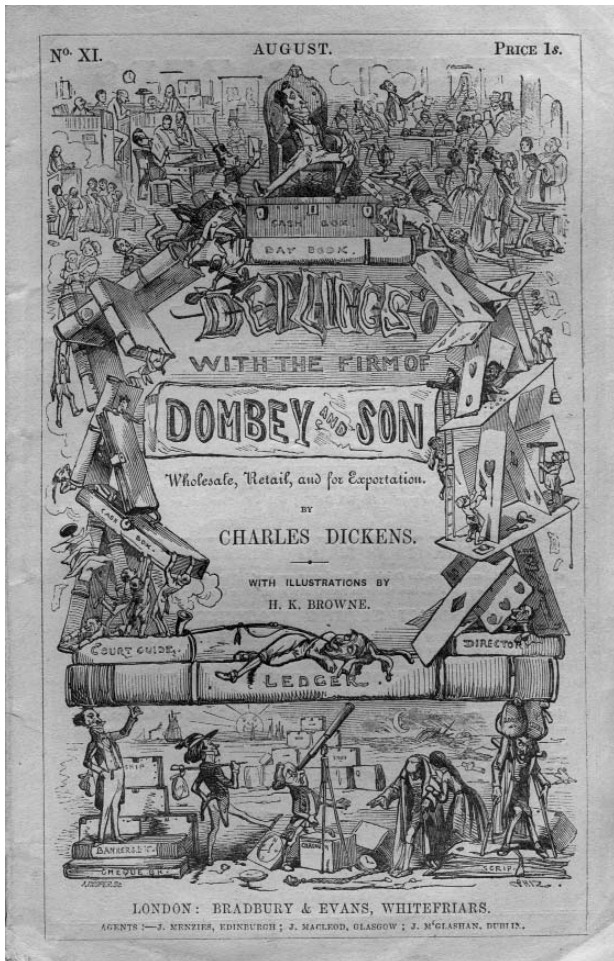
This magnificent gift helps to continue his legacy of scholarship by providing future researchers with the chance to experience the works as they were envisioned by Dickens.

We are honored that Dr. Vann saw the staff of the Rare Book & Texana Collections as fitting custodians for his collection, and as the ones to help continue his life-long pursuit of research and learning.



Contributions to the Vann Victorian Endowment can be sent to:

Friends of the UNT Libraries
PO Box 305190
Denton, TX 76203



New purchases funded by the Endowments

Even now, 4 years after 9/11, the economic “pinch” is still being felt. The endowments have mostly recovered from the crash after that fateful day, but are still only bringing in limited funds with which we may purchase items for the collections. Here are some of the items that have been purchased using the funds from the endowments:

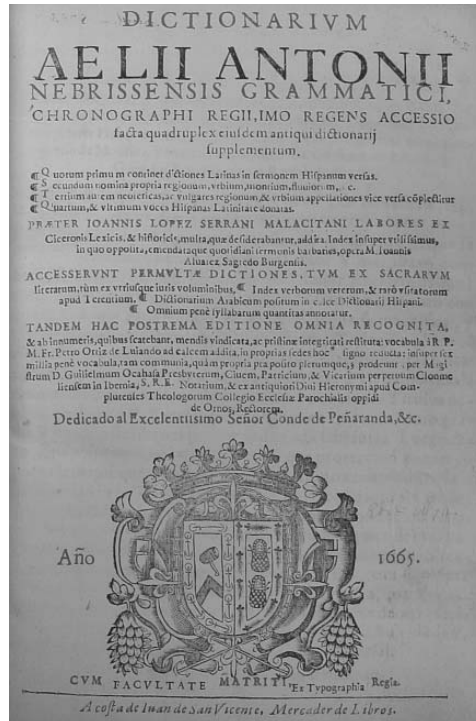
Friends’ Endowment

Nebrija, Antonio de, 1444?-1522.
Dictionarium Aelii Antonii Nebrissensis grammatici, chronographi regii, : imo regens accessio facta quadruplex eiusdem antiqui dictionarij supplementum : quorum primum continet dictiones Latinas in sermonem Hispanum versas. Matriti : Ex Typographia Regia, 1665.

Known for publishing the first Spanish language grammar - indeed, the first grammar produced of any Romance language, Antonio de Nebrija published this Latin-Spanish dictionary as one of his many ground-breaking projects that advanced Spanish scholarship.

Dudley, Dick. *Production archive for A Christmas Celebration.*

The “author’s manuscript” for a pop-up book that was never published. One of a group we were fortunate enough to acquire as additions to the Weaver Pop-Up Books collection.



Porter-Evans Endowment

Oliván Rebolledo, Juan De (1676-1738). *Constitviones statuta et iura fori: insignis veteris, mexicanici, Divae Mariae, omnium sanctorum sacri collegii maioris editae ab illustrissimo domino doctore Don Francisco Rodriguez sanctos Mexicanensis ecclesiae thesaurario, almae Guadalaxarensis episcopo, ipsius collegii patrono illustratae historice politice iuridice,* With: *Oracion a nuestro senor soberano D. Philippo V,* With: *Señor : el Colegio Mayor de Santa Maria de Todos Santos de Mexico,* With: *Letter : [Madrid], to Salvador Silvestre de Velasco y Herrera,* 1709 Mayo 27.

This is actually 4 items by Oliván Rebolledo, in one 18th century vellum binding. The final item is a hand-written letter by Oliván Rebolledo

Oliván Rebolledo was an official and mapmaker in Spanish Texas. A member of the Junta General by 1715, in 1719 he was designated governor of Texas but never assumed his duties. He was Judge Advocate of Mexico, held the duties of auditor of war.

Pat Warde Endowment

The Pat Warde Collection of Southern Letters has benefited from a large group of items from the estate of Martin S. Shockley.

Dr. Shockley’s collection included many signed works and 1st editions of Texas poets and authors, as well as other items. Some of the

authors include: Shelby Foote, Sue Settle Brooks, John Graves; William Barney; Josephine Powell Beaty; and Marvin Davis Winsett.

Faces seen in the Rare Book Room

We are always short-handed in the Rare Book Room, but are lucky in having kind volunteers who come in and help us out, as well as students working on special problems, practicums, etc. Here are a few of the folks helping us with the collections. Without them, we'd never be able to accomplish quite as much as we do. Please thank them if you run into them!



Peter Kaiser is a grad student in the History department. He often helps out with the “less than glamorous” tasks such as shelf-reading and furniture moving. THANK YOU PETER!



Zhi Xian (George) Yi, TWU Library Science doctoral student, is doing his practicum here at the Rare Book Room. From mainland China, George has been helping out with a wide range of tasks while he learns about life in a rare book room.



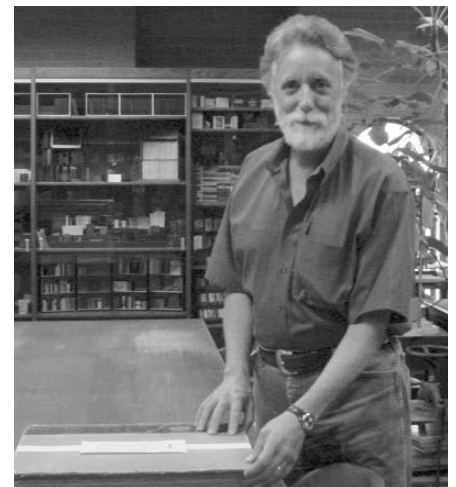
Iryna Shevchuk, UNT student originally from Ukraine, has been helping us out by translating Russian, Ukrainian, and German items from the mounds of uncataloged materials. With her invaluable help, many items will be available to our users that otherwise might sit in the vault for quite sometime. Iryna: дякую тобі



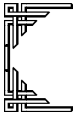
The ever amazing Dot Parks is a treasure beyond price. A natural at preservation work, she has already done literally hundreds of mylar wraps, encapsulated countless documents, and created numerous phase boxes. A great help all-around, Dot has been worth her weight in incunabula!



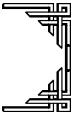
Abby Dover is a senior, graduating Summer of 2006. A Texas native, she most recently lived in Japan. She's been helping us with various things, including preservation and working with the Weaver Collection.



Allen Bradley is a manager for UNT's Computing Center and a hobbyist bookbinder. He has an interest in learning how to preserve, repair and rebind old books and is volunteering his time here to gain information and to help us. He's discovered the joys of making large phase boxes, and we hope we can keep him here for a very long time - at least a couple hundred volumes!



Summer 2005: Humidity Attacks



Anyone who tried to visit us this summer discovered that our doors were temporarily closed to the public. We had our first major disaster, and now we can explain the details:

During the week of May 29 to June 4, the Rare Book Room experienced several outages of our air conditioning system, always at night when nobody was around. As a result of this, humidity kept building up in our area. On the morning of Friday, June 3, 2005, we came in to find the Rare Book Room and vault warm and humid. So humid, in fact, that when we touched some of the vellum-bound books, they felt damp to the touch. Vellum, being a tanned animal skin, is particularly susceptible to humidity changes. Why the worry? Two major reasons: 1) damp books grow mold, which will eat the collections, and 2) changes in humidity cause books to swell and contract, which can split bindings, damage photographs, and destroy delicate items.

Emergency procedures were implemented immediately, we notified the building manager and the assistant dean, and started safeguarding the collections. With the invaluable assistance of library staff from the Reference Department and the Music Library, we began by pulling all vellum items out of the vault and spreading them out to dry, but quickly realized that things had progressed beyond that simple stage. It was going to take more than that to preserve the collec-

tions. With the help of the library courier, James Flowers, we started evacuating hundreds of items, including not only the items most likely to be destroyed by raised humidity, but also our most treasured and important volumes. They were transported to the Library Annex, where the staff of the Preservation Department, under Anne Marie Willer began to spread items out to dry, and assessed them for possible damage. At the same time, items too fragile to risk sending in the van to the Annex were taken across the fourth floor to the University Archives for temporary storage while we worked on stabilizing the climate in the Rare Book Room.

Facilities worked with us to lower the temperature in the room and vault to help dissipate the humidity. Hundreds of volumes that were not evacuated to the Annex were pulled from the vault and spread out to dry on every available surface in the Rare Book Room. Mary & Edward came to the Rare Book Room every 4 hours over that weekend checking the temperature and emptying the dehumidifiers, which pulled hundreds of gallons of water out of the air.

Eventually, when things stabilized, we started to deal with the items here in the Rare Book Room - checking for immediate damage on the materials that were spread around the room. Then we brought back the volumes from the Annex and from Archives. Every item that had left the building was checked for damages, and then placed back on the shelves. Once

everything was in place, the REAL job of disaster recovery began.

Everything was removed from the vault, shelf by shelf, and each item checked for damage and for mold. The empty shelves were cleaned and disinfected before the books were brought back in. It took almost three months, from June 6 to August 23, to clean the entire vault, and we were closed to the public the entire time. We were able to reopen just in time for the start of classes.

Results: Over 250 items were identified as having been infected by mold. Mary is confident we can treat them and save the books, and we have already treated over 100 volumes. Numerous mylar wraps, jackets, phase boxes, and clamshell boxes had to be thrown away - and eventually have to be replaced. A number of items may have been damaged by swelling and contracting when the humidity rose and fell.

Beyond that, literally for the rest of the life of the collections we will continue to monitor for mold activity, and continue to spot-check books on a permanent basis.

But the collection survives, in a large part thanks to: Melody Kelly; Jo Clark; Lou Ann Bradley; Gayla Byerly; Susan Martin; Jeff Levy; Annie Downey; Sergio Moreno; Peter Kaiser; Heather Russell; Dot Parks; Ann Marie Willer; Karen Snow; Laura Easterling; James Flowers; Jennifer Whitt; Perri Hamilton; Kathryn Loafman; Nancy Viens; Kuwai; Mark Puente; and others whom we may have forgotten.

Discoveries & Research Finds

When we are not giving tours, teaching classes or workshops, answering reference questions (in person, via phone, fax, by mail and e-mail), doing preservation work, cataloging, or doing any one of the zillion other tasks necessary to a functioning Rare Book Room, we occasionally get to research some of the items in our care.

The donation of the Dixon collection in 1995 was a major event, and continues to provide surprises to this day. As we continue to sort through the collection, research the items, and evaluate the materials, things keep appearing that make our day - many days over!

In addition to the obvious rare items, such as books signed by Jackie Kennedy, Eleanor Roosevelt, Anwar El Sadat and others, we have quite a large group of items awaiting further research. Among the discoveries are a number of items that belonged to General Ethan Allen Hitchcock. His pictorial bookplate inspired enough curiosity that we wanted to know more about him.

We've learned a lot!

Of course, the first hurdle was figuring out to which Ethan Allen Hitchcock the books had belonged! Yes, there were two. The "younger" lived from 1835-



1909, and was Secretary of the Interior to President McKinley. He was the nephew of the "older" Ethan Allen Hitchcock, who was the owner of our books. "Our" Hitchcock lived from 1798 to 1870 and was a grandson of the Revolutionary War patriot Ethan Allen, and he himself went on to serve as Winfield Scott's right-hand man in the Mexican-American War, and as an advisor to Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War. Hitchcock (Elder) was also a scholar and a hermetic philosopher of note. At first we only found books that he had owned, most of them were literary works by mostly British authors. Slowly, other items relating to Hitchcock have been appearing, which are exciting great interest. One item that almost escaped the collections was a group of 7 copies of *Christ the Spirit*. What saved them from oblivion was noticing Hitchcock's

name on the spine - he had written the book anonymously, and his name should not have appeared on it anywhere. We started examining the volumes, and found that they are copies of various editions, with what appear to be Hitchcock's handwritten corrections for each future edition. Some have only a word or two of corrections, some have extensive tipped-in sections of notes and

rewrites. The handwriting matches the few authentic examples we have been able to find, although we are still doing research. Stay tuned for more information as it turns up.

AT PRIVATE SALE.

Catalogue of Books

ON

HERMETIC PHILOSOPHY

Being the Entire Collection of

GENERAL E. A. HITCHCOCK,

Gathered by him during many years, and at much cost, and it is believed to be the most extensive and valuable collection of its peculiar class in this country, and comprises many *unique volumes*. Such a collection, undoubtedly, could not now be made.

As General Hitchcock does not design to have the Books scattered through his immediate agency, the whole is now offered, in one lot,

AT PRIVATE SALE ONLY.

For further particulars, terms, &c.,

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MESSRS. BANGS, MERWIN & CO.,

AT THE IRVING BUILDINGS,
594 AND 596 BROADWAY,
NEW YORK.

C. C. SHELLEY, Steam Printer, 68 Barclay Street, N. Y.

A Little News from the Miniature Book Collection

At what point does a collection take on a life of its own?

Our Miniature Book Collection seems to be doing just that. Although only a “medium sized” collection when compared to others in this country, our collection is certainly becoming one of our most popular attractions. Tours, walk-ins, and those “who heard from a friend about the little books” have all been coming in to look at our tiny tomes.



Our collection began with some children's miniatures donated with Mrs. Weaver's collection of children's books in the 1930's. Since then, between purchases and gifts, it is becoming a very good representation of the world of miniature books. From the 1600's to the 21st century, from many countries and in many languages, our collection has grown to be able to show most genres of miniature books, as well as most of the important publishers and printers.

We are receiving gifts of miniatures fairly often, from publishers,



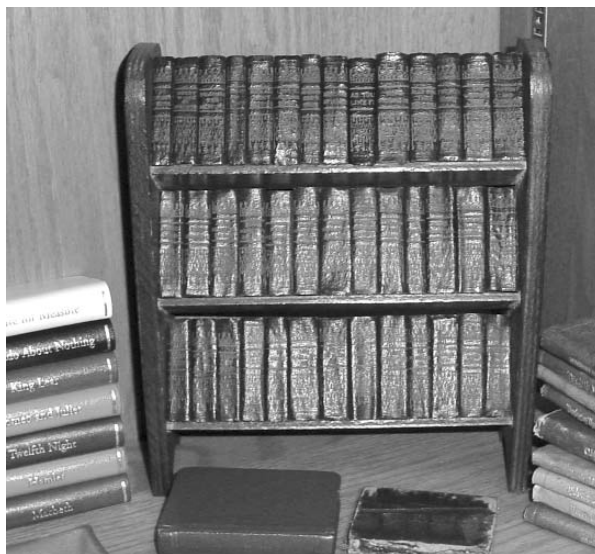
collectors, dealers, and just “folks” who saw a miniature somewhere and bought it for us. We are now somewhere near or at the 2,000 volume mark (ever tried to count miniature books? They move!), and are enjoying both visitors and donations.

Edward has been attending the annual conferences of the Miniature Book Society for the last few years, learning about miniatures and meeting many of the publishers, printers, authors, collectors, and dealers who are represented in the collection.

Last year, in Bath, England, Edward gave a presentation about our collection, as well as “Librarians and Miniature Books”. This year, the conference was held in New Orleans from July 22 to July 25th. Members of the MBS from a number of countries attended, and a good time was had by all. As in previous years, a number of people gave

Edward donations for our Miniature Book Collection, including a 40-volume miniature set of Shakespeare in its original wooden bookshelf and a copy of the 1964 Topan Printing Company Genesis, which was the smallest book in the world when it was produced.

We are still working to fill in gaps in the collection with purchases, but these gifts are VERY welcome. If you would like to become a sponsor of the Miniature Book Collection, just contact us, and we'll work with you. We can use contributions in any amount, from \$5 to \$5,000,000, so there is a level for everyone! And, if you want, we will even put a little tiny bookplate in the books you fund, saying that you donated them, just like we do with the regular-sized books!

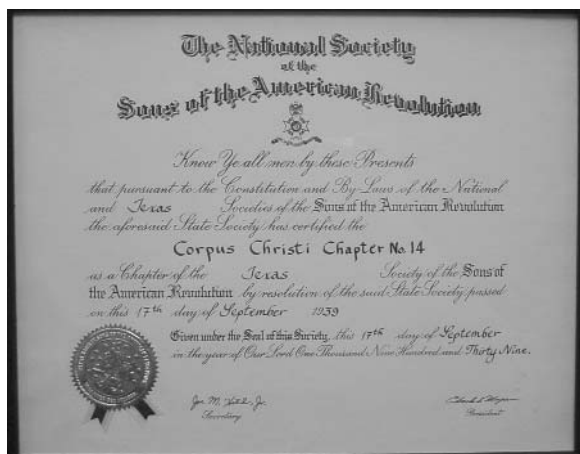


TXSSAR Archives Comes to the Rare Book Room

On April 30th, 1889 - the 100th anniversary of the inauguration of George Washington as first president of the United States - a group of descendants of those who had fought in the Revolutionary War formed the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). In the next few years, state and local chapters were founded throughout the country.



On December 8, 1896, a group of men met at the Galveston home of civil war hero and Medal of Honor winner Ira Hobart Evans, to found the Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution (TXSSAR). From one chapter and 15 members in February of 1897, TXSSAR has grown to include over 2,500 members and 60 chapters.



Much of the early records and materials of the Texas Society have been lost over the past century. Recognizing this, and in an effort to preserve their history, the Texas Society Sons of the Revolution have worked with the Friends of the UNT Libraries to create the TXSSAR Archives as a part of the

Rare Book & Texana Collections at UNT. As of December 2004, we have become the official repository of their collections.

Scrapbooks, newsletters, photographs, documents, medals, artifacts, correspondence, chapter charters, books, membership applications, flags and other materials recording the history and activities of TXSSAR and its members have been arriving. The first few boxes of materials delivered that December are now part of over 80 linear feet of materials now housed in the vault with the other rare and valuable materials in the care of the Rare Book & Texana Collections. TXSSAR has also funded the acquisition of a display case for the Rare Book Room in which to house a permanent exhibit of artifacts and materials from the TXSSAR Archives. The collection is open to all researchers, and as it grows it promises to become an important historical research collection.

As materials are received, often boxes at a time, we are doing a preliminary "sort and clean" of the items. Any major preservation needs are being taken care of at that time, and the items are being re-housed in acid-free folders and boxes. They are then stored temporarily until they can be cataloged. Several students from the School of Library and Information Sciences have worked on the TXSSAR Archives as part

of their graduate work, helping with sorting, preserving, and cataloging.

Although only a small part of the collection has been fully cataloged



so far, the TXSSAR Archives is "up and running." Other state societies are interested in seeing how we are handling the collection, and looking at using us as a model for their own archives. There have been several tours for members of TXSSAR, and we've already been answering e-mail

TXSSAR Archives Comes to the Rare Book Room



questions. Rare Book Room staff have visited several TXSSAR meetings and are working to schedule several more. TXSSAR President Jim Heath has visited while in the area, and was pleased with our efforts. He also gave us some interesting information on some of the Native American Indian pottery in our vault, which we are going to have to follow up on...



the SAR. Members from all over the country will be converging on Dallas for two weeks, and we have been informed that people are expecting to visit us. We are planning a special exhibition on TXSSAR, the SAR, and the American Revolution for Summer 2006 to coincide with the National Congress.

We are looking forward to a long and happy relationship with TXSSAR, and are honored that they chose us as the best site for their materials.

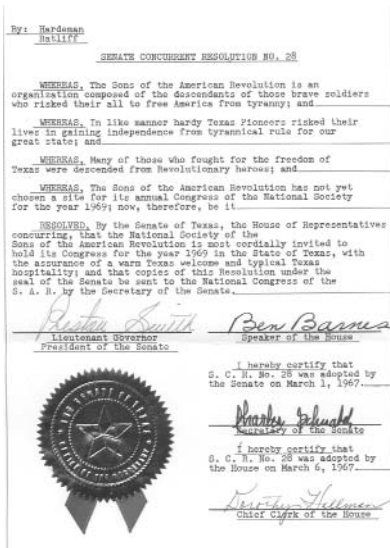
Our thanks to the following for their hard work in establishing the TXSSAR Archives, and in working with the collections:

From TXSSAR:

Dr. James J. Johnson, Jr.
Tom Whitelock
Donald Stone

From UNT:

Tim Creamer
Judy Tate
Pete Sheehan
Peter Kaiser
Karen Snow
Heather Russell

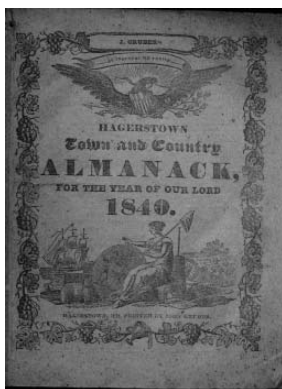


In July of 2006, TXSSAR will host the annual National Congress of

Fall Exhibition: Periodicals on Parole

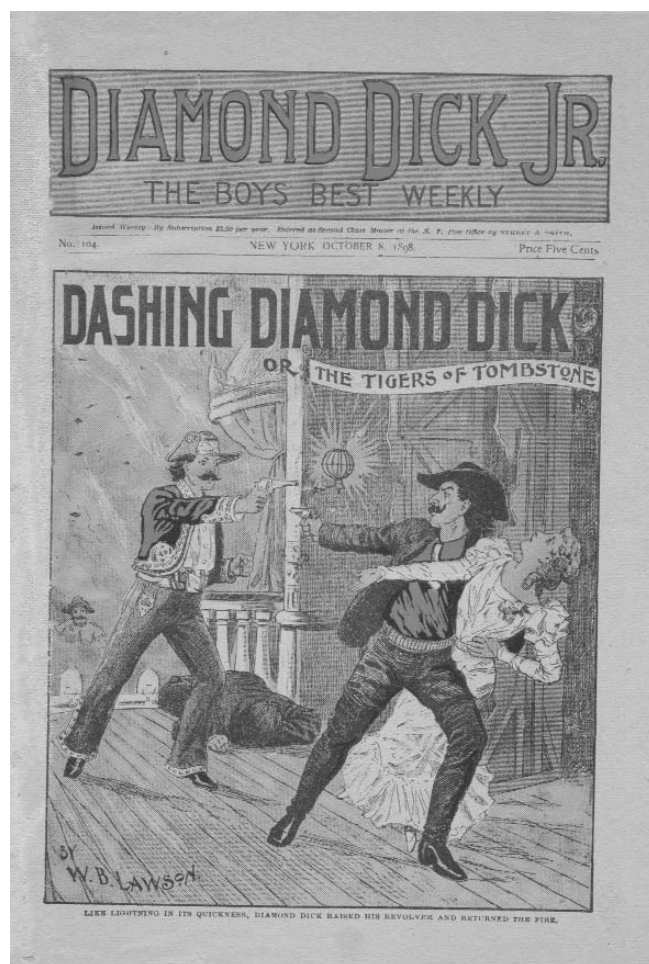
Our featured exhibition for fall 2005 is "Killer Serials: periodicals on parole from the confines of the Rare Book Room vault." The exhibit, curated by Graduate Library Assistant Karen Snow, spans several centuries of periodic pleasures and serial syndications. Many important periodical holdings from the Rare Book Room are represented in this unique showing. In addition to "general" publications, there are things for children and adults alike. Magazines for men and women, such as *Godey's Lady's Book* and the *Gentlemen's magazine* share the spotlight with unusual special-audience publications such as the *Robot Warfare Journal* and *Guinea Gold*.

Rarely seen treasures such as the *Juvenile Miscellany* are exhibited alongside more often-viewed pieces such as cartoons by



Thomas Nast from *Harper's Monthly* and Charles Dickens' *Household Words*. This exhibition has surprised visitors with the breadth and depth of our holdings. People expected *Sartain's* and the *Art Journal*, but were surprised at the sight of signed copies of the comic book *Mr. Average* and the last issue of the *Dallas Times Herald*.

Karen has done a phenomenal job in representing our holdings, and in describing their contemporary uses and purposes. She is working on an online version of the exhibit that is scheduled to premier sometime in the spring of 2006. Keep your eyes open for this fantastic explanation of serials, periodicals and magazines.



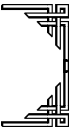
Silent Auction

As part of our next annual fundraising Spring Banquet, which will be held on March 7, 2006, the Friends will be holding a silent auction. Jimmye Kimmey, current president of the Friends of the UNT Libraries, will be organizing this event. If you have something that you think may be of interest for the auction, please contact her at: jekimmey@yahoo.com. If you do not have access to email, you may contact the Rare Book Room at 940-565-2769 and we will put you in touch with Jimmye.

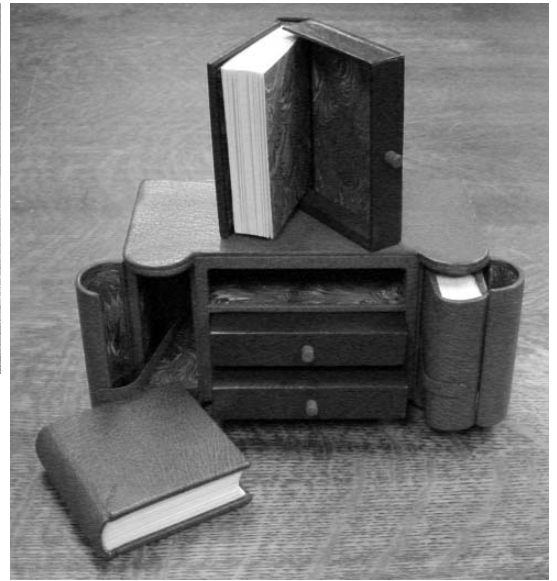




Czech it out!



In January 2004, our own Curator, Mary Durio, spent a month apprenticing with Jan Sobota in his bookbinding studio in the Czech Republic. A renowned bookbinder and conservator, Jan has a special place in our hearts as the



creator of "The Apple", a one-of-a-kind artist's book in our collection. During the four weeks Mary was there, she expanded her knowledge of binding techniques by making French style bindings, box bindings, a sculptural piece, and Jan's "two or three board" structure. In addition to studying and making these binding structures, she also learned Cuir-Cisele (cut leather), which is an old design technique,



Above left and above: Sculptural bookbinding piece incorporating box bindings and French style bindings.

Left: 2-board structure binding, with marbled paper covers.

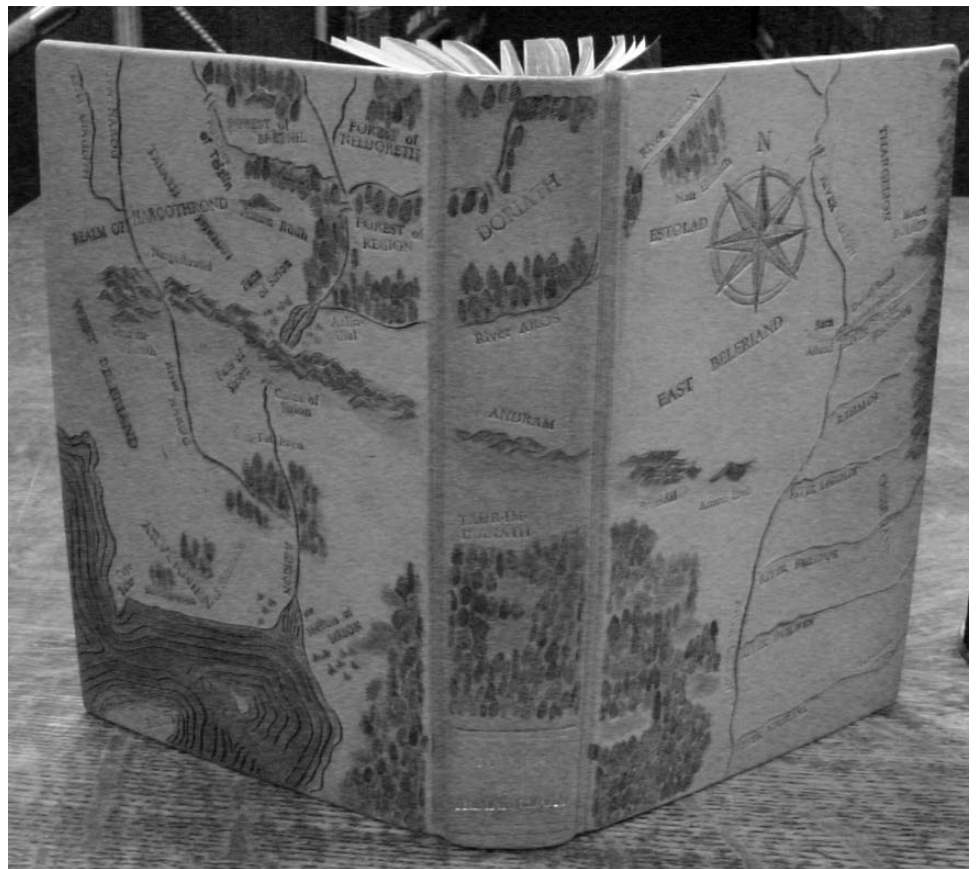
accomplished by cutting and punching material such as metal or leather. It has been used in bookbinding since the 15th century.

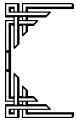


Above: Decorative panel done in Cuir-Cisele

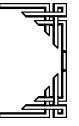
Mary also spent time with Jarmilla Sobota, Jan's wife and a book artist herself, acquiring insight into marbled papers, and enjoying her wonderful cooking. This was a remarkable opportunity to learn from masters of the craft, and we are thrilled Mary had the chance to participate.

Below: Cuir-Cisele leather binding for The Silmarillion by J. R. R. Tolkien. Leather cut and dyed to create a map of Middle Earth.





Our 25th Anniversary Approaches



In 1981, both the Rare Book Room and the Friends of the UNT Libraries were founded.

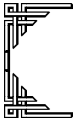
Almost 25 years later, we can look back on some amazing changes and achievements. Cosmetic changes to the room, changes in staff, new acquisitions, a wide variety of events held, new friends made, old ones cherished, and others who have passed from our lives. Thousands of students and visitors have walked through our doors - some just once, some returning time after time. Hundreds of classes have used our collections,



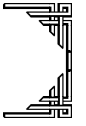
and we've helped researchers from all over the world.

In 2006 we will celebrate that 25th anniversary, and hope that you can join us in celebrating the many people involved in the Friends organization and the Rare Book Room, and the many accomplishments we have achieved together.





We Need Your Help



The Rare Book and Texana Collections has been fortunate for 24 years now that it has been given a budget by the UNT Libraries. For the last few years, our budget has not increased, although the prices for rare materials continues to climb. This year, the entire libraries saw a 15% cut in the materials budget, and there is the possibility of a further cut next year. We still consider ourselves fortunate to have any funds at all, but now it is going to be even harder to continue to acquire important items for the use of our researchers. Our endowments are bringing in some funds for purchases, but they are not keeping up with the cost of rare books. To keep the collections going, to continue to expand and improve our research materials, we need your help. We have been asked to provide a "wish list" of things we need or would like to have for the collections. This list is not exhaustive, nor is it even particularly complete. We need help from every level of donors, be it one dollar or hundreds of thousands of dollars. We can and will also accept donations of items for the collections. Feel free to talk to us about the list, or if you have things that may not be on this list. You do not have to be wealthy to support the Rare Book Room, you just have to want to help.

\$10,000+

Endowments for the following collections/areas of the collection:
Weaver Collection of Children's materials
18th Century

Travel & Exploration
Texas County Histories Collection
Women's Studies
Periodicals Collection
Reference Collection
Artists' Books
Historic & Fine Bindings
Miniature Books Collection
World's Fairs
Printing History
Preservation supplies & equipment.

Specific types of items:

Incunabula (books printed before the year 1501) We are particularly wanting something printed by William Caxton.

Illuminated manuscripts. Our only holdings are loose leaves and reproductions.

Significant manuscript materials. Especially seeking Texas authors and Victorian-era authors.

Illustrated works. Including major illustrated travel books and chromolithographs.

\$1,000 to \$10,000.

Signed documents & manuscripts, especially by people important in Texas History, including governors.

Early fashion magazines, including Frank Leslie's, Godey's, etc. from the 18th to the 20th century.

Children's magazines, including Chatterbox, Youth's Penny Gazette, and other 19th century juveniles.

Antiquarian & Vintage pop-up books, including archival materials.

Important bindings, including historic types, unusual materials, and signed bindings.

\$100-\$1,000

Signed first editions, particularly of Texas authors.

Victorian decorated cloth bindings, including gift books.

First edition children's books, particularly before 1975.

Miniature Books, particularly modern fine press or antiquarian.

War Posters, primarily World War I & II, but other wars too.

To \$100

Pop-Up books
Miniature Books
Texas County Histories
Militaria
Preservation supplies
Bookbinding supplies

Any amount:

Donations of funds to any of our existing endowments, or towards the purchase of materials, supplies, tools or equipment.

Donations of:

Texas County Histories
Pop-up books
Miniature books
World War I & II materials and artifacts. (Earlier wars ok too!)
World's Fair materials
Texas State Fair materials
Foreign-language children's books

Beyond Price:

Your time. We need responsible people to:
Translate foreign languages, (Hungarian, Spanish, Czech, etc.)
Create invitations, posters, brochures
Help with preservation
Help with cataloging (even just making lists!)
Create & maintain websites.

The Friends of the UNT Libraries

The Friends of the UNT Libraries organization was established in 1981 as an independent, non-profit, fund-raising group under the aegis of the University of North Texas. All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law and support the collections of the Libraries and the activities of the Friends. An executive board is elected at the annual membership meeting and acts as an advisory group to the Dean of Libraries.

The object of the Friends is to improve and to increase the physical resources of the University Libraries in order to serve the needs of the University of North Texas and especially its scholarly community. This is done by:

- a. Stimulating interest in and focusing attention on the needs of the Libraries;
- b. Providing a forum for sharing an interest in the world of letters;
- c. Attracting donations of money and other assets to enrich and strengthen the collections;
- d. Attracting donations of money and other assets for the attractive and secure housing and display of special collections;
- e. Procuring gifts of books, manuscripts, special collections, or other library materials that would not otherwise be attainable from the regular state appropriation.

In the past 24 years, the Friends of the UNT Libraries have contributed monies for the purchase of books, manuscripts, maps, and other materials that the University Libraries could not otherwise afford. These purchases have supported the development of the

Rare Book and Texana Collections and have helped to make them a recognized part of the cultural benefits of the Denton area.

The Friends have contributed to major events in the Denton community and the University. They also support preservation and exhibit activities, underwrite the Student Assistant of Distinction Award and the Artist's Book Purchase Award, as well as giving much time and effort to publicizing the fine research collections of the UNT Libraries.

In order to assure a continuing source of funds for the purchase of materials for the Rare Book and Texana Collections, the Friends established a General Endowment Fund in 1991. Only a part of the interest earned is used for purchases, while the rest is reinvested in the endowment. Two memorial endowments have also been established. The Pat Warde Endowment Fund supports the Pat Warde Memorial Collection of Southern Letters. The Porter-Evans Texana Collection Fund is dedicated to the enrichment and preservation of the Texana Collection. Both of these Funds, through planning and reinvestment, will provide continuous support for the growth of the UNT Libraries as a major research institution.

During the year the members of the Friends enjoy a varied schedule of activities such as receptions, poetry and short story readings, musical interludes, as well as an annual spring banquet. This gala event includes a

well-known speaker and the annual membership meeting. Also of particular note has been the establishment of a series of workshops, covering such subjects as preservation and evaluation of books.

In addition to invitations to special openings and other events, members of the Friends receive the newsletter *Books & Friends*, beautifully produced poetry and short story chapbooks, Christmas cards, and other appropriate publications. Friends also enjoy library borrowing privileges.

Contact Information

Friends of the UNT Libraries
Rare Book Room
P.O. Box 305190
Denton, Texas 76203-5190
(940) 565-2769
www.library.unt.edu/friends

Events in 2006

January - Artists' Book Competition Reception
March 7 - Annual Spring Banquet
April 1 - Edible Books Festival
April - Poetry Reading
September - New Faculty Reception
October or November - Matinee Musicale
October or November - 25th anniversary celebration

Friends' Past Presidents

Ken Newman (1981-1981)
Wanda Sivellis (1982-1983)
Dr. Garrett Ballard (1983-1985)
Dr. Euline Brock (1985-1987)
Patricia Warde (1987-1990)
Dr. J. Don Vann (1990-1992)
Alton Donsbach (1992-1994)
Deborah Harris (1994-1997)
Dr. Alex Petit (1998-2000)
Dr. Hiram Friedsam (2001-2004)
Dr. Graham Phipps (2004-2005)

The Rare Book Room

The Rare Book Room is located in Room 437, on the 4th floor of Willis Library, on the University of North Texas Denton campus.

Our hours of operation are:

Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., and Friday 8:00 a.m.-12 noon.

Special arrangements can be made to open the Rare Book Room at other times.

Please contact the staff of the Rare Book Room for details.

For more information please call (940)565-2769 or

e-mail mdurio@library.unt.edu or ehoyensk@library.unt.edu

Books & Friends 2005:
Edited by Mary Durio
Produced by the Rare Book Room Staff.