

# The RARE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS LIBRARY

T H E O H I O S T A T E U N I V E R S I T Y

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## ELVA GRIFFITH RETIRES

Elva Griffith, who has shared my tenure to date in the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library, officially retired October 1, 2006. I could speak of years of service, but it is the quality of performance that made Elva such a vital partner in our public service mission. Ever attentive to the needs of our patrons, ever persevering in pursuing the most complex reference requests, ever poised under the most pressing of deadlines, Elva's personality, for many, was synonymous with Rare Books. Intelligent and perceptive, Elva will leave enduring imprints upon our collections, particularly our Irish Collection that she managed and developed during her, I dare say, reign in Rare Books. Elva had served in

several departments in the Library and her accumulated knowledge and experience enhanced all operations of Rare Books. Trusted advisor and confidante, I can personally thank Elva for saving me many embarrassments when I was impetuous to act without thinking things through. Esteemed throughout the library by her colleagues and loved by her students whom she so ably directed over the years, Elva will be greatly missed. We know, however, that jazz, Joyce and travel will keep her more than occupied in the years ahead.

- Geoffrey D. Smith



The Rare Books and Manuscripts Library thanks Elva Griffith for her years of service.

## ANNOUNCING OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER

The Rare Books and Manuscripts Library is pleased to announce the publication of our first newsletter. Appearing biannually in the autumn and spring, it will be available to readers in hard copy for those on our mailing list and in PDF format for download from our library's web site:

<http://library.osu.edu/sites/rarebooks/>

Regular features will include library news, new acquisitions, highlights of specific collections, research opportunities, upcoming events, and a special feature titled the Avant Writing Collection Gallery, which will present original artwork and

poetry.

We hope that our newsletter will keep our users better informed about our collection. Furthermore, we hope it will help keep our patrons in touch with our library and staff. If you would like to receive a copy of our newsletter by mail, please contact Steven

Galbraith at:  
(614) 688-8795, or  
[galbraith.31@osu.edu](mailto:galbraith.31@osu.edu).

## NEW STAFF

The Rare Books and Manuscripts Library welcomes three new employees this year. **Lisa Iacobellis** joined Rare Books in May. She had previously been employed in the Libraries' Technical Services Division, where she headed the Documentation and Training Section. With a background in the History of Art, she has taken responsibility for the non-print materials in the Rare Book collection. Perhaps some in OSU's History of Art Department or

the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies will remember her from her graduate school days. Joining us as Curator of Early Modern Books and Manuscripts is **Steven Galbraith**. Steven comes to us from OSU's Department of English, where he recently completed his Ph.D. He also has experience as a reference librarian at The University of Maine. **Rebecca Watts** joined as Assistant Curator in April. She spent the last



New employees  
**Rebecca Watts,  
Steven Galbraith,  
and Lisa Iacobellis.**

five years in the Main Library Circulation department and previously worked at the Walsh University Library. Rebecca is the primary contact for public service in the Rare Books Library, and will

curate the James Thurber Collection, the cookbook collections, and the American fiction collections. With these new hires, The Rare Books and Manuscripts Library embarks on a new era.

## LIBRARY HIGHLIGHT: THE STEVENS-COX COLLECTION

In autumn of 2004, The Rare Books and Manuscript Library acquired The James Stevens-Cox Collection of STC-Sigla Books, significantly augmenting our current holdings of early modern English books.

Stevens-Cox, an eccentric English bibliophile whose literary and historical interests lured him away from the family trade of wig making

and hairdressing to the world of bookselling and collecting, amassed a private collection of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century books so impressive that the editors of the revised *Short-Title Catalogue* designated it as a "sigla" or location, one of the few private collectors to receive such a designation.

Theological books com-

prise the greater part of the collection, but its contents range from conduct manuals to cartography. Due to the ephemeral nature of these types of books, most in the collection are very rare. In fact, several are the only known surviving copies. Collectively providing a snapshot of everyday reading in early modern England, the collection is invaluable to

social historians, book historians, and others whose scholarship is built on material history and artifacts.

For further information on the Stevens-Cox Collection please visit:

<http://library.osu.edu/sites/rarebooks/finding/>

## NEW ACQUISITIONS: FOXES' ACTES AND MONUMENTS COLLECTION COMPLETED

For over a decade, The Ohio State University has been a thriving center for the study of the English Protestant Reformation and of martyrologist John Foxe, hosting several NEH seminars and supporting the research of numerous scholars. Foxe studies at OSU is built upon The Rare Books and Manuscripts Library's

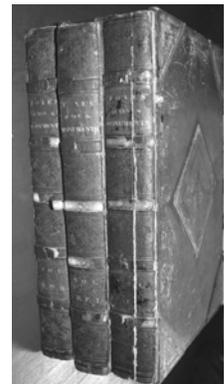
collection of Foxe's *Actes and Monuments (Book of Martyrs)*, which until now has lacked volume two of the 1610 edition.

It is with great excitement that, after nearly 15 years of searching, the library announces the recent acquisition of a complete set of the 1610 edition. This acquisition com-

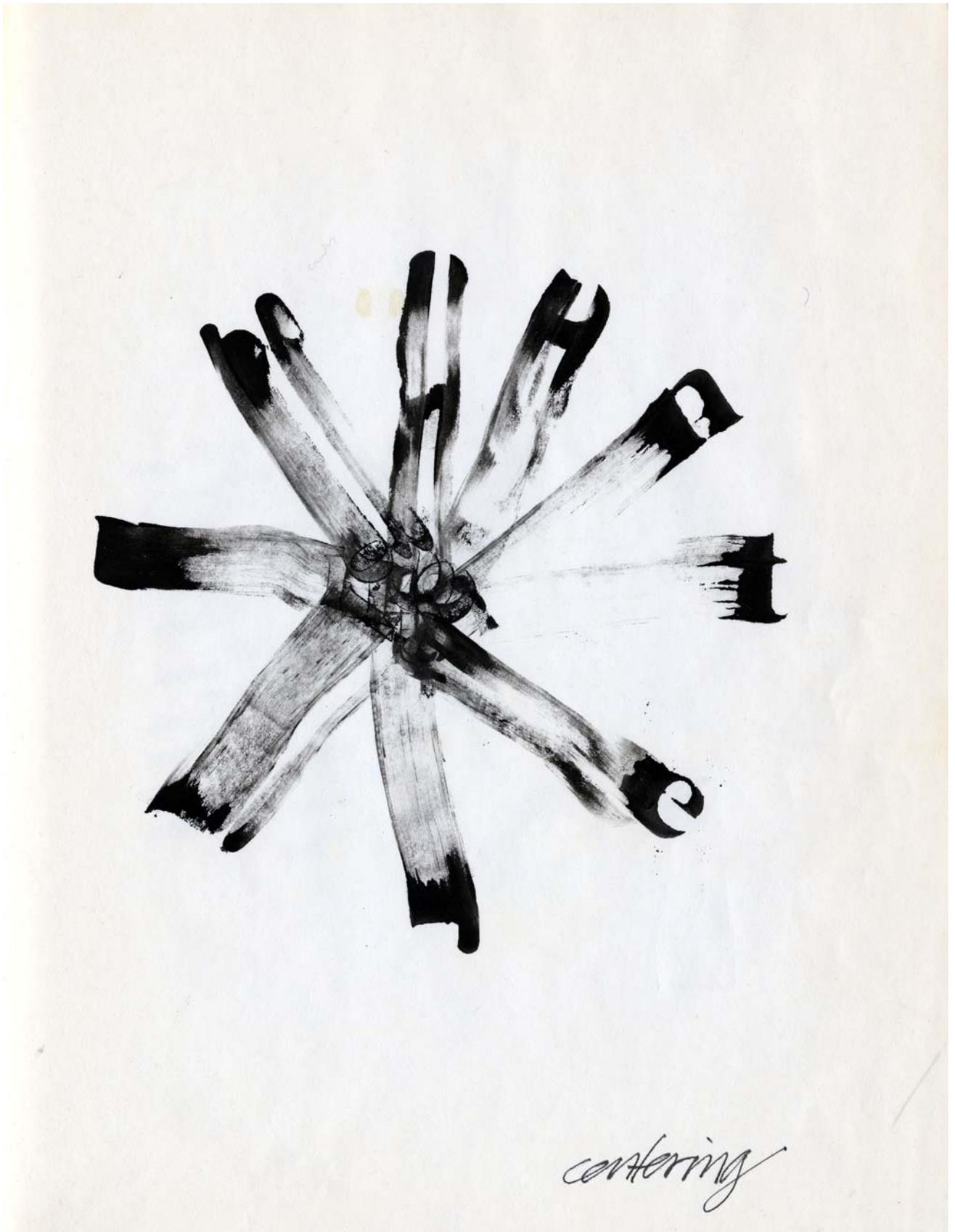
pletes the library's collection of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century editions of *Actes and Monuments*.

A finding aid for the John Foxe Collection may be found at: <http://library.osu.edu/sites/rarebooks/finding/>

To visit OSU's Foxe Digital Project: <http://library.osu.edu/sites/dlib/foxe/index.html>



**John Foxe's *Actes and Monuments* (1610).**



The Avant Writing Collection continues to process the extensive papers of the American visual poet Scott Helmes. This example of his work comes from a 1976 sketchbook titled "Ambiguous". The piece bears the title "Centering", and was created with rubber stamps and smeared ink. — John M. Bennett, Curator



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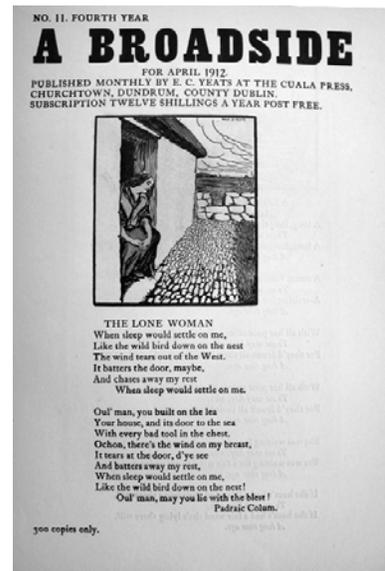
## ENDOWING THE IRISH COLLECTION

One of the burgeoning strengths at OSU's Rare Books and Manuscripts Library is our Irish Collection, which has long boasted extensive holdings of the works of early twentieth-century Irish authors such as James Joyce, William Butler Yeats, Lady Gregory, Seán O'Casey, and George Bernard Shaw. Two collections that have been of particular interest to scholars are the literary archive of Samuel Beckett, including many manuscripts, and a nearly complete collection of publications from The Cuala Press (1904-1946), the famous Irish institution from the arts and crafts movement under the direction of Susan and Elizabeth Yeats.

More recently Elva Griffith has augmented the collection to include contemporary authors such as Seamus Heaney, Derek Mahon, Medbh McGuckian, Paul Muldoon, John McGahern, and William Trevor. For the past ten years, the Rare Books and Manu-

scripts Library has participated in an approval plan through Kenny's Book Store in Galway, Ireland, for the acquisition of the majority of contemporary Irish poets, playwrights, novelists and short story writers who publish in Ireland. Currently, the library has added memoirs of Irish immigrants to America and proposes to enrich the archive with other oral histories and memoirs of Irish immigrants and native Irish related to Irish-Americans.

The Rare Books and Manuscripts Library is committed to the future growth of all components of its Irish Collection. This coming year, we will begin a formal campaign to raise funds to establish an endowment devoted solely to the acquisition of Irish literature. To help participate in the development of this endowment, or for more information on the collection, please contact Geoffrey D. Smith, 614-292-5938, smith.1@osu.edu.



A broadside published by Elizabeth Yeats for her Cuala Press, featuring "The Lone Woman" by Padriac Colum (1912).