The Rare Books and Manuscripts Library (RBMS) is pleased to report the receipt of many year-end gifts from our friends and supporters. In these particularly challenging economic times, the gifts will be put to good use in the development and organization of our collections. We thank you greatly. I realize, however, that it might be informative and reassuring to our benefactors to be apprised as to how these gifts are applied for the betterment of RBMS.

I must note first that not even the greatest libraries of the world can comprehensively collect the millions of books and documents produced worldwide during the past millennia. Rather, in the case of an academic library, such as OSU, we acquire those texts that, foremost, meet the research and teaching needs of our faculty and students. Also, we expand upon and enrich those special collections that have been established over the years, principally from donations of alumni, faculty and other generous benefactors. To that end, we have established formalized collection development policies that guide our acquisition selections and keep us focused on our commitment to both local and national research missions. To cite an oft phrased truism of rare book librarians, we build upon strength and our collection strengths are many, from medieval and Renaissance manuscripts and early books, to Reformation history, Cervantes, American fiction, rhetoric, photography, the avant-garde and much more. Ultimately, every purchase can be justified as an important part that adds to a greater whole.

Although we are ever conscious of our local constituencies, Ohio State is also part of a national and international network of research institutions that shares resources for the advancement of knowledge. While scholars from Maine to California or from Europe to Asia may be availing themselves of the research collections at Ohio State, OSU faculty may, at the same time, be utilizing the collections at the University of Texas, the Folger Shakespeare Library or the Bibliotheque Nationale de France.

It is indeed gratifying to be contributors to the international research community and the gifts of our friends and supporters are indispensible to that noble goal.

~ Geoffrey D. Smith,
Professor & Head, Rare Books & Manuscripts Library
I'm in the third year of my PhD research, funded by the UK's Arts and Humanities Research Council and based at the University of Southampton. The principal focus of my thesis is Nelson Algren's representation of women, but spending time (seven weeks in total) reading materials from the archive has had a considerable impact on how I'm approaching the structure of my thesis. One of the archive's most fascinating treasures is the collection of photos, prints and paintings that adorned the walls of Algren's home. Most interesting of these are the several montages he put together himself from the late sixties onwards when, as he wrote to his friend 'Rajah' (Roger), making them became 'a serious affair.' The practice of recycling fragments into visual compositions is paralleled in Algren's work: short stories grew into and were harvested from his novels; draft manuscripts show how he would 'piece' scenes in the manner of collage. So the montages provide a metaphor for the process of his work and the product.

Coming back to the focus of my research – Algren's women – looking at his work within the logic of montage or collage brings them into focus in a way that plot or genre-focused analyses do not. (The former has its eye firmly fixed on the men and the boys; the latter doesn't quite know what to do with the many prostitutes who populate Algren's world). Focusing on Algren's women changes the shape of his work in much the same way as if the pieces of a collage are moved around. All the pieces are there but a different picture comes into view.

Quite apart from the satisfaction of working with such interesting materials and learning so much about Nelson Algren's life and work, the attentiveness and professional rigor of Rebecca Jewett and her team has contributed in no small way to the progress of my research. As much as I'm looking forward to completing my thesis, I hope I can find another reason to come back to the Special Collections Reading Room one day...

~ Christine Guilfoyle
University of Southampton, UK

Lewis Hine Photographs at RBMS

In December 2009 the Cartoon Library and Museum transferred its photograph collections to RBMS where they have joined the noteworthy selections already held by the Special Collections in Thompson Library. We are fortunate to house such an extraordinary variety and quantity of photographs, and we are delighted to see many classes and individual researchers utilize these resources.

OSU acquired one significant group of prints, 124 images attributed to Lewis Hine, as part of the Floyd and Marion Rinhart Collection. Hine, a sociologist as well as a photographer, is probably most famous for his photographs of workers dangling high in the air as they constructed the Empire State Building, or the images of young children at work that he produced for the National Child Labor Committee. In 1918 he was hired by the American Red Cross to document conditions in Europe in the after-math of World War I. RBMS's Hine photographs depict subjects Hine observed in Greece, Italy and the Balkans. Hine's continuing interest in both child and adult laborers is evidenced in these works. Students in Professor Barbara Groseclose’s History of Art 415 course are focusing their attention on these prints this quarter. We look forward to learning more about Hine’s work with them.

~ Lisa Iacobellis, Asst. Curator
http://go.osu.edu/rarebooks-photos
Selected New Acquisitions at RBMS


De Res: OSU’s RBMS Student Society

De Res is a rare books student organization at Ohio State that was founded in fall 2010. Our purpose is to promote the use of and foster an appreciation for the materials in the collections of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library. Our main goals include promoting exposure to such materials, encouraging their use within the campus community and allowing students the opportunity to tangibly experience these materials outside of the classroom.

Dr. Eric J. Johnson, Associate Curator at RBMS, is the faculty advisor to this group that includes RBMS student employees, undergraduates majoring in subjects across the disciplines from English to Physics, graduate students, and Program Sixty participants. Our mixed make-up means we are an organization of diverse specialties. Our club offers its members the chance to explore RMBS collections and discuss their interests at our meetings.

We have recently been busy brainstorming ways to get more involved in the campus community. For instance, one of our members in Physics has begun organizing an event at the Physics Research Building which will give science students who rarely get to Thompson Library an opportunity to experience first-hand what RBMS has to offer. The event will showcase our early science materials which include works by Newton, Einstein, and Darwin. We also hope to have a concert event in the spring that will showcase local music and related RBMS materials. De Res is essentially a group of student bibliophiles committed to spreading enthusiasm for books and all things RBMS. We would love for you to join us, so if you are interested please contact us at de.res.osu@gmail.com.

~ Isabelle Bateson-Brown
President of De Res

New Curator for Outreach at RBMS

The Rare Books and Manuscripts Department has asked Dr. José O. Díaz, Associate Curator, to assume a more active role in the area of outreach. In that capacity, Dr. Díaz will actively work on creating a network of faculty, students, outside researchers, and community members interested in learning more about our collections. Additionally, he will investigate literature and examples of the use of special collections in undergraduate and graduate instruction nationally and report his observations and conclusions to the Library’s community. Periodically, these efforts may lead to workshops and seminars on the subject as well as communications to all curators.

The overall intent of this outreach initiative is to connect research projects and teaching ideas with the vast richness of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Collections. Underpinning this enterprise is the recognition that we must advocate for and facilitate the ability of undergraduates to learn about the research potentials of rare books and manuscripts and also the need for rare books librarians and curators to remain abreast of the field’s best practices and to work closely with faculty members to show students how primary source materials offer new perspectives that can lead to original research.

~ José O. Díaz, Ph.D.
The newly renovated Thompson Library provides a special display area in the East Atrium that allows each of the Special Collections departments to showcase books and materials. As compared to full scale, thematic exhibitions, the display cases allow us the luxury to install small exhibits in a shorter time and to rotate the displays more frequently. The displays will typically publicize new acquisitions, commemorate friends and donors, and promote department events, projects and initiatives. Of particular importance, however, is the opportunity for the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library and the William Charvat Collection of American Fiction to collaborate with other University academic departments.

This Winter quarter we were able to display two cases of items from the Charvat Collection in coordination with a talk by Gordon Hutner sponsored by the Department of English and Literacy Studies@OSU. Professor Hutner is from the University of Illinois and author of *What America Read: Taste, Class, and the Novel, 1920 – 1960* (University of North Carolina Press, 2009), a critical work that recovers a lost history of book production, reading, and reception, a phenomenon that, he argues, was later distorted by canon-based accounts of literary history. Asking the salient question “Why are so few novels remembered while so many thousands are forgotten,” Hutner examines the many twentieth century novels “that comprise the widely read, easily comprehensible fiction that Americans chose for their edification and literary entertainment. These novels mean to please and instruct middle-class America in all its diversity of social marking, economic position, political standing. Strongly pedagogical, these novels often meant to shape public awareness of cultural values as well as individual pursuits, and how they came together.” The Charvat Collection is replete with many of the works cited in his study and we were pleased to be able to promote his lecture by displaying many books of American fiction (some with colorful book jackets) from 1920 – 1960.

In March, all of the Special Collections will offer their display cases for an exhibition in conjunction with the 2011 British Women Writers Conference (March 31 – April 3) whose theme will be “Curiosities.” The BWWC is an interdisciplinary forum for both graduate students and established scholars to discuss British women’s literature and culture, and has been hosted by graduate students at major universities across the country since 1992. It is, indeed, a coup for the Ohio State University’s Department of English to host this important assembly in 2011 and a special honor for Special Collections to be able to collaborate by displaying many of the books that will be discussed at the conference. The exhibit is being organized by graduate students from the Department of English who are delighting in handling many of the treasures from our collections. Further information about the BWWC can be obtained at [http://bwwc2011.osu.edu/](http://bwwc2011.osu.edu/).
The Ohio State University Libraries will host a national traveling exhibit, *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World*, from March 10 - April 22, 2011 in the Thompson Library Gallery. The exhibit explores Franklin's contributions to early American journalism and publishing, science and invention, American diplomacy and the building of the new nation. The exhibit will be supported with collections from the Libraries' Rare Books and Manuscripts, the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum, general library collections, and the OSU Historic Costume and Textiles Collections. The traveling exhibit was organized by the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, Philadelphia, and the American Library Association Public Programs Office and has been made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. OSU Libraries' exhibit and programs are cosponsored by the Ohio Humanities Council, COSI, OSU Department of English and the OSU Department of History.

For more information see [http://go.osu.edu/benfranklin](http://go.osu.edu/benfranklin) or contact the exhibit curator, David Lincove, lincove.1@osu.edu

This year the King James Bible (KJB) celebrates its 400th anniversary. Printed in 1611 after a seven-year translation effort undertaken by six teams of scholars and divines working at Oxford, Cambridge and Westminster, the KJB has in the succeeding centuries become one of the major monuments of English language and literature. The OSU English Department will be hosting an international symposium celebrating the KJB's "birthday" from 5-7 May ([http://kingjamesbible.osu.edu/](http://kingjamesbible.osu.edu/)). In conjunction with this major event, RBMS will be mounting an exhibition exploring the KJB, its medieval and early-English precursors, and its lasting influence on literary and cultural production from the date of its publication to the present day. This exhibition should feature something to suit everyone's tastes, including medieval manuscripts, original copies of the many different English Bible translations produced during the sixteenth century, literary works inspired by the style, language, and content of the Bible (such as works by Milton, Thackeray, Eliot, Hawthorne, McCarthy, and more), comic art, nineteenth-century engravings, and, of course, the KJB itself—from the seventeenth century to more recent editions. The exhibition will be on display in the Thompson Library gallery from 4 May – 28 August 2011. For further information please contact the exhibit curator, Eric J. Johnson (johnson.4156@osu.edu).
Over the years, RBMS has benefitted greatly from the hard work of its many student assistants. Whether processing new acquisitions, helping researchers and students in the reading room, assisting with administrative work, researching the collections, or paging and reshelving books, our students’ efforts have been central to RBMS’s successful operation. It has been gratifying for all of us at RBMS to see that many of our recent alumni have been able to draw upon their experiences working here in their post-OSU lives.

Jenny Adams ('10) works as the Library Assistant for Acquisitions at the Johns Hopkins University School for Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C. (where she is also hard at work on her first novel).

Laura Smith ('10) is pursuing a dual MA/MLS degree in the History and Library Science programs at Indiana University where she focuses on early-American material culture and archives/records management and works as an archival processor for IU’s collection of Senator Birch Bayh’s senatorial records.

Josh Haidet ('09) is also studying for a career as an “information professional” in the Masters program in Film and Media Preservation at the University of Rochester and the L. Jeffrey Selznick School of Film Preservation.

Greg Dunn ('09) is currently enrolled in the M.A. program in Medieval Studies at the University of Glasgow in Scotland where he is studying the history of monasticism in the Latin Middle Ages. At the moment, he is examining illuminations in several Glasgow manuscripts to see how monks represented themselves in the pages of their books.

Jenny, Laura, Josh, and Greg represent only a small number of the many talented and ambitious students who have worked at RBMS over the years. We wish them well in their future careers and look forward to working with them in the years to come.
Rare Books Funds & Endowments

Special endowments and funds help support the teaching, research, outreach, collecting, and conservation missions of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library. If you would like to make a contribution to the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library, please make a check out to The Ohio State University Libraries and designate the fund:

- Anne & Ray Groves Rare Books & Manuscripts Fund
- Bennett Avant Writing Collection Endowment
- Denney Fund for Books in the Age of Shakespeare
- Donald Wing Endowment (English imprints, 1640 – 1700)
- Emanuel Rudolph Children’s Science Collection Endowment
- Friends Incunabula Fund (fifteenth-century books)
- Friends of Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts
- Friends of Rare Books (general funds)
- Friends Reformation/Counter-Reformation Fund
- Friends of the William Charvat Collection of American Fiction
- Meek Endowment (James Thurber and Thurber related materials)
- Philip Keenan History of Astronomy Collection Endowment
- Richard Clarke Arnold and M. Ruth Jones Endowment (Photographic Collections)