The Rare Books and Manuscripts Library

Jerry Tarver Collection of Elocution

RBMS is excited to announce the acquisition of the Jerry Tarver Collection of Elocution, Rhetoric and Oratory. The collection is a gift of Dr. Tarver, Professor Emeritus and former chair of the Speech Communications Department at the University of Richmond. Addressed affectionately by colleagues as the “Dean of Speechwriters,” Dr. Tarver, founder and head of Tarver Communication Services, has designed and conducted communication training for government officers and business executives throughout the United States and Canada. An avid book collector Dr. Tarver had, over the course of his illustrious career, developed a personal library of nineteenth-century elocution, rhetoric and oratory that numbers over 3,000 titles. The collection has been received by RBMS and is currently being processed.

The Tarver Collection is a fine example of collection development in concert with faculty research, for the history of rhetoric, literacy studies and composition are distinct strengths in OSU’s Departments of English and History and the College of Education. An outstanding faculty in these fields will be able to utilize the Tarver Collection not only for their own research but also for developing thesis and dissertation topics among their many talented graduate students. Further, the Tarver Collection will be securely housed with the RBMS collections that are accessible to an international scholarly community.

Dr. Steven Galbraith Departs OSU

It is with mixed feelings that the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library (RBMS) of The Ohio State University Libraries announces the resignation of Dr. Steven K. Galbraith who, on July 1, began his duties as the Curator of Books at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington D.C.

In his tenure with RBMS Steven has left an indelible mark including the inception of this newsletter, which you are reading now. Steven greatly enriched our provenance files (essential documents for current researchers), was a consummate teacher, assisted many other faculty with their research and teaching, made many significant acquisitions for our early modern holdings, facilitated donor relations and much more than can be noted here. Moreover, he was the most amiable of colleagues who developed warm relations with faculty, staff and students across campus.

Steven’s research centers on Edmund Spenser and the history of the book for the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and the Folger Shakespeare Library, in the estimate of many scholars, is the richest holding of English Renaissance books in the world. For Steven to be appointed head of the book collection of that esteemed library is a once in lifetime opportunity that he had to accept and all of us at RBMS and Ohio State are proud of him. We miss him, but it will be a continued delight to observe the development of a wonderful career in the world of rare books.
The Rare Books and Manuscripts Library is pleased to announce an exhibit of selected works by Lillian Feldman Schwartz, an acclaimed early innovator in computer graphics, programs, designs, films, and computer-controlled and constructed sculptures. The works are part of the larger Lillian Feldman Schwartz Collection donated by the artist to The Ohio State University Libraries. The exhibit will run from November 1 through December 14, 2007 at the Faculty Club, 181 South Oval Drive, Columbus, OH 43210.

This first showing of Schwartz’s works on campus spans much of the artist’s career, from her early pre-computer works, to current experiments with 3D imagery, focusing on two-dimensional works - paintings, collages and prints. Many of her sculptures are large, kinetic works and will not be available for viewing at this time. However, a highlight of the opening night was the interactive sculpture, Proxima Centauri, one of nine works selected from around the world by The Museum of Modern Art for the pivotal 1968-69 exhibit, “The machine: as seen at the end of the mechanical age.”

Schwartz won numerous awards for her animated films and documentaries. In conjunction with the exhibit The Wexner Center for the Arts screened a selection of Schwartz’s films the evening of November 13th. The Wexner Center show featured some of her best known short computer animations, such as Pixillation and Googolplex.

The Lillian Feldman Schwartz Collection is comprised of art works in a variety of media, such as films, photographs, paintings, drawings, prints, silk screens, etchings and sculptures, as well as documentation for projects, journals, correspondence and the artist’s book collection. Researchers exploring the development of computer art will find a wealth of information here.

Geoff Smith and Lisa Iacobellis with Lillian Schwartz
(photo: Sheley Napier)

The Avant Writing Collection has an extensive collection of published work, correspondence, manuscripts, and other materials from its curator, John M. Bennett. Bennett is a writer of international reputation who has produced work in wide variety of genres and media. To the right is a visual poem titled "Under the Bed a Moon", done in 1987 using acrylic paint applied with rubber car parts, and drawing pencils.

The Avant Writing Collection's web page is at http://library.osu.edu/sites/rarebooks/avantwriting/
A preview reception on May 24th kicked off the opening of Thurber: Unpublished and Uncensored. Sex War and Dogs.” Tony Cochran, creator of the syndicated cartoon “Agnes” was the featured speaker.

The event was well attended and gave many an opportunity to see the thirty-nine previously unseen works. The exhibit was held at the Thurber Center, 91 Jefferson Avenue, and ran through September 14.