CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS OF
KENNETH SPENCER RESEARCH LIBRARY
From the moment KU Libraries faculty and staff began to have conversations around the 50th anniversary of Kenneth Spencer Research Library, we knew that we wanted to do something special, a desire that extended not only to the various celebrations, but also to the exhibits during this notable anniversary year. We wanted an exhibit unlike any that Spencer had done in the past, which was quite challenging because in its 50 years, Spencer librarians and archivists have curated some jaw-dropping exhibits covering historical themes, the famous and the not so famous, and topics as broad as the collections of the library itself.

Because we wanted to do something exceptional, we decided to ask our researchers, students, colleagues, and friends to suggest items from our collections that have made an impact on them. We received more than 100 submissions, which made the selection process a pleasant challenge. It was no coincidence that the number chosen seemed to hover right around 50, with a few creative couplings and a little fuzzy math. We made an attempt to represent all the areas of our collections and to focus on stories of how they have shaped the world through contact in classes, personal impact, or publication breakthroughs.

While most of the items were selected by patrons and friends, some were selected by our own staff, whose stories of the materials offered another side to the Spencer experience. Every one of the following stories is unique to the individual who has shared their experience in this book.

This is not a “best of” exhibit or even a sampler, however; those approaches have been pursued successfully several times in the library’s past. In 1994, the library created *A Silver Anniversary: The First 25 Years of the Kenneth Spencer Research Library*, an exhibit that attempted to reflect the diversity of the collections while putting them in the historical context of the time, and in 2011-12, we mounted *Discover Kenneth Spencer Research Library* to showcase a cross-section of collections as we reinvigorated the library’s exhibit program.

Instead, this anniversary exhibition is a snapshot of books, manuscripts, photographs, records, and other items that have made a difference in the lives of the people we call friends of Spencer Research Library. We are grateful to everyone who shared their memories with us. We hope that by reading these stories and viewing the selections that you will begin to get a glimpse of the work we do every day and the reasons we do it. Spending our careers sharing these items with students, teachers, scholars, family historians, and community members is truly a gift.

I am honored to call myself the director of Kenneth Spencer Research Library, and I acknowledge my good fortune to be in this role as this institution celebrates its golden anniversary. Each day, I am overwhelmed by the richness and variety of the library’s collections, overwhelmed by the knowledge and dedication of our staff, overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and curiosity of those who use our collections, and overwhelmed by the generosity of the donors who have entrusted us with their beloved books, manuscripts, and photographs.

I am just the latest in a long line of librarians and archivists whose passion and dedication to this library mean it will continue to be what British scientist and writer C.P. Snow called, in his dedicatory remarks on November 8, 1968, “certainly one of the best libraries in the entire world.”

Beth M. Whittaker
A LEGACY IN THE MAKING

In January 1966, Helen Spencer, president and director of the Kenneth A. and Helen F. Spencer Foundation, publicly announced the donation of funds to the University of Kansas for the construction of a special collections library in honor of her late husband, Kenneth. Helen’s gift was, at the time, the largest single gift ever given to KU, or to any institution in Kansas. Chancellor Wescoe declared that the library “will stand as a living memorial not only to an outstanding man and his equally distinguished wife but to the pursuit of learning that holds so much promise for the future and to the spirit of philanthropy, which holds out for the University of Kansas the promise of future greatness.”

Kenneth and Helen Spencer, 1920s.

Spencer Research Library under construction, 1967
DEDICATION DAY
The library was officially dedicated November 8, 1968, in a ceremony for invited guests. A University Daily Kansan article reported that “about 270 persons braved 35 degree weather Friday to watch the dedication of the library.” British scientist and writer C.P. Snow made remarks. The library opened for service on December 2, 1968.

NORTH GALLERY REOPENING
Thanks in part to a gift from former KU librarian Ann Hyde and the generosity of friends of KU Libraries, ambitious renovations of the North Gallery were completed in 2017. The updates allow users to experience the collections through interactive, multimedia tools. The gallery features a permanent exhibit that highlights a snapshot of Spencer’s impressive distinctive collections. The renovations to the space ensure preservation of the collections, from the oldest items to the resources still being acquired today.

MARILYN STOKSTAD READING ROOM DEDICATION
In 2011, Marilyn Stokstad, Judith Harris Murphy distinguished professor emerita of art history and longtime friend of the libraries, gave a generous gift to the library that allowed for a major renovation of the reading room — doubling its size, upgrading infrastructure, and creating a more flexible space while honoring the original style of the room. The project began a series of renovations throughout the building aimed at enhancing the experience and comfort of users and bringing greater visibility to exhibits and collections.

CONSERVATION LAB
In 2018, the University of Kansas was awarded a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support collaboration between KU Libraries and the Spencer Museum of Art. A state-of-the-art conservation lab was built on the ground floor of Spencer Research Library, and the grant funding allowed for the purchase of new equipment and supplies for the lab.
This fanciful “peep show” volume shows how playful Spencer Research Library can be but also has great memories for me. I was the first library conservator for KU Libraries at a time of transition from 1997-2002. Spencer Research Library was full of knowledgeable librarians and archivists with much history and experience to share, but they were slow to warm up to conservation treatment on the special collections material. This volume was a part of an exhibition created by James Helyar, a librarian at the University of Kansas from 1955 to 1956 and from 1961 to 2006. The Great Exhibition of the Industry of All Nations (1851) was a beautiful and thoughtful display, and Jim allowed me to work on it with him, helping to make supports and even treat a few items! Jim’s eyes would glow as he told me stories and showed me each of the items and why each was important or special. This exhibit was the beginning of a wonderful relationship we had for many years, and I would love it if this volume was in the exhibit in honor of Jim and his many years of service to Spencer Research Library!

Meg Brown
Cartoonist and artist Albert Turner Reid was born in Concordia, Kansas, in 1873. Best known for his political and editorial cartoons, Reid published regularly in newspapers in Kansas City, Chicago, and New York. This 1908 pen and ink drawing was created by his friend Jay Norwood “Ding” Darling, a fellow political cartoonist who twice won the Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Cartooning. The Albert T. Reid Cartoon Collection was established in the 1930s when Reid began donating his drawings to KU. The School of Journalism added examples of nearly 600 other cartoonists’ work, and the collection is now part of the Kansas Collection at Spencer Library. The materials have high research potential and tackle many social and political topics still relevant today.

Whitney Baker
regularly taught both undergraduate and graduate courses in Spencer Research Library and had the students use its holdings for assignments. The items they used covered a wide range, but an item of particular interest is *The Book of the Homeless*, edited by Edith Wharton, which was designed to generate support for the Allies during World War I. Spencer has two copies of this book, which are quite beautiful. I no longer recall the differences between the two, although I have a faint memory that they are different editions, and that one edition was addressed to a British audience — which of course did not generally need to be convinced to support the war, though there were certainly some in the U.K. who opposed it — and the other to Americans at a time when the U.S. had not yet entered the war. In this instance, the book’s purpose would have been, in part, to convince Americans that the U.S. should do so.

Janet Sharistanian
In the entire history of the human race, there have been only 12 astronauts who have stepped foot on the moon. Over the course of six manned moon landing missions from NASA, held between 1969 and 1972, these astronauts collected and brought back to Earth a grand total of 842 pounds of lunar rock and soil. By 2011, NASA estimated that more than 500 of the collected rocks had been lost or misplaced. Which is all to say that lunar rocks are some of the most rare substances on the planet. Here at Spencer, we are fortunate enough to have a small sample of a lunar rock in our collections. This lunar rock, despite its small size, is arguably the rarest item housed in the building. For me, personally, the rock represents how serious KU is about maintaining a varied and robust set of collections. At the same time, this piece of the moon, given to the university in the 1970s, also illustrates that once upon a time, we as a nation exhibited a refreshing and uniquely American willingness to participate in a peaceful, collaborative, yet competitive race with the Soviets to explore space scientifically, rather than build up an arsenal of weapons with which to intimidate or harm each other. The lunar rock is pretty much the coolest thing we have here at Spencer!

Chris Bañuelos
When I started teaching full time in the English department in 1970, Special Collections had only a dozen or so science-fiction books from a monthly donation by a KU graduate, Larry Friesen. Spencer librarian Sandy Mason put together funds from English, Journalism, and the library to purchase a science-fiction collection from a collector in Phoenix. It included some rare first editions by H. G. Wells and others but more importantly, the first nine issues of *Amazing Stories*, the first issues of *Science Wonder Stories* and *Astounding Stories of Super Science*, and a lot of others. They were what provided the basis for my classes in science fiction and *Alternate Worlds*.

James Gunn
Alternate Worlds: The Illustrated History of Science Fiction
This innovative dialogue of the dead from 1798 is a fascinating piece of fiction. It puts history's great women in conversation in the heavens, as they trouble over the status and rights of women on Earth. Ithuriel is especially interesting because it turns the recently deceased, pioneering feminist philosopher Mary Wollstonecraft into a speaking spirit among other powerful, immortal women. It grants her an immediate immortality and place in history. The Ithuriel manuscript is in an unknown hand, with corrections and additions provided by Jane Porter, one of two sister-novelists whose important letters and papers are held by Spencer Library. I have had the pleasure of writing an essay about Ithuriel, as well as publishing a transcription of the text for the first time, in the journal *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*.

Devoney Looser
My boss, Chris Bañuelos, and I were processing William S. Burroughs collection items. When I got to work on rehousing and cleaning *The "Priest" They Called Him*, I just thought it was awesome that I was able to hold a really rare Kurt Cobain album. As I flipped over the record to notice that only one side was grooved, I realized a pressed signature belonging to Burroughs. After closer inspection, Chris and I noticed another pressed signature — it belonged to Kurt Cobain, the late lead singer of Nirvana. It was one of the best days working at Spencer Research Library, and whenever anyone asks me about something cool I have come across while working here, I always tell them about this specific record.

Dyamond Hutton
fter moving to Kansas, I wanted to learn more about the region and find historical places to visit. I found a copy of the Kansas Guidebook for Explorers. It is packed with so much information that I had to get my own copy. I've used my personal copy to document the places that I've visited and with whom I went. A new, updated edition has recently been published; I got my own copy and hope to find new places to visit.

Meredith E. Huff
As a graduate student and intern working under the tutelage of librarian Mary Hawkins and archivist Deborah Dandridge, I was assigned to process the John B. McLendon, Jr. papers. Right away, I realized I held something special in my hands. Born in Hiawatha, Kansas, and educated at KU, John McLendon Jr. (April 5, 1915–October 8, 1999) is recognized as the first African American basketball coach at a predominately white university and the first African American head coach in any professional sport. He is also credited with “inventing” the fast break.

Shortly after the finding aid was published, Milton Katz used the papers to write a biography, *Breaking Through: John B. McLendon, Basketball Legend and Civil Rights Pioneer*. ESPN also featured McLendon on its 30 for 30 series. It was such a rewarding experience to see his inspiring life story brought to light in print and film!

Heidi Hornaday

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*John B. McLendon Jr.*

**BASKETBALL SCRAPBOOK**

1957
In 1990, the movie *Mr. & Mrs. Bridge* came out. The movie was filmed in Kansas City and starred Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward. We were contacted by the Kansas Film Commission, which asked if we would be willing to loan the Kansas City Monarchs baseball cap from the Thomas Y. Baird collection to be used as a movie prop. Permission was granted and a representative from the Commission picked up the cap and stayed with it through the filming. The cap was worn by Blythe Danner, who played Grace in the film. The Kansas Collection staff were hopeful that Paul Newman would have worn the cap too!

Becky Schulte

Born in Junction City, Kansas, George Giles (1909-92) became a leading first baseman in the Negro Baseball Leagues. He started his career in baseball as a teenager, joining the Kansas City Monarchs in 1925. He later joined the Gilkerson Giants. Before retiring from baseball in 1939, other teams he played for included the St. Louis Stars, the Brooklyn Eagles, the New York Black Yankees, and the Philadelphia Stars. When he returned to Kansas, he became a businessman in Manhattan, where he owned a motel and restaurant. Giles is shown standing in the photograph, second from the left. The contract documents Giles’ salary of $120 a month for the 1925 baseball season.

Deborah Dandridge
The Ballard papyrus is an incredible piece and has such a fantastic story behind how it came to Kenneth Spencer Research Library! This almost 3,000-year-old papyrus scroll made its way from Egypt to America only to wind up in storage at the Kansas City Public Library for years. At a charity auction, John and Cindy Ballard purchased the scroll after it received little interest due to questions surrounding its authenticity.

When the Ballards’ son, Jake, attended KU, he was a student of Dr. Paul Mirecki, and thought the scroll his parents had purchased looked very similar to one they were discussing in lectures. When Dr. Mirecki offered to look at the Ballards’ papyrus scroll, he discovered that the scroll was not only authentic, but a rare copy of the Egyptian Amduat, the Book of the Netherworld. After that, in August 2000, John, a KU alumnus, offered to donate the amazing find to special collections at Kenneth Spencer Research Library.

It has had an incredible journey! I love this most recent addition to its already remarkable history because it provides such great insight into the many different ways that items find their way to libraries like this.

Emily Beran
I cannot say how many illustrated editions of Melville’s novel I have given to the library, but I know that these editions have attracted some attention from teachers of Moby-Dick who have brought their classes to see them. Probably the most distinguished edition is the three-volume edition with Rockwell Kent’s illustrations, which are known internationally and which have influenced the interpretation of the novel emphatically. While the novel continues to be interpreted visually and for a wide range of readers — in terms of age, nationality, style — the Kent illustrations remain best known, I think.

Elizabeth A. Schultz
To select a favorite item in the Spencer Library collections, one that may have had an influence on my life, especially in my career as a writer, is for me tantamount to choosing a single painting at the Metropolitan Museum of Art that has touched me the most. Considering the superior quality of both institutions, the analogy well describes the challenge of such a task.

From the works of journalist H.L. Mencken to poet William Butler Yeats to playwright Sean O’Casey, the possibilities seemed endless. One way to figure this out, I decided, was to explore the journals from my years in Lawrence. And near the middle of the first one I opened, there was a comment about my discovery at Spencer of the Austrian poet Rainer Maria Rilke. What followed were excerpts from his poems and then there was a quote — one that I have used quite often when lecturing on writing. It’s a quote from Rilke’s Letters to a Young Poet. (In the Rilke collection: Y116, Y117 and Y118.)

This above all — ask yourself in the stillest hour of your night: must I write? Delve into yourself for a deep answer. And if this should be affirmative, if you may meet this earnest question with a strong and simple ‘I must,’ then build your life according to this necessity; your life even into its most indifferent and slightest hour must be a sign of this urge and a testimony to it.

I could write a book about the power of that quote. And from now on, when I use it to encourage writers to believe in themselves, I will always remember the greatness of Spencer.

Happy Birthday, Spencer Library, and thanks for the gift of inspiration! May your collections bring wisdom and joy to the world for many years to come!

Ann Hagedorn
I have seen, in working with various classes of students, that it is powerful to see representations of a city in a particular time period using different "lenses." These comparisons stimulate discussion as to what purpose certain formats served, what information is left out or included, which formats provide clear information, which led to surprise or discovery, and more.

Stacey Wiens
I was cataloguing a bunch of 17th century newspapers in the Bond Collection and had settled on the physical description of *The Moderate Intelligencer* — including its date, January 25 to February 1, 1649, which rang no bell with me — and began to quickly scan it for a hint of something of interest in this scruffy, little, hard-to-read newsbook when I was hauled up short by “For all which Treasons and Crimes the Court doth adjudge, That the said Charles Stuart [January 30, 1649 suddenly did ring a bell], as a Tyrant, Traytor, Murtherer and a publike Enemy shall be put to death by, the severing of his Head from his Body,” followed by this dialogue:

**King:** Will you heare me a word Sir?

**Lord President:** Sir, you are not to be heard after the sentence.

**King:** No Sir?

**Lord President:** No Sir, by your favour Sir. Guard, withdraw your Prisoner.

**King:** I may speake after the sentence.

**By your favour Sir, I may speak after the sentence ever.**

**By your favour (hold) the sentence Sir — I say Sir I do — I am not suffered for to speak, expect what Justice other people will have.**

Yes, and as exciting today as it was when I first “discovered” it. It is a continual reminder of how fortunate I was to have been in Kenneth Spencer Research Library at that time.

*Bill Mitchell*
I was part of a group of Museum Studies students who created an exhibit titled *Riddle Me This* at Kenneth Spencer Research Library during the spring 2012 semester. When University Archivist Becky Schulte heard that the subject of our exhibit was games and puzzles, she pulled the KU-themed Monopoly game from the Archives. With both the KU connection and games tie-in, it was the perfect addition to our exhibit. Our group loved the game so much we not only featured it in one of the display cases, but we also used an image of the game on the banner that announced the title of the exhibit.

Melissa Doebele
spent many a lunch hour during my first six months working at Spencer Research Library outside looking toward Potter Lake, walking on the paths around it, and watching the activities of various wildlife and people in or around the lake — a turtle climbing out of the water onto a fallen limb, two people paddling a canoe around the lake, and someone sleeping in a hammock strung between two trees nearby. When doing research for reference questions and other projects, I have enjoyed seeing the record of the role the lake has played in the lives of the students and others on campus. The photos of people ice skating and sledding are some of my favorites.

Stacey Wiens
When I would bring my students to Spencer for our Quantrill’s Raid field trip, they were always completely freaked out by this primary source photo! Being Kansans, they could not understand why anyone in their right mind would celebrate the killing of civilians, even during the Civil War. I loved it so much that I put it in my book, *The Abduction of Jacob Rote*, which contains multiple primary source documents from the Spencer’s Kansas Collection!

Ronda Hassig
Although Kate Hansen’s collection is most often studied at Kenneth Spencer Research Library for its materials related to Kate’s lifelong work as a career missionary and music teacher in Japan — particularly her musical compositions and Japanese postcards — she was also a KU student before beginning this work. Her Advanced English Composition essays are the basis of a chapter in my dissertation on writing instruction at KU at the turn from the 19th to the 20th century. Kate called her missionary calling “the grandest mission on earth” (also the title of a biography of her life), but I believe her early days at KU and her writings provide a fascinating look at her life and attempts at social change at the university before she ever undertook “the grandest mission on earth.”

Sarah Polo
The photo of the pig Don Carlos with the 1909 football team is such an interesting and hilarious find. I tried to find out more about him and learned that he was a temporary live mascot at the time but there isn’t much else about him — nor is there much about what happened to him. It really makes me wonder more about the student experience at the time and about how they would have enjoyed football games and showed school spirit.

Arielle Swopes
Over the years there have been many well-researched and exquisitely presented exhibits of the holdings of Spencer Library, but occasionally we would need to put an exhibit up quickly with minimal labeling. One of these exhibits showcased some of our printed volumes of the works of John Gould, a noted ornithologist, naturalist, and artist, who traveled the world to find subjects for his work. He included mammals as well as birds in his publications. As the volumes of drawings were large and took up a lot of space and as the illustrations spoke for themselves, they were excellent candidates for an exhibit that was put together in short order.

During the last decade or so of the 20th century, I opened up the department of Special Collections in the mornings, which included turning on the main hall exhibit lights. During the time that this particular John Gould exhibit was up, there was a wonderful rendition of a kangaroo. It was so well done that I thought if I rubbed its nose, it would feel velvety. I saw this kangaroo each work morning and started greeting him with a cheerful “good morning.” Pretty soon he told me his name and the daily phrase became, “Good morning, Rufus.” I haven’t forgotten Rufus.

While I was looking for the illustration of Rufus for this reminiscence, I searched through the volumes of Gould’s The Mammals of Australia and was just stunned with the incredible quality and beauty of the drawings. Many of the drawings have been digitally reproduced including Rufus’ likeness, and I’m sure that’s very helpful. Still, there’s nothing like taking a walk through the volumes themselves and visiting the animals which come to life thanks to John Gould and the artists who assisted him, including his wife, Elizabeth Gould; Henry C. Richter (who was responsible for Rufus); Edward Lear; Joseph Wolf; and William M. Hart.

Mary Ann Baker
When my daughter was about six years old, I brought her for a tour of Spencer Research Library. She had been reading the Magic Tree House books, in which two siblings, Jack and Annie, travel through time and explore world history; their portal for each trip is a book. Their guide is revealed, at some point in the series, to be Morgan Le Fay of Arthurian legend. For this visit, special collections librarian Elspeth Healey helped me to find texts and items that corresponded with my daughter’s interests, from “horn books” to illuminated manuscripts.

One of her favorite things was the 19th century edition of Malory’s Le Morte D’Arthur. Elspeth had found a section describing Morgan Le Fay, which my daughter read aloud for us. At the end of the visit, Elspeth presented my daughter with a “Magic Librarian” card that I had made for her in advance of the trip. She was thrilled.

My daughter is now a budding writer with a love of reading and a special fondness for Spencer, which is still called “The Magic Library” around our home.

Kathryn Conrad
Berenice Boyd Wallace’s collection of objects includes photos of Berenice as a child in the early 1900s in the family’s horse-drawn buggy decorated with flowers for a parade, childhood letters to Santa, report cards from school, and diaries that list college assignments. Mementos from a student tour of Europe provide insights into that part of the world post-World War I. Berenice married a man who had been gassed in World War I. He died soon after their wedding due to pneumonia resulting from the chemical warfare. Berenice had grown up in Paola, Kansas, where her father ran a lumber and coal company. She took over the running of the company at age 37 when her father died of a heart attack. The journey of a life captured through objects fascinates me. Would the individual scoff at our interpretations? What is missing? What is misleading? Which objects truly meant something to the individual?

Stacey Wiens
Innue tec prosperitut dispons et
necetorh by. no tinis comprehensu
bona ettribue et ouib. birnub
ovus et risibus buam + regue
etueru coperi. Prpm

Eius in aduontum
mem intectr
committ aductu
I had an opportunity to work very closely with the Vosper Book of Hours over the course of a semester. While I frequently study and consult manuscript sources for my own research, it is a rare opportunity to physically interact with an early book. To hold a manuscript, turn its pages, contemplate the strokes of brush and pen, is a profoundly thought-provoking experience. Handling a manuscript creates a human connection across centuries. You’re interacting not only with the text or the art or the ideas, but with a tangible object that bears the marks of all the craftsmanship, care, thought, and even mistakes of its past.

While working physically with the Vosper Book of Hours, I was drawn to details that might have escaped me if I had been consulting a digital version. For instance, one of the most striking things about this book is its pristine state of preservation. Before working with it, I took its state of preservation as an indication that the book had been infrequently used, perhaps that it was more a show piece than an object of personal devotion. However, with close inspection, it bore marks of clear, repeated, and intentional wear, despite its beautiful condition. One of the marginal miniatures on the Annunciation page shows that someone used, and probably loved and cherished, this book as an object of devotion to Mary. Her face is completely rubbed out in one illustration, suggesting perhaps that a past owner touched her face often as a token of prayer and devotion.

By getting up close and personal with this book, my understanding of it changed and allowed me to connect on a human level with the people who made, owned, and loved this book in the distant past.

Leslee Wood
At heart, I’m a social historian. I think I’m most interested in the lives of ordinary individuals, and most interested in helping ordinary individuals connect with history. Diaries and love letters are two of my favorite ways of finding out about the interior lives of people who lived before me, and these diaries of a 20th century farmer’s wife in Kansas are a small treasure trove of daily living. Johnson’s entries are typically brief and often — naturally — mention the weather, but the entries also show the daily rhythms of rural Cherokee County, how national events affect a local individual, and provide emotional clues about a hard life. The 1935 diary entries after Johnson’s mother dies are particularly heartbreaking, especially for anyone who has experienced losing a parent, and the World War II diaries describe a mother’s anxiety about a son away from home at war.

Marcella Huggard
his extraordinary folio collection is the first ever published by a British monarch. King James I was a recognized author, poet, and essayist. The Spencer Library copy is an especially good and handsome one. I have used the engraving of King James several times, most recently in my book *Shakespeare's London 1613*. This collection of the king is a remarkable book in many ways.

David Bergeron

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCHES IN KANSAS
1890-1948

Since the 1700s, the church has been the cornerstone of African American community life. These houses of worship are where congregants not only find spiritual strength, but also develop leadership skills and mobilize community-wide efforts for educational and socio-economic advancement. In Kansas, African American settlers established Baptist and African Methodist Episcopal denominations in 1859. Donated photographs like these help tell the story of the African American experience to researchers in a powerful way.

Deborah Dandridge

Established by African Americans in 1887, the Second Baptist Church constructed this new brick building in 1919 on property the church owned on Main Street in Pratt, Kansas. Under the leadership of the Rev. Norris J. Stokes, the congregation raised funds, volunteered their labor, and successfully challenged local opposition to having an African American-owned building on Main Street, the town's main thoroughfare. With its 24 stained glass windows and 13 frosted glass windows, this church building served as the place of worship for the Second Baptist Church for almost a century.

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH, PRATT, KANSAS, c. 1920

Organized in 1891, the Kansas Baptist State Convention provided an influential network of talent and resources for African Americans, as did other statewide African American denominations. These state organizations remain an important source of African American religious and civic leadership in the 21st century.

KANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION, 1890s
First Baptist Church was organized in Kansas City, Kansas, in 1859. During its early years, the church’s congregation shared their place of worship with the city’s First African Methodist Episcopal Church, which was also established in 1859. In this photograph, the Rev. Edward A. Freeman is delivering the sermon. First Baptist Church continues to serve the Kansas City, Kansas, community today, as does the city’s First A.M.E. Church.
In 2007, we were contacted by the family of the late James W. Bee regarding his collection of field notebooks spanning the years 1927 through 1995. James Bee began his career at KU in 1947 as a graduate student and joined the faculty in the Zoology department. He also served as the assistant curator of mammals at the Dyche Museum of Natural History. His beautifully illustrated field notebooks from the 1950s document the pristine environment of what was then known as the North Slope of Alaska, which today includes the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Becky Schulte
As I respond to reference questions and dig into the materials of the Wilcox Collection, I am greatly affected by what I encounter. Sometimes, the expressions of hatred, graphic images, or propaganda wrapped in the language of what seems like common sense are difficult to take. I have been thinking about how materials from the Wilcox Collection might be selected for the Spencer 50th exhibit. I feel its greatest strength is its breadth of perspectives, but how can this breadth (spanning the spectrum of left to right political viewpoints) be represented without being too offensive to viewers? The buttons and bumper stickers demonstrate a variety of perspectives in sometimes entertaining forms of expression.

Stacey Wiens
The Fletcher Flora collection was the first substantial collection that I processed as a student assistant at Spencer Research Library. Flora's collection served as a jumping off point into my desire to become an archivist. This collection shows a snippet of Flora's life through his personal papers, manuscripts, novels, fan mail, and letters. I remember being fascinated by the process of learning about Flora, preserving his documents, and creating a finding aid that would allow others to discover his writing. I feel connected to the entirety of this collection because of its service to my archival education and to my career. My time working at Spencer is why I am an archivist.

Ashely Sharratt Toutain
Peggy Hull was born Henrietta Eleanor Goodnough in 1889 near Bennington, Kansas. She grew up determined to be a journalist, when few women were pursuing this career. By 1916 she was living in Cleveland, Ohio, and working for the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*. She convinced her editor to allow her to accompany the Ohio National Guard when it was deployed to the New Mexico border to pursue Pancho Villa. She fashioned her own military uniform. Her reporting on camp life (she was not allowed to cross the border) garnered her much attention, and she subsequently moved to El Paso, Texas, to work for the *New York Times*. Here, she won her editor’s support to travel to England and France to cover the experiences of U.S. soldiers in 1917. After returning to the states and despite much opposition, she became the first woman to be accredited as a war correspondent.

In co-curating an exhibition on World War I last fall, I highlighted Peggy’s war experiences with writings, newspaper clippings, and photos from her collection. I was wishing we had her passport. It had never been part of the collection that came to us after her death. As a woman, she had struggled against much opposition to obtain her passport in order to travel to England and France during World War I. Surely it would have been important to her.

Two weeks before the exhibit opening, I received an unsolicited box from a former researcher, Dr. Wilda Smith, who had written a book with Eleanor Bogart about Peggy, *The Wars of Peggy Hull: The Life and Times of a War Correspondent*. She was sending us some material that she had acquired many years ago while conducting her research. Intrigued, I opened the box, and much to my astonishment, lifted out Peggy’s passport.
The Hinman Collator/Comparator was designed by Charlton Hinman, longtime professor of English at KU. Hinman developed his opto-mechanical device after serving in World War II, where a prototype was used to compare aerial photographs to look for troop movements and enemy logistics. Hinman perfected it to analyze dozens of copies of Shakespeare’s 1623 folio edition. I learned of it in the 1990s when I was studying the Irish broadside ballads in the O’Hegarty Collection, also housed in the Spencer collections. Spencer librarians Alexandra Mason and Ann Hyde offered to pull their machine out of storage and refurbish it for my research. However, as an amateur user, I declined.

Walt Racker
I have absolutely loved working with this manuscript and learning more about it! I first noticed “Prediche sul nome di Gesù” when one of the curators brought it out for a visiting group of art history students. It caught my attention because of the interesting watercolor and ink illustrations. I planned to write a quick blog post about the manuscript, but when I started doing some basic background research I discovered some information that radically changed what I believed was happening in the images and text. I still have a lot of questions, but with the help of the curators and some amazing professors in the Art History department, I’m finding out more every day!

Emily Beran
My research is centered on the history of American intentional communities, and that topic overlaps the Wilcox materials. I have often found useful materials in that collection. It is also such a distinctive collection that it has attracted scholars from across the country and beyond, and that fact has provided me with good scholarly company on many occasions. Robert Vosper purchased the Crerar library collection in Chicago and brought it to KU, where for years it sat as a separate collection, not fully cataloged. When Spencer Library opened, the collection was moved from Watson Library to the new building. At one time I was exploring the history of the Topolobampo Colony in Mexico, an enterprise of some American entrepreneurs, and was discouraged because I couldn’t find many primary colony documents. I happened to spend a bit of time one day browsing the Crerar Collection, and I found a long run of the colony’s publications! It was a lucky find — a needle in a haystack — at a time when OCLC, the cataloging system, had not yet come along to make so many things accessible.

Timothy Miller
The Jayhawker yearbook is one of the most important sources for information about KU and its students, and in my estimation the 1930 Jayhawker is a standout. The illustrations are amazing. The book is dedicated to “Youth Through the Ages” and is filled with Art Deco-styled drawings showing the progression of history. Hermes with his winged hat and sandals appears throughout the yearbook as well.

Becky Schulte
Various memories I have of Spencer Library relate not only to the building itself but also to the marvelous content of the building. My earliest memory pertains to the site on which Spencer Library rests. In the fall of 1965, my freshman year at KU, I had Honors English in one of the World War II Quonset huts located on this site, which was surrounded by trees. In my class we studied Dante's *Inferno*, and our writing assignment was to create our own hell and put our friends and enemies into it!

*Clyde Toland*
I remember encountering several of the poems from this text in elementary school. I loved how the poems were so short but full of huge ideas and powerful images. I could connect to the poems on some level while also feeling like there were probably things I was missing. Some of my favorites are “Dreams,” which quickly becomes memorized without even trying; “April Rain Song,” I think everyone understands the feelings expressed here; sad and mysterious “Poem;” and “Sea Calm,” — when I lived near the ocean, it was always a bit eerie when it would become completely still.

Stacey Wiens
Nicolas de Blégny

LE BON USAGE DU THÉ, DU CAFFÉ ET DU CHOCOLAT (THE PROPER USE OF TEA, COFFEE, AND CHOCOLATE)

N

colas de Blégny (1652-1722) was a fascinating figure, described by some biographers as a “rascal” and a “loveable rogue.” He practiced medicine without any formal training at Louis XIV’s court, though it was his disagreeable nature and penchant for litigation that eventually got him banished from Paris in 1695. He founded the first medical journal in the vernacular and wrote the definitive early-modern treatise on the treatment of hernias, inventing a kind of sling to alleviate discomfort. He was sponsored by his most famous patient, the Duke of Orléans, the King’s cross-dressing brother, to write a scientific work on the curative benefits of coffee, tea, and chocolate beverages in 1687. Despite many moralists and physicians claiming that these drinks had negative effects, particularly in women, Blégny held that they were generally beneficial for everyone in moderation. Blégny was adept in product placement, and the book is peppered with the names and locations of shops in which to enjoy the drinks in Paris, together with the types of pastries they offered. He also invested in the coffee trade, so the book served as an advertisement for his business interests. The work is notable for having the first accurate illustrations of coffee pots and utensils and helped change public perceptions of somewhat taboo refreshments.

Paul A. Scott
Le bon usage du Thé.

La matière & la forme des tasses à boire le Thé est particulièrement diverse & indépendante; néanmoins aux Indes & en Europe, il est assez ordinaire de préférer aux tasses ou gobelets d'Argent ou de quel que autre metal que ce soit, les chièques de porcelaines ou de fayance, par cette raison que leur bords ne brulent jamais les doigts, & que la façon de tenir ces chièques pousse pour une espèce de bienveillance. Ceux de qui cette façon
Laird Wilcox is the original creator of the Wilcox Collection of Contemporary Political Movements. His 1992 book Nazis, Communists, Klansmen, and Others on the Fringe: Political Extremism in America, written with John George, was published a few years before Timothy McVeigh carried out the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995. The publisher, Prometheus Books, requested that the book be issued again in 1996 with a revised title American Extremists: Militias, Supremacists, Klansmen, Communists & Others. The new edition was published with a photo of the bombing on the cover.

Becky Schulte
Justice (J.) Neale Carman (1897-1972) was professor of romance languages at KU from 1918 to 1966. From 1948 to 1958, he undertook a project to document the extent of foreign language usage in Kansas. He and his research team visited 500 locations in Kansas during their decade of fieldwork. Carman determines a so-called “critical year” for every non-English-speaking group settlement in Kansas. The “critical year” is the approximate date by which time only about half of the families with children in a given community were still using the immigrant language or dialect regularly in the home. Carman’s collection includes fieldwork notes on locations he visited across Kansas.
Being a student at KU and working in the University Archives, I get a really cool look at the university throughout its history. The Sour Owl student humor magazine is fascinating because it gives you a look at how rambunctious students were. The humor used in The Sour Owl is just different than what you’d expect of the earlier decades because often we think that people back in the 1930s and 1940s were so polite and acting with the best of manners, but they really were just like students today.

Arielle Swopes
S pencer Library serves as the repository for local Douglas County records. Included in this vast collection are the District Court naturalization records for county residents who emigrated from other countries and had applied for citizenship.

In this record, Julius Kahn, a retired farmer in Douglas County, is applying for citizenship in 1907. Mr. Kahn was born in Hanover, Germany, and at the age of 29, immigrated to the United States, arriving at the port of New York in 1883 aboard the vessel Salea No. 6. He immigrated with his wife, Lucetta, who was born in Koplan, Prussia, and three daughters: Louisa, Minnie, and Anna. Two more daughters, Emma and Augusta, were born after their arrival in Kansas.

Sherry Williams
Spencer librarian Sandy Mason led me on a tour of the Beinecke-like walkway along the glass walls through which we peered at the collections visible from that vantage point, including the Irish literature collection. She pointed out a number of important items, but knowing of my interest in Joyce (which is strictly amateur, since I’m a social theorist and have not published anything about Joyce), she showed me the first edition *Ulysses* copy, on a lower shelf, if I remember correctly. It has probably been moved around since then, which would have been around 1978. After that memorable event, I made the same stroll many times, occasionally alone, but also when introducing important KU guests to the wonders of Spencer. They were invariably shocked and delighted by what they saw. *Ulysses* played a large role in my scholarly and literary education. Never having taken a course that highlighted Joyce, I read him on my own in college (1967-71), and then discussed his books with those literate friends who had done the same. *Ulysses* was and remains unique, and reading it again many years later, I enjoyed it even more. Once it’s taken in — like *Tristram Shandy* — the world of letters never seems the same.

*Alan Sica*
In 1894, African American women organized this literary society in Kansas City, Kansas. They named their organization after the Pierian Spring in Greek mythology that Alexander Pope referenced in his poem “An Essay on Criticism” in which Pope writes, “A little learning is a dangerous thing. Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian Spring.”

This literary society not only provided programs for their members, but also sponsored community-wide events and services. They celebrated their centennial in 1994 and continue to operate their organization into the 21st century. When literary organizations such as the Pierian Club donate their papers to Spencer Library, they help us share their history with students and the community, now and into the future.

Deborah Dandridge
To Watson Library
of the University of Kansas
With the compliments
of the author,
Mary Elvira Weeks
Frank B. Dains was a member of the KU chemistry department faculty from 1911 until 1942. His primary research interest was organic synthesis, but he was quite active in the fields of chemical education and the history of chemistry as well. The many historical papers he gave and published throughout his professional career were illustrated using his large collections of lantern slides and printed images about the history of chemistry.

There are approximately 2,500 lantern slides and 1,700 printed images and related material in the lantern slides and photographs collection. The lantern slide collection is larger because it has a number of topical slides on general and applied chemistry and related pharmaceutical and medical topics. The printed image collection focuses on European and American chemists, pharmacists, and other scientists. The printed images are in a number of formats, including engravings, etchings, post cards, and photographic prints.

This item demonstrates how one research project inspires another, which inspires another, and so on. I first learned about these images in 1997 when, as a new assistant university archivist at KU, I fielded a phone reference question about one of the chemists featured in the collection. As a history of chemistry enthusiast myself, I became fascinated. Eventually, at the American Chemical Society’s Division of the History of Chemistry national meetings in 1998 and 2001, I gave papers on Dains and his collections, displaying some 30 of the images. Then I became interested in a colleague and collaborator of Dains — Mary Elvira Weeks, one of the first two women to earn a Ph.D. in chemistry at KU and the university’s first female chemistry professor. Her book, *The Discovery of the Elements*, went through seven editions, each of which acknowledged Dains’ contribution of many of the illustrations from his historical image collection. This in turn led me to other books by women chemists, and I began to collect source material for a paper on Jane Marcet, author of *Conversations on Chemistry*, the most successful elementary chemistry text of the early 19th century in England and America.

Kathleen Neeley
There is a box on gay and lesbian history at KU and in Lawrence. I have used the information only a couple of times and it's been years since I last looked at it, but I remember seeing pictures of old friends and acquaintances — and maybe even myself. It was very much a personal experience, although the research I was doing was for a library-related display. I think this collection is useful for researchers wanting to find, on a very local level, the concerns and activities of queer folks in Lawrence and at KU from the early days of equality after the Stonewall Riots in New York. KU was one of the first universities in the nation to have a student-run gay liberation group. This local information has been complimented by the McKinney Collection, added in 2008.

Julie Woodrick
first learned about Mr. Smith's Journal in Spain when I visited Kenneth Spencer Research Library as a high school student. Hearing that I was interested in the Peninsular Wars, a librarian told me about an amazing illustrated journal written by a man who had fought in that conflict. She brought it out for me to look at and I was immediately hooked. Years later, that journal — and my desire to read it — was one of the main reasons why I decided to attend KU. As a history major in the honors program, Mr. Smith's journal became the subject of my senior honors thesis. Some years later, because of my work on the journal, I was put in touch with some of Mr. Smith's descendants who eventually published a book about his exploits. It's amazing to think that this fantastic manuscript, which I have enjoyed for so much of my life, is just one small piece of Kenneth Spencer Research Library's collection.

Miriam Wallen
When visiting Spencer, students are often very excited to see this book, which serves as a reminder that books have histories of use, re-use, and even abuse. While the book was printed in 1565, it was rebound in the lovely silver in 1722 as a kind of collector’s item. Mysteriously, just two leaves of a romance printed in 1570 are bound with the rest.

Jonathan P. Lamb
William Wells Brown is a hero of mine. Self-educated after escaping from slavery at age 20, he authored numerous books, including the first novel published by an African American, the first play published by an African American, a travel narrative, histories, a song collection, and multiple accounts of his life. He was also a gifted orator, a creative showman, and a dedicated abolitionist.

While working on a chapter about Brown’s dramatic work, I spent an afternoon in Spencer reading *The American Fugitive in Europe* (1855), looking specifically for references to theatrical and oratorical performances. Soon, however, I found myself absorbed in Brown’s account of his time abroad, especially his attendance of a three-day Peace Congress in Paris in 1849. After that, I was drawn into his detailed descriptions of visits to the haunts of various British authors.

Brown reflects:

*It is possible that I am too great a devotee to authors, and especially poets; yet such is my reverence for departed writers, that I would rather walk five miles to see a poet’s grave than to spend an evening at the finest entertainment that could be got up.*

I found this admission moving from one born into slavery who leveraged both writing and performance to end its terrible reign.

Laura Mielke
Rhoda Louise Meredith

**MY BOOK OF STUNTS AND FROLICS**

1929-37

This scrapbook, a recent acquisition, documents the activities of a young African American woman from during the 1930s in south-central Kansas. Rhoda Louise Meredith was born in 1915 and grew up near Newton, Kansas. She graduated high school in 1932 and graduated from the University of Wichita (now Wichita State University) in 1935 or 1936.

The scrapbook places Meredith within a rich life of family and friends, documented through photographs and newspaper clippings.

On a page entitled “Stunts and Frolics,” she describes a picnic on Sunday, May 15, 1932:

_The crowd went on a picnic. There were sixteen of us and Darling the girls prepared the lunch and the boys looked after the transportation. We had loads of fun. The boys got a big truck and we all piled in. We played and sang on the way out. Elmo brought his “Uke” and Kenny brought his Portable Vic. We danced some on Mother Nature’s dance floor of earth by the Victrola. Gee it was keen to dance and frolic way out in the open with trees and grass and sky overhead…_

Sherry Williams
SNAPSHOTS

1932

“Geti” and one many flames

Some of the High School

I had to keep these snapshots

because they are typical

of our crazy school days.
I used this diary in an exhibit I did on the Kansas Collection in 1993 called Trails West: Kansas and the Oregon Connection. In the diary, he describes crossing the “Waukarussie” and then “Today we ascended a remarkably high hill from which we had a view of the Kansas River off the right, and of wagons behind for miles.” He is describing climbing the KU hill, of course. This exhibit was one of my favorites. Soon after working on this exhibit, my husband and I took an anniversary trip up to Yellowstone National Park and we followed the Oregon Trail a good part of the way.

Becky Schulte
This piece shows the many ways that Shakespeare remains relevant in contemporary culture, as well as one of the many ways that Shakespeare can be adapted. It is also a useful artifact when considering the craft of book-making.

Melissa Kleinschmidt
50 FOR 50 ITEM LIST

Page 5-6
Lane's Telescopic View, of the Ceremony of Her Majesty Opening the Great Exhibition. [London], Printed & published by C.A. Lane, 1851.
Call number: B13958

Page 7
Call number: RH MS Q430: 24: 9

Page 8
The Book of the Homeless (Le livre des sans-foyer), edited by Edith Wharton. [First American edition.]
New York, Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1916. Spencer Library copy is number 19 of 175 copies of the deluxe, large format issue.
Call number: Yeats Z12

Page 9-10
Plaque with moon rock given to state of Kansas, 1970s.
Gift of Robert Docking.
Call number: RH MS VLT 167

Page 11-12
Call number: ASF CURR D11 vol. 1, no. 5 (October 1929)

Page 13
Ithuriel, the Angel of Truth, 1798.
Letters, literary manuscripts and personal papers of the Porter family, 1750–1849.
Call number: MS 28:34:39

Page 14
Gift of Mrs. M. L. Wickstrom.
Call number: RH MS 414 Box 4

Page 15
Egyptian Amduat Papyrus. Egypt, approximately 950 BCE.
Gift of the Ballard family.

Page 16
Gift of John B. McLendon Jr.
Call number: RH MS E198: volume 7

Page 17
Gift of Mrs. M. L. Wickstrom.
Call number: RH MS 504:1.3

Page 18
Gift of Mrs. M. L. Wickstrom.
Call number: RH MS 414 Box 4

Page 19
The Moderate Intelligencer… From Thursday, January 25 to Thursday February 1, 1649, number 202. London, Printed for R. Leybourn, 1649.
Call number: Bond B394

Page 20
Gift of Sandy Mason.
Call number: RG 0 Artifacts

Page 21
Call number: RG 0/24/1

Page 22
Bird’s Eye View of Lawrence, Kansas, 1880. Chicago, William Zeuth, 1880.
Call number: RH Map R141

Page 23
The Moderate Intelligencer… From Thursday, January 25 to Thursday February 1, 1649, number 202. London, Printed for R. Leybourn, 1649.
Call number: Bond B394

Page 24
Composition papers, 1900.
Call number: PP 19: 5: 30
Page 29
KU football team, photograph, 1909. University Archives photographs. Call number: RG 66/14

Page 30

Page 31

Page 32

Page 33-34
Vosper Hours (Book of Hours). France, approximately 1470. Call number: MS Pryce C1

Page 35
Anna L. Johnson, *Diaries of Anna Johnson*, 1935. Gift of Michael Ellis. Call number: RH MS 1421

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Page 40
Wilcox Collection buttons, 1960s–1990s. Call number: RH WL BT

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Page 43
Himman Collator. Engineered by Arthur M. Johnson, Silver Spring, MD, 1958. Call number: RH C7466

Page 44
Saint Bernardino da Siena, *Prediche sul nome di Gesu*. Italy, approximately 1500. Call number: MS A7

Page 45

Page 46
The Jayhawker. Lawrence, Kansas, 1930. Call number: LD2697 .J3

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Page 48

Page 49-50

Page 51

Page 52

Page 53
The Sour Owl. Lawrence, Kansas Owls Junior Society, early 20th century. Call number: UA Ser 71/0/58
Page 54


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Page 58

Lantern slide of Louis Daguerre, University of Kansas Department of Chemistry, Frank B. Dains Lantern Slides. Call number: RG 17/22:4

Page 59

Biographical file, Mary Elvira Weeks.

Page 60

Henry Smith, *Journal in Spain*, copied and colored 1863-1867. Call number: MS C214

Page 61


Page 62


Page 63-64

Rhoda Louise Meredith, scrapbook, [1929–1935] Call number: RH MS BK8

Page 65

Hugh Skinner, diary of an overland journey from Herman, Minnesota, to California, May 14, 1849 to January 10, 1850. Gift of James E. Griffin Jr. Call number: RH VLT MS B58

Page 66

Emily Martin, *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare*. [Iowa City], Naughty Dog Press, c. 2012. Spencer Library copy is number 3 of 9, signed by the artist. Call number: D7385

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