

Did you know...

Strawberry Hill Press, established in England by Horace Walpole in 1757, is considered the first fine, private press of printed books.

Special Collections acquired a copy of the fine press book, *Sylvae; fifty specimens printed directly from the wood with historical anecdotes & observations* (2007), winner of the Gregynog Prize at the 2007 Oxford Book Fair.

By a Thread (2006) by the Michigan book artist, Lynn Avadenka, imagines the biblical story of Queen Esther and that of Scheherazade using original drawings and letter press printing all in a continuous sheet folded in accordion style and enclosed within its own folder. The book was acquired to honor Selma Hollander for her generous support of the MSU Libraries.

Special Collections holds seven titles printed by William Morris and the Kelmscott Press, which re-introduced the art of fine printing in the late 19th century. One of the titles, *Love Is Enough* (1897), is unique for its use of three colors: red, black and blue.

The Book Arts Collections holds over 70 artists' books from Walter Hamady's Perishable Press located in Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin. This summer, a few are on exhibit in the Special Collections reading room.

ISSN: 1544-9548

SUMMER 2008
Vol. 5, No. 2

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

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American studies graduate students assist with Chicano Activist Archive

Last fall, a team of American Studies graduate students from Michigan State University prepared an excellent finder's guide to a collection of papers dealing with Chicano activism in Michigan. As part of a project for my American Studies: Methods, Theory and Bibliography course (Fall 2007), this team of four graduate students produced a detailed *Finder's Guide to the Juana and Jesse Gonzales Papers* which are part of Special Collections archives documenting the lives, activities, history and culture of Midwestern Latinos. They also produced a timeline of national/international events in order to coordinate the archival materials in a larger perspective, and they have included an oral history/interview of Jesse Gonzales. The four first- and second-year graduate students, Benjamin Dettmar, Kyra Glass von der Osten, Stacy Flaherty, and Ann Ransford, have, in a matter of a few short but labor-intensive weeks, performed yeoman service for the university and for scholars of Chicano/Latino history. They have taken a fascinating but merely alphabetized set of papers (in six boxes) and rendered them useful to any scholar of Chicano activism in Michigan by offering a thematically indexed finder's guide. By incorporating an oral history of the man who donated the collection, they further enable the uninitiated to gain a grasp of the history of

(right) This sample realia in the Treviño Collection — an 11-by-13 clock — was hand-constructed of toothpick-sized wood strips by a Michigan Department of Corrections inmate.



Chicano Activist Archive

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Mexican-American activism from the 1960s to the present in this region of the country. They have produced a valuable work of scholarship and oral history.

In my graduate seminar, students read Shelly Streeby's *American Sensations: Class, Empire, and the Production of Popular Culture* which deals with popular representations of Mexicans, Mexican-Americans and the Mexican War and we began to connect Streeby's insights with the local history of Chicano/Latino activism in Michigan. Students were invited to look at materials in the Jose Treviño Chicano/Latino Activism Collections. It was an opportunity to learn about archival work and local history and connect it to the national and transnational history we had been studying. Working with Head of Special Collections Peter Berg, Archivist Anne-Marie Rachman and Diana Rivera, the organizer of the Treviño Collection, we conducted a number of sessions of our seminar in the library working with the papers. Special Collections provided a discrete number of archival materials (a set of six boxes from the Gonzales papers) that had been alphabetized but were in need of a time line index and a thematic index. Special Collections also provided some examples of other materials associated with the collection (e.g. tapes and other popular and visual materials), and the four students who chose to do the archival option worked as a team to produce a time line index for scholars to orient themselves to the collection and a thematic index for scholars searching the collection.

An unplanned but interesting development occurred when Rivera arranged for students to interview Jesse

Gonzales and to provide an audio and written transcript of it that could be used to orient scholars to the collection. A Michigan native, Gonzales is an alumnus of Michigan State University and the University of Michigan, a former employee of Michigan State University and the state of Michigan, and spent much of his life working on a variety of issues involving Chicano affairs. In the interview, Rivera explains the genesis of the collection.

"Over the course of the years I came up with about a cabinet full of materials ... and I knew that ephemeral material like that became important for researchers along the way. I became aware of Jesse and Juana Gonzales' collection because they had put a kind of call out there saying we are interested in donating these materials. I went to look at them and it was a wonderful find, it was just a

perfect find to provide ... an anchor to that type of primary resource materials to do research on Chicanos and the Latino community in Michigan over a span of years. Because, as a historian that's what Jesse had been collecting."

The graduate students have done fine, detailed work that will allow scholars to navigate the collection, creating relevant categories for any investigator of Chicano/Latino history. They have also supplied a moving oral history that will enrich the meaning of the collection and guide students toward its fundamental historical values. Special Collections at MSU is in the process of preparing these materials for online use so that all scholars may begin to use the collection—the first of these materials to be made available in this way.

— Stephen Rachman, MSU Associate Professor of English

Each year since 1998, MSU Libraries has recognized MSU faculty, retired faculty and staff whose publications are acquired for the MSU Libraries Faculty Book Collection. MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon and Provost Kim Wilcox join in congratulating guests at a reception and book exhibit in their honor. More than 250 new titles were added to the Faculty Book Collection in 2007.



DIRECTOR of the
ROAD



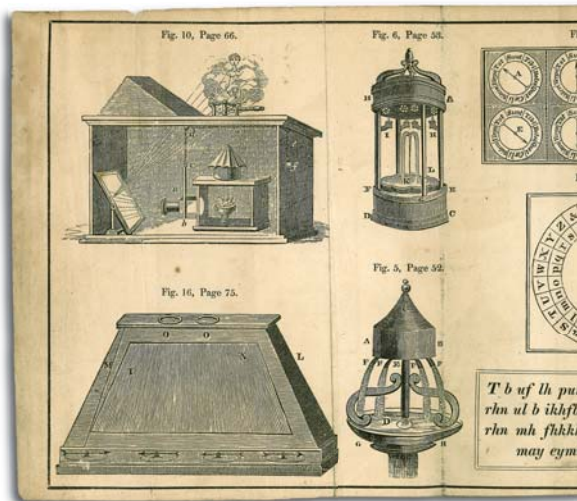
Popular culture collection offers 'endless amusement'

This past spring, an unusual and highly desirable book was added to the Russel B. Nye Popular Culture Collection: *Endless amusement; a collection of nearly 400 entertaining experiments in various branches of science, including acoustics, arithmetic, chemistry, electricity, hydraulics, hydrostatics, . . . wonders of the air pump, all the popular tricks and changes of the cards, etc. etc. etc. to which is added a complete system of pyrotechny, or, the art of making fireworks: the whole so clearly explained as to be within the reach of the most limited capacity.* (London: Thomas Boys, [between 1822 and 1830]) As the title suggests, there are an amazing assortment

of imaginative insights involving numerous subjects described in eight densely filled pages of specialized categories arranged in alphabetical order for quick access. These categories are in turn broken down in sub-categories. For example, "Water" has smaller subsections regarding "Odoriferous Water Balloons, Water Rockets, Illuminated Water, Water Fire Globes," etc. There are over 40 pages devoted to "Fireworks" and on page 205 a correction has been hand written on the section of detonating works, specifically "Waterloo Crackers," so positive, proper results can be achieved that will produce "a loud report." A

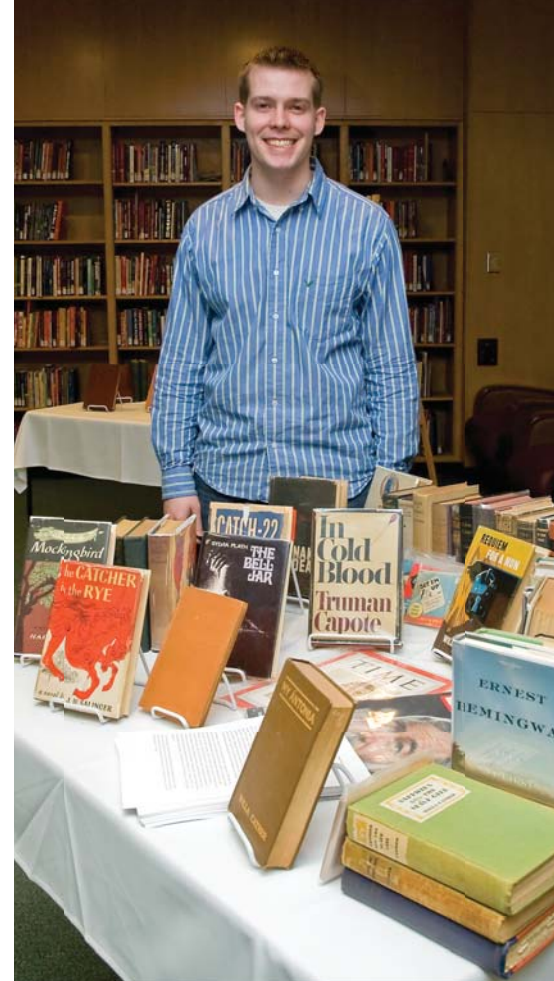
long, detailed fold out diagram with 18 engravings at the front of the volume provides further assistance for the fun loving, curious, and perhaps mischievous reader to achieve successful results in their endeavors.

The book is from the extensive collection of Joseph Sadony who lived in Montague, Michigan, and was a noted book collector as well as an accomplished and well respected psychic and author. *Endless Amusement* was acquired from the Curious Bookshop, East Lansing, with funds provided by the Force Family Endowment for the Popular Culture Collections.



Engravings assist readers to better understand some of the more complicated amusements. The illustration, Fig. 10, Page 66, shows one how "To produce the Appearance of a Spectre on a Pedestal in the Middle of a Table."

Previous page: *Direction of the road* by Ursula K. Le Guin. Santa Cruz: Foolscap Press, 2007. Woodcut by Aaron Johnson. This artist's book (signed, no. 36 of 150) is issued in a portfolio box with an original woodcut illustration in anomorphic art form and a mirror made of plastic tubing and reflective polymer to view the woodcut. From the Book Arts Collection.



In April 2008, Jason McKendrick won the 11th annual MSU Student Book Collection Competition with his collection "Faulkner and Modern Americana." In addition to his \$500 first prize, Jason is automatically entered into the Collegiate Book Collecting Championship, a national competition sponsored by *Fine Books & Collections Magazine* with a top prize of \$2,500.

Queayna Battle took second place with her collection "Foundations of Education" speaks with guests at the reception. Finalists Cody Bens ("A Collection of Antique Books") and Emily Yates ("Rescuing Our Words: Second-Hand Books on Difference and Activism") rounded out the 2008 finalists.

For more information about this exciting event, visit <http://www.lib.msu.edu/events/contest.htm>.