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# SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

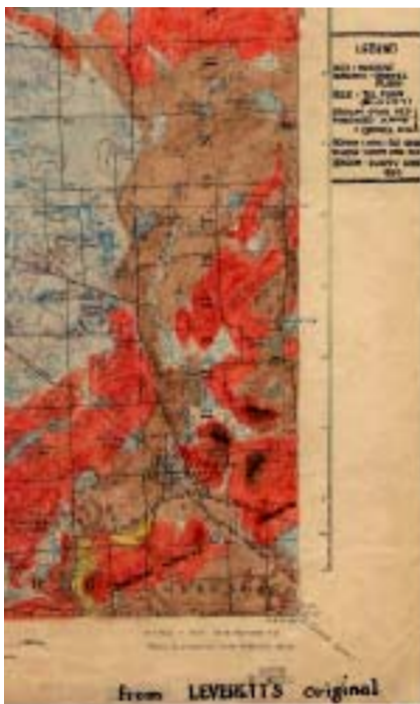
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

## A Geologic Treasure Found and Preserved for Use in Special Collections

One of the responsibilities of Special Collections is to accept material already in the MSU Libraries which has been identified as needing special storage and handling. Some years ago, for example, a massive effort to catalog topographic and geologic maps belonging to the Geology Library unearthed 31 hand colored topographic quadrangle maps of southern Michigan. These beautiful maps measuring 16x20 inches feature bright colors to represent eskers, moraines, outlet channels, til plains, and other glacial characteristics. A number of the maps also bear the cryptic note, "from Leverett's original." Research by Diane Baclawski, Geology Library, now suggests that the maps were indeed based on the work of Frank Leverett, whose meticulous mapping of the morainal patterns in the early 20th century led to an understanding of how the ice sheets retreated through Michigan and how the Great Lakes were formed. The hand colored maps were later made under the direction of Stanard G. Bergquist,

who was a former student of Leverett and head of MSU's Department of Geology in the 1940s. For many years they were used as field mapping exercises to help students develop their observational and mapping skills in surficial glacial geology. They eventually fell into disuse until they were discovered and transferred to Special Collections. Given their age and use over the years the maps were in poor shape, but after conservation treatment they have been restored as beautiful geologic and artistic artifacts awaiting future use in the reading room. — Peter Berg

*Detail of the Howell Quadrangle (Livingston County, Michigan), indicating the maps were made "from Leverett's original."*



## Did you know...

♦ A bird once thought to be local has exhibited unsuspected range! Two issues of the comic book *Nakke* recently donated to our library prove that Woody Woodpecker was sighted in Finland in 1967. These join two Danish and two Swedish issues to show a strong Scandinavian presence. The collection also has French and Mexican editions.

♦ Special Collections is "going to the dogs" in a big way with the acquisition of a first edition of the first English printed book on dogs. Written in Latin, *De Canibus Britannicis* by John Caius was printed in London in 1570. There are also several later editions of the work in the Veterinary Medicine Historical Collection.

♦ Special Collections features thousands of items that document MSU student activism in the 1960s and 1970s, including newspapers, posters, leaflets, newsletters, organization records, books, and ephemera. Areas represented are anti-war activities, women's rights, CIA recruiting on campus, and Black activism among others. Some of these items can be seen at [www.digital.lib.msu.edu/onlinecolls/](http://www.digital.lib.msu.edu/onlinecolls/)

♦ The Gary Gildner Papers were recently acquired as part of the expanding Michigan Writers Collection. Gildner, a 1960s graduate of MSU, has written numerous books, including *Blue Like the Heavens*, *Letters from Vicksburg*, *The Warsaw Sparks*, and most recently, *My Grandfather's Book*. The recipient of many awards and prizes, Gildner lives in Idaho's Clearwater Mountains.

♦ A first edition printed in 1632 of one of the most famous "banned" books in history is in Special Collections: *Galileo's Dialogo...*, or *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems*. *Dialogo* was Galileo's defense of the Copernican system that the earth moved around the sun and a challenge to Aristotelian and ecclesiastical orthodoxy. It resulted in his trial by the Inquisition where he was forced to recant his 'heresy.'



*Comparative studies of girls' and women's issues are suggested on practically every page of Calling All Girls and similar journals held in the Russel B. Nye Popular Culture Collections.*

## Watching Little Brother: *Calling All Girls*

Why does Special Collections keep magazines that are mainly discussions and advice about movies, fashions, gadgets, good looks, etiquette, and things to do, from 1943? "What good is that?" traditional librarians might have said. But plenty of student researchers have found the advice and the advertising in the magazine *Calling All Girls* useful, even sixty years later. Sure, the fashions are out of date and the personal quandaries tend to bring a quizzical smile to the lips of today's readers, but on the other hand this might be the best look they've had at the lives of teenagers of their grandparents' generation. The girls' magazine *Calling All Girls* changed its title to *Young Miss* in 1966, and then became *YM* in 1986 and continues to this day. The Special Collections Division does not have a complete run, but the 225 issues on our shelves represent the last six decades of the 20th century quite fully. Comparative studies of girls' and women's issues are suggested on practically every page.

Of course, some problems are timeless, and safe to address, such as the utility of brothers. "So many girls have written to us saying that their brothers are drips, nuisances, bores and pests that we began to wonder if brothers are people!" begins an advice column in August, 1943. In November 1956, an article called "Getting Along with Boys" starts out, "I hate boys!" said Sarah, storming into the house. "They're nothing but pests!" Sarah's mother tries to say she doesn't really mean that. "After all, your brother is a boy, and he isn't a pest." Skip to November, 1966: "One day I was in the middle of the lake in my brother's boat. Two of his friends were with us. One of the boys pulled a spider out of his pocket. I jumped out of the boat, but was my face red when I found out that it was only a rubber spider!"

Dated or otherwise interesting attitudes can be found in the advertising matter of almost any magazine intended for a general readership, and the Library's main stacks can provide material for this kind of comparisons as well. However, in Special Collections, certain titles that are directed to more specific groups of readers can bring things into better focus. Perhaps ironically, the two kinds of magazines that have proven most useful for undergraduate women's studies are not found in the main stacks, because previous generations of scholars did not consider them to be useful as research material. Those two kinds of magazines are the teen magazines (of which *Calling All Girls* and *YM* are our best examples) and the men's magazines (of which *Playboy* is our best example). — Randy Scott



*The April 1966 Ramparts is one of the most requested items in the Radicalism Collection.*

## Watching Big Brother: *Ramparts* Magazine

In the late 1970s a publisher of comic books wrote asking for a picture of an MSU cheerleaders' uniform to use in a story on campus life. Searching through the Russel B. Nye Popular Culture Collection produced nothing useful, and the question was referred to MSU's University Archives and Historical Collections. Then, we remembered *Ramparts*, and the April 1966 cover story by Warren Hinckle: "The University on the Make, or, How MSU Helped Arm Madame Nhu." This cover shows the South Vietnamese stateswoman dressed as a Michigan State University cheerleader, but of course the depiction is not nearly accurate enough for comic-book work. The article itself was a catalyst for on-campus activism at the time, though the Library's copy remained nearly untouched for a generation. Beginning in

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## Watching Big Brother: *Ramparts* Magazine, continued

the 1990s and to date, however, that *Ramparts* article has had constant use by undergraduates, and has become one of the most-used items in the Radicalism Collection.

The *Ramparts* article tells the story, with some supporting references, of the Vietnam Project conducted by MSU and the CIA in supporting the Diem government in South Vietnam. Near the end of the piece the focus returns to East Lansing and the fears of the university administration that MSU might become the “next Berkeley,” disrupted by advocates of student power and by “outside agitators.” Indeed this did happen, and MSU was one of the more active campuses in the student radicalism of the late 1960s and early 1970s. Today’s student researchers typically see the events in Vietnam as background and write their papers on what happened here at home. Papers on draft resistance, anti-war organizing, the Black power movement, campus police “Red squads,” and early gay liberation are being written as students use the Library’s files on these topics. Often they are looking for insight into causes that their parents were passionately involved in. Luckily their parents have donated many underground papers and pamphlets to the Radicalism Collection over the years.

Dozens of files and periodicals are now maintained in Special Collections, that bear directly on the campus radicalism years at Michigan State. The files of the local Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) are here, as is a complete run of the student alternative newspaper *The Paper*, which ran from 1965 to 1969. As with the teen magazines that were once not considered fitting “research material,” much of the Radicalism material used by today’s students was once considered inappropriate in a research library because it was not written from an “objective” point of view. This may seem to be a quaint objection, but it was a policy very much in effect in 1970 when many of these materials were first relegated to the obscurity of the closed stacks of Special Collections. Now, of course, the idea that some topics or some opinions might be inappropriate to study only makes them seem more attractive. Many, many people are glad we’re here. — *Randy Scott*

## The Best Home for Paper Documents

Everyone has paper documents that are part of personal libraries, record keeping, or collections of memorabilia. Perhaps they are letters, student papers, diaries, or legal documents such as marriage or birth certificates; we may also have newspaper articles or magazines that are significant to our family or personal history. In many cases these paper documents are not of high market value, but in terms of personal value they may be priceless. Caring for these materials is not difficult, but does require some attention. The most common danger to paper documents comes in the form of improper storage and handling, and hazards in the form of unexpected disasters. Here are a few tips to protect your precious paper documents.

The environmental factors to consider for storage are temperature, humidity, light and dirt. Having a consistent temperature and humidity are important to slow the chemical deterioration of paper. Generally, the cooler the temperature the better, and you want to avoid swings of temperature such as you might find in a poorly insulated attic space. The higher the temperature the faster the chemical deterioration of cellulose, the predominate materials in paper. Stable humidity is best for paper with a range of 40% relative humidity, plus or minus 5 degrees. Dry heat in the winter and moist heat in the summer such as you may find in a basement area is a recipe for aging. Keeping a stable temperature and humidity through air conditioning in summer to cool and remove moisture, and heat in the winter that incorporates humidity control is the best. Not surprisingly this is what we humans want for comfort as well. The best place to store materials is in an inside closet or closet located on the main floors of our homes.

Light is also a significant factor in the aging of paper so keeping materials out of direct sunlight is important. Many times we want to proudly display important paper documents and that can best be done by framing the piece using UV protected glass and hanging the documents out of direct sunlight. Indeed, hanging a frame protected document in your living area will protect it from the swings of temperature and humidity that can be found in many basements and attic spaces without intruding on prime storage space. For further information about displaying paper documents see the website <http://aic.stanford.edu/treasure/matt.html> — *Jeanne Drewes*



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[http://www.lib.msu.edu/coll/main/spec\\_col](http://www.lib.msu.edu/coll/main/spec_col)

for more information about the MSU Libraries' Special Collections, and the collections featured here. Information about gifts, endowments, and other giving opportunities is available from the Director of Development for Libraries, Computing & Technology at [www.lib.msu.edu/digital/friends](http://www.lib.msu.edu/digital/friends)

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## The Benefits of a Special Gift: The Beatrice V. Grant Endowment

Over the years MSU's Cookery Collection has been the recipient of numerous gifts that have enhanced its holdings and provided resources for new areas of collecting. In fact, the beginnings of this special collection can be traced to a donation of 350 rare cookbooks by Mary Ross Reynolds in 1959. This outstanding gift made it possible to think seriously about establishing an important culinary collection which would help support scholarly interest and research. With holdings approaching 7,000 cookbooks, this is now a reality thanks in great part to another gift, the Beatrice V. Grant Endowment Fund, which provides expendable funds for the acquisition and preservation of rare and special cookbooks. Named in honor of Beatrice V. Grant, a longtime member of the MSU faculty, the endowment was established by her sister Dr. Rhoda Grant, a retired physician, in 1989. To date over 850 cookbooks have

been acquired with the Grant endowment fund, including a copy of the very rare, *American Cookery*, by Amelia Simmons, which is recognized as the first cookbook published in the United States written by an American author. First published in 1796, MSU's copy is one of only four known copies in the world of the 1798 second printing of the first edition. Although many of the recipes were borrowings from British cookbooks of the period, the originality and importance of this work lies in its recognition and use of indigenous American foods, including squash, pumpkins, cornmeal, turkey, and cranberries. In addition to rare cookbooks, the endowment has made it possible to collect diverse and under-represented areas of cookery.

Strong collections have now been established in Jewish cookery, African cookery, African American cookery, Caribbean cookery, and other regions in the Americas influenced and involved in the African slave trade. Many community/charitable cookbooks have also been acquired with special support for an initiative to collect all cookbooks and cookery related

materials published in Michigan or produced by Michigan communities, organizations, and churches. Often overlooked, these community cookbooks provide fascinating insights into a variety of cuisines and food cultures in Michigan over the last century.

— Peter Berg

