

OCTOBER 2003  
Volume 2, No. 1

# SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

## Sixteenth Century Tattle-Tape

One of the delights about working in Special Collections is discovering something new and unique about books that are hundreds of years old. One recent example is *Institutiones: Auszug vn[d] Anzaigung etlicher geschriben Kayserlichen vnd des hayligen Reichs Rechte...*, a book of Roman law by Andreas Perneder published in Germany in 1561, that had sat unassumingly on our shelves for decades until a cursory conservation check revealed a 14 inch chain attached to its back cover. As one of the most enduring symbols of the early, medieval library in Europe, the use of chains to secure books was widespread from the 15th to the middle of the 17th century. Attached to shelves, reading desks, pulpits, and pews, the chains were an obvious and effective means to secure books from “the thievish disposition of some that enter into libraries to learn no good there...” The practice of chaining books began to die out by the early 18th century when it became a more common practice to shelve books with their spines out much as they are today. Although more prevalent in European rare book libraries, a book with its chain still attached and intact is quite rare and to find one in East Lansing was a wonderful discovery. The catalog record was amended to

reflect this and now visitors to Special Collections have the opportunity to see a newly found relic of the past.

—Peter Berg



*Published in Germany in 1561, Institutiones: Auszug vn[d] Anzaigung etlicher geschriben Kayserlichen vnd des hayligen Reichs Rechte..., with its beautifully tooled leather cover, was protected from theft with a chain attached to the back cover. From the Rare Books Collection. Photo by Louis Villafranca.*

## Did you know...

- ♦ Only years after the invention of the moveable metal type printing press in Germany, the first printed book in Special Collections was produced in Venice in 1472. *Scriptores Rei Rusticae* features agricultural treatises by Cato, Varro, Columella, Palladius, and others. Distinguished by its simple and elegant typescript, the work was printed by Nicolaus Jenson, one of the most important figures in the early period of printing between 1455 and 1500.
- ♦ Special Collections has been designated as the depository for works honored by the James Tiptree Jr. Award which recognizes important science fiction works that address issues of gender. Past winners include Gweyneth Jones, Maureen McHugh, Nicola Griffith, and Mary Doria Russell. A complete set of award winners and short list titles are deposited annually in Special Collections with another copy donated for the Main Library collection.
- ♦ A major new collection of twentieth century Chinese literature was donated to Special Collections by retired University of Michigan professor Harriet Mills. Featuring several hundred titles and consisting of rare and unique works she collected in China beginning in the 1930s, these volumes represent virtually all the major writers of the period 1930-1950, and a good selection of “revolutionary literature” from 1950-1980. Apart from their substance, all the works can be seen as fine examples of Chinese book design and decoration. MSU’s Asian bibliographer, Talbott Huey, who was instrumental in procuring this gift, has also cataloged the collection.
- ♦ Gerald Paulins, a Special Collections staff member for over 10 years and well known for his extraordinary service to visiting researchers, has established a substantial endowed fund to help support ongoing maintenance and needed purchases for the Special Collections Reading Room. “...I wanted the environment [in the Reading Room] to be a pleasant and welcoming place for students, faculty, and visitors to work,” he said upon making his bequest. “When all is said and done, I want to know that I will have done something for the MSU Libraries that will be everlasting.”

# Antiphonale Provides Wide Range of Research Opportunities



*The physical volume is impressive. Its heavy covers measure 68x46cm and are made of boards overlaid with leather, reinforced with metal corners and large studs; nails, nail holes and worm holes are clearly visible. The vellum pages (63x45cm) are generally written on both sides but are numbered as 95 leaves in a more modern hand.*

*Red ink is used for the staves and for the rubrics; in the second part of the manuscript, red is also used to indicate long melodic passages on one syllable. The neumes and texts are hand-drawn in black ink. Initials are generally elaborate and surrounded by geometric patterns; each new text alternately uses red ink with blue background or blue with red background. Black initials are used for a new verse within a text; most have elaborate flourishes, sometimes including rather grumpy-looking faces.*

*Below, Mary Black Junttonen displays the Antiphonale (Rare Book Collection) in the Special Collections Reading Room.*



The MSU Libraries' "Antiphonale" is a beautiful hand-written manuscript dating from the 13th–15th centuries. The manuscript was transferred from the MSU Museum to the Libraries in 1974; other than that, little is known of its provenance. Marginal notations indicate it spent at least a portion of its life in a Spanish monastery, and modern comparisons show that it was probably copied for the Benedictine Order of the Roman Catholic Church.

This volume has been referred to as "The Antiphonale," but research indicates it is actually two manuscripts bound together to form a service book for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Who wrote each portion, when were they written and bound into a single volume, for what monastery or large church were they prepared, what is the Spanish connection, and how did the volume come to MSU are among the questions which could puzzle modern scholars for some time to come. Further work on the paleography, melodic and textual variants, decorative initials, and iconography may yield further clues.

An "Antiphonale" is a collection of liturgical chants to be sung in alternation between the officiant and the choir during the Daily Hours within a monastery or convent. Five-line staves are used, indicating a date no earlier than the 13th century. Such a volume gives only the choir responses, with indications where the priest would chant his portion of the text. The responses were based on the succeeding verse or Psalm, and prepared the worshipper both textually and musically.

The Antiphonale portion of this volume, approximately 45 leaves, consists of antiphons to be used with the Benedictus and/or Magnificat for Advent and Christmas. A few pages are missing, and two or three leaves from other seasons of the liturgical year were bound in mistakenly. Comparison with the 1934 copy of the *Antiphonale Monasticum* owned by the MSU Fine Arts Library shows that the neumes and texts remained standard over the centuries.

The second portion of the volume begins at leaf 50 and contains Introits, Offertories and Graduals for the Advent and Christmas Masses. The chants are more elaborate both in text and music, with a resulting elegance to the

eye as well as ear. Comparison with the 1951 *Graduale Romanum* indicates these chants were still in use centuries later with only minor variants of text and melodies. Although these were also chanted in alternation, they are part of the Mass rather than a continuation of the Antiphonale.

This volume was designed for and obviously received regular use. Recently, the volume was given conservation treatment, including cleaning and mending. A clamshell box with cutouts for the studs was created for it. The manuscript can be viewed on request in Special Collections. If any reader has further information on its provenance, please contact Peter Berg, Special Collections, or Mary Black Junttonen, Fine Arts—Music Library.

—Mary Black Junttonen



*Photos by Louis Villafranca. Detail insets by Stephanie Bour.*



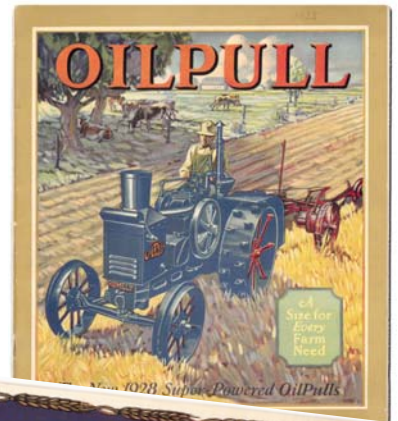
# Of Tractors, Threshers and Other Farm Treasures

Many of us who grew up in the rural Midwest have fond memories of lazy summer days on Grandpa's farm—picking blueberries, playing hide-and-seek in the cornfield, riding on the tractor, and climbing on the rusty hay rake in the barnyard. Now that the barn has crumbled and the farm's been sold, we may contemplate the fate of that rusty old hay rake or tractor and struggle to recall—was that a Fordson or a Farmall?

Fading farm memories will come alive again in a special collection of some 3500 agricultural machinery sales catalogs, promotional brochures, price lists, owner's manuals, and illustrated parts lists dating from the late 19th century through the 1940s. While the major emphasis lies in tractors and threshers, the entire range of farm equipment can be found in these catalogs, representing some 150 different manufacturers and suppliers—primarily Midwestern firms, with a smattering of Canadian companies as well as some foreign concerns. Substantial materials come from cities in which the foremost farm equipment companies were located: Peoria and Moline, Illinois; Racine, Wisconsin; Chicago and Minneapolis. The names of the companies—Caterpillar, John Deere, Case, International Harvester and Minneapolis Moline—come easily to mind. Also represented are important companies at La Porte, Indiana (Advance-Rumely) and Battle Creek, Michigan (Nichols and Shepherd) that ultimately evolved into Allis Chalmers and Oliver, respectively. The most generously represented firms are John Deere (296 pieces), International Harvester (160), Avery Ross Machinery Co. (103), J. I. Case (121), Caterpillar (138), Nichols and Shepherd/Oliver (103), and Huber Manufacturing of Marion, Ohio (85). Few publicly-held agricultural machinery catalog collections match this one in breadth and magnitude, making it a truly remarkable and valuable resource. No wonder, then, that Special Collections fields a steady stream of inquiries from researchers around the world who've stumbled across the Special Collections website in their search for information regarding a particular company, piece of equipment, or year of manufacture.

The collection provides a fascinating illustrated panorama of the history of agricultural machinery from the turn of the century through the 1930s—from the heyday of the steam engine through the development of the gasoline-powered tractor. It supplies primary data for the scholar exploring aspects of the history of agricultural technology and invaluable illustrations and parts lists for the restorer of antique equipment. The nostalgic ex-farmer will be fascinated to find an image of the tractor he first learned to drive as a youth: a 10-20 Farmall, a Fordson, a John Deere Model A, or possibly a Rumely DoAll. And the rest of us, who simply yearn to recall those lazy summer days on Grandpa's farm, will find ample inspiration in the beautiful, pastoral cover art, testimonials, and the occasional poem.

Relive your rural childhood by exploring this unique gem of a collection. —Anita Eggo



Visit our website ([www.lib.msu.edu/coll/main/spec\\_col/agric.htm](http://www.lib.msu.edu/coll/main/spec_col/agric.htm)) for a list of these and other equipment catalogs which provide a history of agricultural machinery from 1900-1935.

# SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Visit us online at

[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)

*MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity institution.*

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Michigan State University  
Libraries, Special Collections  
100 Library  
East Lansing, Michigan 48824-1048

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Non-Sports Trading Cards Attract Large Audience

There was a time when the term “trading cards” meant baseball or football cards to most people, and these were not what libraries collected. These were what little boys collected. Gradually, however, a broader world of trading cards has developed, and the Special Collections Division finds itself possessed of over fifty sets of what are now often called “non-sports” trading cards. These sets are currently on display in the reading room, and though they have been accumulating for about 15 years, this is the first time anyone has seen them all together.

The topics range from the historical to the sensational, and from the trivial to the biographical, but all of them fit nicely in with our book and periodical collections. For example, in the historical vein, we have sets on the Savings and Loan Scandal, and the Iran-Contra Scandal, with all the players caricatured on the front side. On the back of each card, however, is serious text relating each subject's role in the events. Four different sets of cards reprint pin-up art from old and spicy magazine covers, with publication details on the back. One can follow the whole story of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles by reading the backs of their cards, and the same is true for the 1978 Superman movie. One deck, titled “Stars of the Negro Leagues,” is not strictly “non-sports,” but provides paintings and biographical details on African American baseball players from the time before the major leagues were integrated. Five different decks provide pictures and biographies of jazz, blues, country, and rhythm and blues musicians. Actors and gangsters have decks of their own, and we have a complete set of the “True Crime” trading cards that were at one time notorious for giving biographies of serial killers.

Comics are well-represented, with a set of biographical “Famous Comic Book Creators” cards, and separate decks showcasing work of Underground comics artist R. Crumb, superhero artist Todd MacFarlane, and Will Eisner's “The Spirit.” Another set, called “Oddball Comics,” reproduces the covers of strange but real older comics with titles like “Space Western Comics,” and “Zip-Jet, Supersonic Enemy of Evil!”

The pièce de resistance of this collection is probably the “Classic Books” collection of trading cards, which reproduces the covers of important first editions of rare books, with descriptive text on the back. Once the shock has passed, of seeing rare book information in this format, it becomes clear that these are actually very attractive and reverently produced cards. All told, these cards amount to a very nice subcollection, and we will be looking for additions as the years go by. —Randy Scott

