



The UNIVERSITY *of* OKLAHOMA LIBRARIES

Special Collections



SUMMER 2013
VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

SOONER HORIZON

SUMMER 2013

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

CONTENTS

- pg. 3 The Grassi Acquisitions
- pg. 4-5 The History of Science Collections
- pg. 6 The Bizzell Bible Collection
- pg. 7 The John and Mary Nichols Rare Books and Special Collections
- pg. 8-10 The Western History Collections
- pg. 11 The Harry W. Bass Business History Collection

The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA LIBRARIES *Special Collections*

The Bizzell Bible Collection
The Harry W. Bass Business History Collection
The History of Science Collections
The John and Mary Nichols Rare Books and Special Collections
The Western History Collections

LETTER FROM THE DEAN



Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Sooner Horizon*, where we will highlight the unique holdings within the Special Collections of University Libraries.

Our special collections are truly crown jewels of the University. The treasures within the History of Science Collections, Western History Collections, the John and Mary Nichols Rare Books and Special Collections, the Bizzell Bible Collection, and the Bass Business History Collection are extraordinary, one-of-a-kind artifacts that hold international prestige. We hold

the entire set of 12 first editions of Galileo, some containing his handwriting on the fragile pages. No other library, not even the Library of Congress or the British Library, can say the same about their collections. And yet, when I speak to people within the state and across the nation about our collections, I've been surprised to discover how hidden these treasures are from the public eye. We hope that this newsletter will help Oklahomans become more aware and correspondingly proud of the collections amassed at the state's flagship institution. To accomplish this, we want to create a deeper awareness of our collections by highlighting their immense value.

At the University of Oklahoma Libraries, we are committed to excellence. Part of that commitment is to build on our strengths. In this issue, we highlight a rare recent Oratio Grassi manuscript acquisition in our History of Science Collections that augments our world-class Galileo collection. Manuscripts like this may only become available once a century. This purchase was made possible through a generous endowment established by the OU Athletics Department, and I am truly grateful to be at a University where academics and athletics work hand-in-hand to enhance the student experience. With this kind of support from the OU community, we will continue to aggressively acquire valuable rare materials for our special collections.

Along with building distinctive collections, it is correspondingly our responsibility to increase access to these treasures by spreading awareness throughout the state and by connecting students and scholars from around the world with the materials in collaborative and multidisciplinary ways. Now, more than ever, technology has given us the means to increase access through the digitization of our materials.

We hope that you will look forward to reading about the gems hidden within our collections and the innovative ways we are trying to bring these collections to the world. We encourage you to share with your family and friends the depth and breadth of resources available in our libraries. Together with your help, the University of Oklahoma will continue to chart a path of excellence as an intellectual magnet for the University of Oklahoma and, indeed, for the world.

Sincerely,

Rick Luce
Dean, University Libraries
Professor and Peggy V. Helmerich Chair
Associate Vice President for Research, Norman Campus

THE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT PARTNERSHIP, GALILEO, AND THE COMETS OF 1618

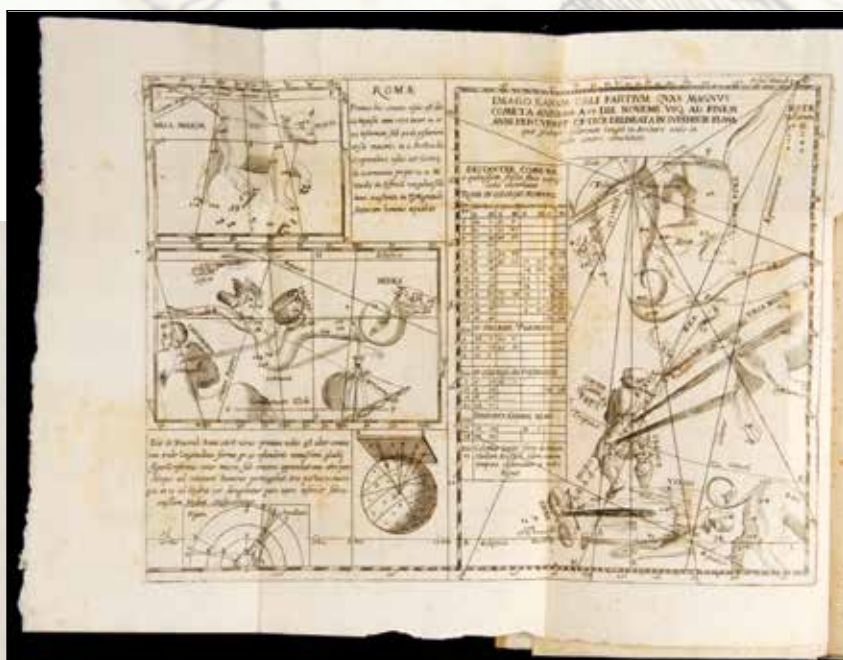
Astronomers predict that three comets visible to the unaided eye will appear in 2013. Comets do not come around every year; the appearance of three visible comets in a single year is quite unusual. Yet three comets also appeared in 1618, eight years after Galileo published the first reports of observations made with a telescope in the *Sidereus nuncius* (Venice, 1610).

In 1610, the Jesuits invited Galileo to Rome to demonstrate his telescope. Highly trained in mathematics, the Jesuits received him warmly and celebrated his achievement. Christoph Clavius, the leading astronomer of the Collegio Romano, wrote a letter to the College of Cardinals endorsing Galileo's telescopic discoveries.

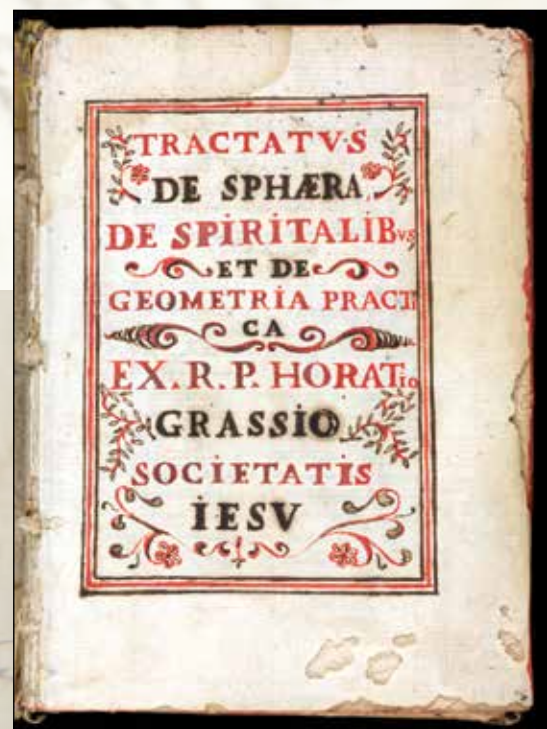
When the three comets appeared eight years later, Oratio Grassi had succeeded Clavius at the Collegio Romano. Grassi described the comets in *De tribus cometis* (Rome, 1619). This work, although written with a calm and scientific tone, occasioned a polemical exchange between Galileo and the Jesuits that has come to be known as the "controversy over the comets." The controversy concluded with Grassi's *Ratio ponderum*, published in Naples in 1627. While the History of Science Collections has long held the *Sidereus nuncius*, in a beautiful copy containing Galileo's own handwriting, we have only recently acquired these two works by Grassi as well as a handwritten manuscript of lectures by Grassi.

The story of the Grassi acquisitions began in September, 2012, when the Athletics Department announced a \$500,000 endowment to support exhibits and acquire rare works for the History of Science Collections. The timing was propitious: when a beautiful Grassi manuscript became available on the rare book market, the endowment made possible its acquisition. The illustrated manuscript, never published and new to scholars, consists of Grassi's lecture notes in 1623 at the Collegio Romano. Documentary sources for the Collegio Romano are notably scarce; this manuscript is one of only a few astronomical manuscripts from the leading Jesuit university preceding the publication and subsequent condemnation of Galileo's *Dialogo* (1632). The manuscript discusses Galileo's discoveries, including imperfections on the surface of the Sun and Moon and the satellites of Jupiter. A rich resource for scholarly study, the Grassi manuscript will be prominently featured in a forthcoming *Galileo's World* exhibition and made accessible to scholars via a forthcoming Galileo digital project.

As you enjoy the three comets of 2013, please join us in celebrating the addition to the Galileo collection of three works by Grassi from the controversy over the comets of 1618.



Oratio Grassi, *De tribus cometis anni MDCXVIII* (Rome, 1619)



Oratio Grassi, *Tractatus de sphaera* manuscript (Rome, 1623)

The HISTORY OF SCIENCE COLLECTIONS

Galileo Galilei, *Sidereus nuncius* (1610)



ABOVE AND BELOW Charles Darwin, *Zoology of the Voyage of H.M.S. Beagle* (1838–43), 3 vols.



The History of Science Collections, located on the fifth floor of Bizzell Memorial Library, is one of the premier research collections in its field. Holdings of 95,000 volumes from every field and subject area of science, technology and medicine range chronologically from Hrabanus Maurus, *Opus de universo* (1467) to current publications in the history of science. The Galileo and Darwin collections illustrate the breadth of the holdings.

THE DARWIN COLLECTION

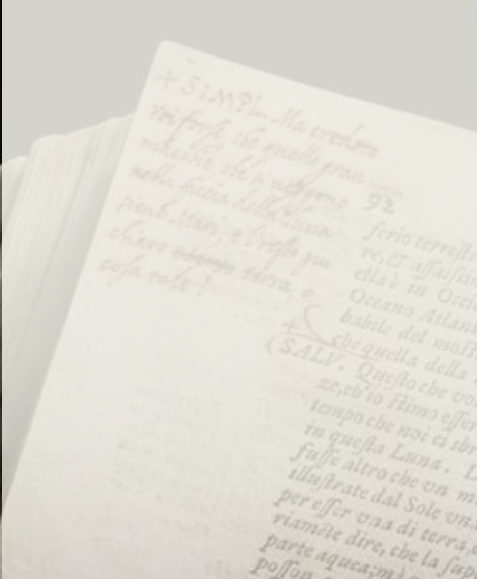
The Darwin collection consists of all of Charles Darwin's works in their first editions along with five autograph letters. In addition, it includes hundreds of subsequent editions and translations (for example, the *Descent of Man* in Yiddish, 1928). OU is a major contributor to Cambridge University's Darwin Online. Having provided digital versions of nearly 40 obscure editions, the Collections' contribution is second only to that of Cambridge itself. In 2009, to celebrate the bicentennial of Darwin's birth, a complete set of first editions by Darwin were displayed for public viewing in *Darwin@the Museum*, a joint exhibition with the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History.

THE GALILEO COLLECTION

The Galileo collection includes all 12 first editions of Galileo, four of which contain his own handwriting. It also includes the first English translation of Galileo, and many other first and later editions of the works of Galileo and his immediate contemporaries. Some notable recent additions to the Galileo collection are described in the previous article.

CURRENT EXHIBIT: A LIVING LIBRARY

In 1976, 40,000 bibliographic records for the entire holdings of the History of Science Collections were printed in a two-volume work, compiled by Curator Duane Roller and Librarian Marcia Goodman, that became a standard reference in the rare book trade. To emphasize the rarity of a book, booksellers ever since



Galileo Galilei, *Dialogo* (1632)



Galileo Galilei, *Sidereus nuncius* (1610)

have indicated in their catalog descriptions that a given title is “not in Roller-Goodman.” But “not in Roller-Goodman” does not mean “not at OU”; the majority of books in the Collections were acquired since 1976, after Roller-Goodman! The 150 rare books included in this exhibit, and described in the accompanying iPad Exhibit Guide, illustrate the growth of the History of Science Collections during the second half of its existence. With continued growth and the arrival of Rick Luce as the new dean of Libraries in July 2012, the Collections remains a living library, fulfilling its mission of supporting the teaching and research activities of a large and dynamic community of scholars. If you have an iPad, download the Living Library guide at iTunes U.

RESEARCH AND LEARNING IN THE COLLECTIONS

The History of Science Collections supports research and learning across the university, inviting students to pursue diverse multi-disciplinary interests and welcoming

classes from a wide variety of academic programs. From the beginning, moreover, the Collections spurred the development of a distinctive academic program devoted to the study of the history of science, technology and medicine. The University of Oklahoma is one of only a handful of universities that offer students an opportunity for formal study in a Department of the History of Science. In fall 2011, the department launched an undergraduate major to accompany the popular minor and long-standing master’s and doctoral degrees. By spring of 2013, undergraduate enrollment in history of science classes reached a record number of more than 550 students. Use of the Collections by an increasing number of undergraduate and graduate students and faculty in residence is complemented by a travel fellowship program, offered through a generous endowment from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which provides an opportunity for visiting scholars from around the world to research in the Collections.



Galileo Galilei, *Dialogo* (1632)



Galileo Galilei, *Sidereus nuncius* (1610)



Galileo Galilei, *Il Saggiatore* (1623)



LEFT: Book of Hours, manuscript, northern France, ca. 1400
 ABOVE: Biblia Vulgata, Anthony Koberger (Nuremberg, 1479)

THE BIZZELL BIBLE COLLECTION

William Bennett Bizzell, President of the University of Oklahoma from 1925 to 1941, purchased his first old Bible for one dollar while a college student in Boston. That Geneva Bible is now just one of the 665 volumes included in the Bizzell Bible Collection. The oldest printed book is a Latin Bible printed in Nuremberg by Anthony Koberger in 1479. Even older is a handpainted manuscript prayer book from northern France, written on vellum around 1400.

One strength of the Collection lies in its holdings of early English Bibles, including several editions of the Geneva Bible and two variant copies of the first edition of the King James Bible. As a literature professor, Bizzell was fascinated by the influence of the Bible upon English literature. The more common non-English European languages also are represented, including Greek, Hebrew, Latin, German, French and Spanish. Numerous non-European Bibles, including Cherokee, Muskogee, Hindi, Swahili, Mongolian, Tartan, Multan and Turkish, illustrate the worldwide spread of Christianity in the 19th century.

Many Bibles in the Bizzell Collection are significant cultural artifacts and works of art. Elegant typefaces, hand-colored illuminations and rubrications, tooled leather bindings, woodcut illustrations, copper-plate

engravings and fore-edge paintings attest to the fine artisanship exhibited in this Collection.

President Bizzell's love for scholarship and books was reflected in his drive to complete the University Library in 1930. A statue of President Bizzell gazes perpetually on the south entrance to the library, which now bears his name. The Bizzell Bible Collection was given to the university in 1949 by Bizzell's family, who remain actively associated with the University Libraries to the present day. Since 1987 the Collection has been housed in the beautiful Gaylord Room, with its built-in red oak bookcases, located on the fifth floor of Bizzell Memorial Library.

In his bookplate, President Bizzell is pictured gazing down upon a large open Bible. Beneath a star declaring the year of his birth, he wears the robe and mortarboard of academic regalia. The quotation from Shakespeare, "Ignorance is the curse of God," continues: "Knowledge the wings wherewith we fly unto heaven."



William Bennet Bizzell, bookplate

The JOHN AND MARY NICHOLS RARE BOOKS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

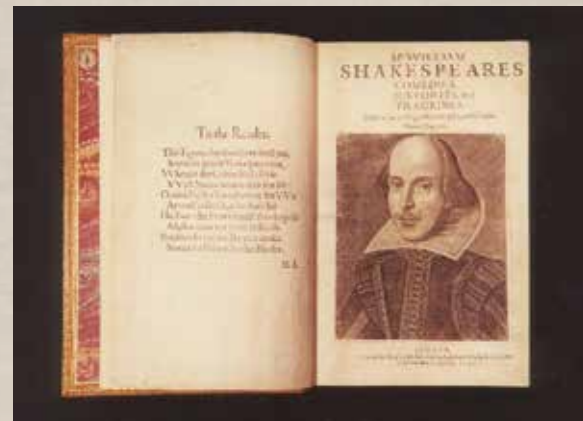
The John and Mary Nichols Rare Books and Special Collections comprises over 13,000 rare books and special materials in English literature and related subjects, dating from the 15th century to the present. The university established the collection in 2001 to promote scholarship in the field of English literature and to provide stewardship for the general collection of rare books within the library system. The collection is named for John and Mary Nichols in recognition of their longtime support of the University of Oklahoma and the University Libraries.

The collections offer outstanding opportunities for research and teaching over a wide range of fields, including history, law, literary studies, political science, publishing and book history, religious studies, and theater. Notable holdings include the *Liber Chronicarum* or *Nuremberg Chronicle* (1493), William Shakespeare's *Second Folio* (1632) and Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876). Exhibits, class visits and tours promote awareness of the collections and facilitate use of the materials. Recent visitors include members of a local girls' book club with an interest in Jane Austen and participants in the spring 2013 Presidential Dream Course "The Shakespeare Moot Court."

BRINGING DICKENS TO LIFE: COLLECTING VICTORIAN ILLUSTRATORS AND DICKENS DIGITAL EXHIBIT

Recent acquisitions include works by important 19th-century British artists and illustrators. These unique compilations of period materials (comprising cartoons, engravings, letters, plates and woodcuts) enhance the existing holdings of Dickens' related materials and expand opportunities for scholarly research into the world of Victorian publishing. Items acquired include: a portfolio of 240 watercolor drawings of Dickens characters by Joseph Clayton Clarke aka Kyd (c. 1886); five sets of plates for *The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club* (1837); extra-illustrated editions of *An Essay on John Leech* by W.M. Thackeray (1880) and *The Life of George Cruikshank* by Jerrold Blanchard (1882).

Not able to come to campus? Experience the Dickens Collection virtually through our new Apple iBooks exhibit. Browse our collection of illustrations of Dickens' most memorable characters and learn more about our holdings of important editions of Dickens' works, including *A Christmas Carol*, *Oliver Twist* and *A Tale of Two Cities*.



The WESTERN HISTORY COLLECTIONS



George and Etta Mopope, 1901, by Annette Ross Hume

The Western History Collections is an internationally known center for study of the American West. The Collections contain more than 80,000 books, 2,700 manuscript collections and 2 million historic photographs that are a rich resource for scholarship and teaching. These focal collections are complemented by maps, sound recordings, graphic materials and ephemera that illustrate the colorful, complex history of the American West from the early 19th century to the present. Visitors can access these treasures in the reading room of Monnet Hall, where exhibits display intriguing collection items.

The Collections also houses other collections, including the University of Oklahoma Archives and the Diplomatic Archive. The University Archives contain the official and personal papers of OU's presidents, administrative records and official publications such as yearbooks and directories. The Diplomatic Archive, established in 1997 by President David L. Boren and Ambassador Edward J. Perkins, features official declassified and personal papers, books, photographs and memorabilia of former U.S. ambassadors and presidential appointees with Oklahoma ties, such as Everett F. Drumright and Jeane J. Kirkpatrick.

The Daniel J. and Ruth F. Boorstin Collection, located in Bizzell Memorial Library, is administered by the Western History Collections and houses more than 6,000 books from the Boorstins' personal library. Daniel J. Boorstin served as Librarian of Congress from 1975 to 1987, and Ruth F. Boorstin was an accomplished author. They wrote and edited numerous books about American politics and history.

1904 ST. LOUIS WORLD'S FAIR DIGITAL EXHIBIT



1904 St. Louis World's Fair postcard, "Bridge over Lagoon"

Experience the excitement of the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair through our new, interactive digital exhibit! It is available as an Apple iBook you can use online, or in our reading room on our visitor iPads. The exhibit features a wide variety of unusual St. Louis World's Fair memorabilia from our Robert O. and Helen S. Fay Collection, including hold-to-light postcards, photographs, and a detailed map of the exhibition halls and attractions located on the fair grounds. The 1904 World's Fair celebrated the centennial of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase, and displayed elaborate exhibits on states, foreign countries, art, and modern technology such as electricity. Popular attractions included street performers from around the world, and the giant Observation Wheel, or Ferris wheel, which afforded visitors a spectacular view of the fair from the skies.

CONRAD MASTERSON WESTERN RANCH HISTORY COLLECTION AND STUDY ROOM

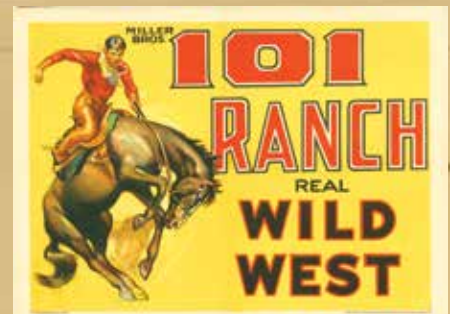
The Conrad Masterson Western Ranch History Collection and Study Room is a recent major addition to the Library. The collection contains more than 500 books and journals about the range cattle industry in the American West, especially individual ranch histories. Conrad Masterson, a University of Oklahoma alumnus, maintained an interest in ranching throughout his career as a technology entrepreneur. He and his wife, Ellen, operate the Open RX Ranch in Cee Vee, Texas, which is named for the Masterson family brand, the “prescription brand,” used on the original homestead near Purcell, Okla. The collection boasts rare and special editions of ranching books, as well as titles bound in horse hide and cow hide—with the hair still attached. Students and faculty may use this room for group study and reading.



Masterson Room

ADVERTISING OF THE WEST

The allure of the American West has worked its charm on cowboys, pioneers and gold seekers for years. Advertisers have likewise capitalized on its appeal to sell everything from tourism to automobiles and household goods. Our new Advertising of the West Collection focuses on printed advertising materials and ephemera that feature iconic images of the West and its culture, industries, and landscapes.



Poster advertising the Miller Brothers 101 Ranch Wild West Show

PHOTOGRAPHS OF BATTERY A 18TH FIELD ARTILLERY, FORT SILL

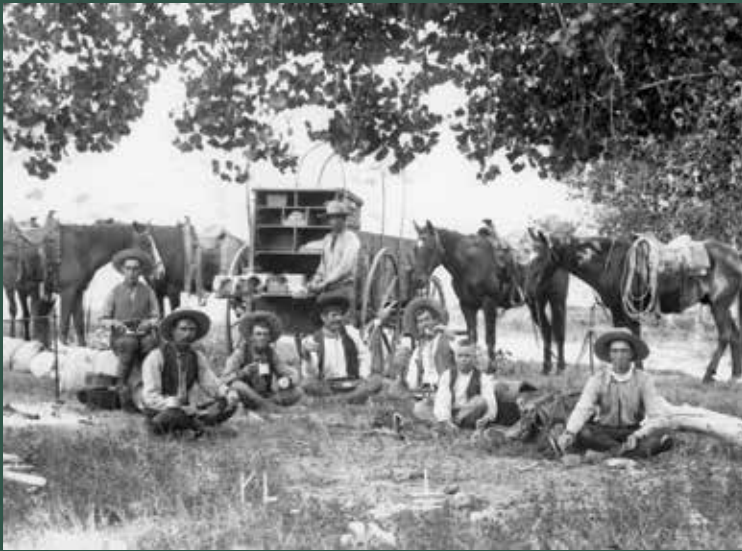
The latest acquisition for the Photographic Archives is an album of black-and-white images showing the men of Battery A, 18th Field Artillery, at Fort Sill, Okla. Acquired with funds from the William and Bonnie McIntosh Endowment, the album documents the soldiers, their daily activities and many of the buildings at Fort Sill during the early 1920s. Established in 1869 by the 9th U.S. Cavalry to serve as a buffer between the Kiowa and Comanche tribes and the northern Texas border, Fort Sill later became home to the U.S. Army Field Artillery School. This album shows the important transition from military horses to motor transport. Most scenes depict various aspects of the average American soldier's life in the early 1920s, from tending horses in the stables to preparing meals in the mess hall, and life in the barracks.



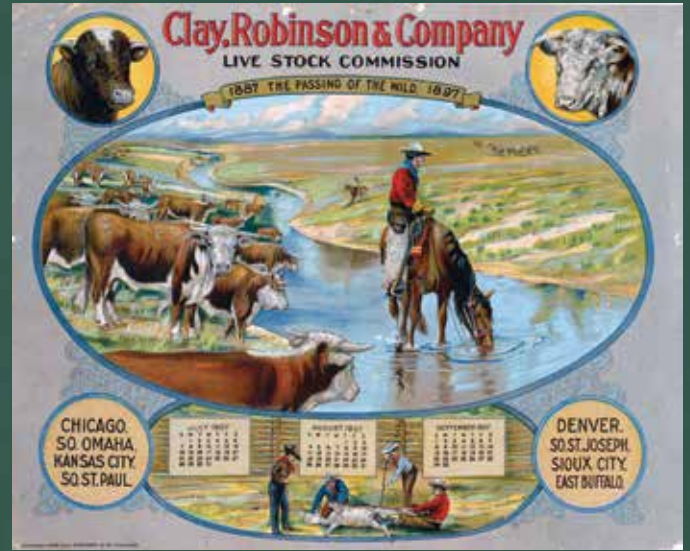
Mess sergeant Lonnie Jackson with his cooks and a meal prepared for soldiers of Battery A, 18th Field Artillery



Tourist brochure for seeing the Grand Canyon in a Ford tri-motor airplane



"Hanging L" cowboys at the chuck wagon, by Andrew A. Forbes



Calendar advertising the Clay, Robinson & Company Live Stock Commission

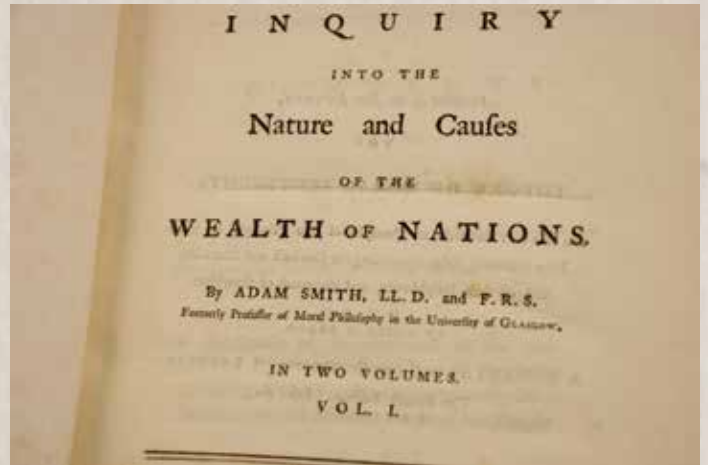
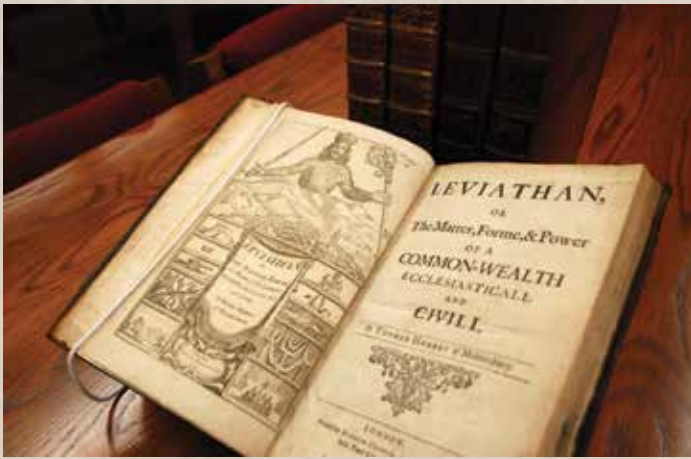
Western History Association Distinguished Lecture Series at the Western History Collections



The Western History Collections partnered with the Western History Association and the University of Oklahoma Department of History to host the inaugural lecture in a new Western History Association Distinguished Lecturer series the evening of Feb. 15, 2013. The inaugural University of Oklahoma/Western History Association Distinguished Lecture Series, coordinated by Professor David Wrobel, Merrick Chair in Western American History in the University of Oklahoma Department of History, featured Sherry Smith, Professor of History, Acting Chair of the Department of History and Associate Director of the William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies at Southern Methodist University. She is also a past president of the Western History Association. Smith spoke about her new publication, titled "Indians, Hippies, and the Fight for Red Power: The California Story." Students and faculty from OU, as well as faculty from other universities and community members, enjoyed Smith's lecture regarding various aspects of American Indian movements in the 1960s and 1970s. The Collections hopes to partner with the OU Department of History and the Western History Association in the future for more lectures in this series.



The HARRY W. BASS BUSINESS HISTORY COLLECTION



The Harry W. Bass Business History Collection contributes to the mission of the University of Oklahoma by gathering and preserving materials useful to scholars in multiple disciplines. A gift of \$10,000 in 1955 by Harry W. Bass of Dallas provided the money for a special collection that would later be named in his honor. The late Ronald B. Shuman was named the first curator and the collection now contains 25,000 books (approximately 2,000 published before 1850), scholarly journals, microforms, DVDs, oral histories, digitized material, and reference books.

The collection's purpose can be broadly stated to include biographies of business leaders, entrepreneurs, histories of firms, classics in economic literature, and understanding the social, economic, and political forces that influenced the role of business in society. While books in the English language make up the majority of the collection, other languages provide a glimpse of business in the international arena.

Three archival sources provide original data: the J. & W. Seligman and Company, founded in 1864 and one of America's oldest investment banking firms. Publications of Management Horizons, a marketing consulting firm are available. The Robert Kahn papers provide correspondence and copies of his publication, *Retailing Today*, for the collection.

Other scarce materials have been digitized to make them available to researchers outside the university. These include the *Bulletin of the Taylor Society*, correspondence of James J. Hill, and the records of the social science research at the Hawthorne Plant of the Western Electric Company. Print and non-print sources enable those doing research in economic and business history to have a broad spectrum of materials from which to choose.



Oratio Grassi, *Tractatus de sphaera* manuscript (Rome, 1623) See article inside, p. 3

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

July 27, 2013: Book Fair hosted by the Western History Collections, the University of Oklahoma Press, and the Edward Everett Dale Society. Featured highlights include new books published by the OU Press, an exhibit by New Mexico sculptor Curtis Fort, and paintings by Oklahoma artist Janie Deupree.

September 2013: Crossing Cultures, Bizzell Memorial Library 5th floor

October 2013 - January 2014: Johann Kepler and the Scientific Revolution, Bizzell Memorial Library 5th floor

February 2014: Galileo and China, Bizzell Memorial Library 5th floor

For additional information, please contact:
University of Oklahoma Libraries
401 W. Brooks St.
Norman, OK 73019-6030
405-325-2611
<http://libraries.ou.edu>



The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution. www.ou.edu/eoo

This publication, printed by University of Oklahoma Printing Services, is issued by the University of Oklahoma Libraries. 1,000 copies have been prepared and distributed at no cost to the taxpayers of the State of Oklahoma. (6/2013)