

Building a Collections Collaborative at Yale University

Proposal to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Appendix 1

Descriptions of collections

Arts Library: Arts of the Book Collection

The Arts of the Book Collection (AOB) is a research facility housed in the Sterling Memorial Library. The collection contains both examples of and reference materials about the arts related to the book covering topics such as binding, book history, illustration, calligraphy, graphic design, paper making and decorative papers, typography and more. Contemporary examples of artists' books and fine printing are housed alongside more traditional publications. Additionally, AOB is the home to several named collections relating to persons who have significantly contributed to the book arts.

Arts Library: Drama Library

The Drama Library holds more than 30,000 volumes, including plays by American, British, and foreign playwrights, books on the history of theatre, theatre architecture, dramatic criticism, costume and stage design, stage lighting and production, biographies, and related reference books. Periodicals collected range from the most scholarly theatre journals to the weekly trade papers. In addition to theatre, there are books on the other performing arts: film, dance, radio, television, and opera.

Special items in the collection include files of scene design, more than 80,000 theatrical prints and photographs, and bound copies of master's theses and doctoral dissertations from the Drama School. The library has been collecting production books of Drama School productions and scripts from the Repertory Theatre since 1966. There is also a significant collection of School and Repertory Theatre programs and scrapbooks.

Arts Library: Faber Birren Collection of Books on Color

The Faber Birren Collection of Books on Color was presented to Yale University in 1971 by Faber Birren (1900-1988), a leading color authority in the United States. He began the collection early in his career, maintained an active involvement with it throughout his lifetime, and created an endowment to ensure its continued future development. The collection's major holdings are

works on color theory, color techniques, and artists' manuals and treatises, but it encompasses all aspects of color. Thus it includes works about color in such fields as architecture, the decorative arts, printing and the graphic arts, textiles, music, religion, vision, psychology, the sciences, heraldry and the occult. The Birren Collection's holdings of color systems, color standards and color nomenclature are the most extensive to be found anywhere.

Arts Library: Visual Resources Collection

The Slide and Photograph Collection has recently been renamed the Visual Resources Collection to reflect the inclusion of new digital formats as well as the analog formats of the past. The VR Collection is under the aegis of the Arts Library, but is housed in Street Hall, where it is accessible to its main patrons, the departments of History of Art and American Studies, and the schools of Art, Architecture and Drama. The VR Collection is open to any user of the Libraries for study and research purposes. Material is generally only circulated for classroom use. The VR Collection consists of 320,000 slides (including 35 mm and historic 3 x 4 glass lantern slides) and 187,000 photographs. The collection was started over 60 years ago and has been formed by requests for the images needed for classroom instruction at Yale. There are many special groups of photographs that cover specific areas in depth, among them, Chinese painting, Romanesque and Gothic architecture, and Spanish painting. A significant number of the images date to the 19th century and have become valuable in documenting buildings, paintings and sculpture before present-day alteration, damage, cleaning, or restoration. Part of this 19th century collection of photographs includes views of Yale buildings and classrooms. The new digital initiatives will continue to shape the collection by providing the images needed for pedagogical and research requests at Yale.

Babylonian Collection

Some 5000 years ago, writing developed in the lower valley of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, and spread from there to the rest of ancient Mesopotamia, approximately present-day Iraq. The writing, called cuneiform ("wedge-shaped"), spread from there over the entire Near East. The Babylonian Collection houses the largest assemblage of cuneiform inscriptions in the United States, and one of the five largest in the world. The bulk of the inscriptions consist of clay tablets in all sizes and shapes. There are also a number of inscribed monuments on stone and other materials, some of considerable artistic interest, including a large collection of stamp and cylinder seals. In addition, the Collection maintains a complete library in the fields of Assyriology (the study of ancient Mesopotamia), Hittitology (ancient Anatolia, roughly equivalent to modern Turkey), and Near Eastern archaeology. It publishes several monograph series through the Yale University Press. The Collection is primarily for the use of students and faculty in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, but it is also open to visiting scholars and to all interested members of the Yale community and the general public.

Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library

The Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library is Yale University's principal repository for literary papers and for early manuscripts and rare books in the fields of literature, theology, history, and the natural sciences. The Library includes the following collections: General Collection of Books & Manuscripts, the James Osborn Collection, the German Literature Collection, the American Literature Collection, and the Western Americana Collection. As a whole, Beinecke collections afford opportunities for interdisciplinary research in such fields as medieval, Renaissance, and eighteenth-century studies, art history, photography, American studies, the history of printing, and modernism in art and literature.

The General Collection of Early Books and Manuscripts includes Greek and Roman papyri, medieval and Renaissance manuscripts, Near-Eastern manuscripts, and historical archives of English and Italian families. Early printing is represented by nearly 4,000 incunables and an extensive collection of sixteenth-century imprints, with substantial holdings in Greek and Latin classics, Italian, French, English, and Neo-Latin literature, Reformation theology, and New World exploration. Other special holdings include the Mellon Alchemical collection, the Cary Playing Card collection, the Tibetan collection, and the Wagstaff collection of sporting books.

The General Collection of Modern Books and Manuscripts is particularly strong in English literature and history from the seventeenth to the twentieth century, continental European literature and history, books related to travel and exploration, and newspapers, especially British serials of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. There are also large collections relating to Jonathan Edwards, Ezra Stiles, Benjamin Franklin, and American children's literature. Among the British authors represented in depth are Arnold, Bacon, J.M. Barrie, Beckford, Boswell, the Brownings, Byron, Carlyle, Coleridge, Conrad, Defoe, Dickens, George Eliot, Fielding, Gissing, Hardy, Johnson, Joyce, D.H. Lawrence, Meredith, Milton, Pope, Ruskin, G.B. Shaw, Stevenson, Swift, Swinburne, Tennyson, Trollope, Rebecca West, and Wordsworth. In the field of continental literature and history, the library has outstanding holdings related to Tocqueville, Cassirer, Marinetti and Futurism, and the Dada and Surrealist movements, as well as large Slavic collections. The Frederick R. Koch Collection of musical, literary, and historical manuscripts may also be consulted.

The James M. and Marie-Louise Osborn Collection consists of English literary and historical manuscripts from the Anglo-Saxon period to the twentieth century, with particular emphasis on the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and on English poetry. Letters and papers of scholars and antiquaries, such as Edmond Malone, Charles Burney, and many lesser known individuals, are supplemented by historical manuscripts and state papers. A small gathering of scores includes early lute music and autograph manuscripts by Gustav Mahler and such modern English composers as Ralph Vaughan Williams and Benjamin Britten.

The German Literature Collection contains rare books and first editions from the seventeenth through the nineteenth century. The William A. Speck Collection is one of the finest Goethe libraries outside Germany, while the Faber du Faur collection of German baroque literature has long served as a bibliographical source in its field. Lessing, Schiller, Heine, and Rilke have been

collected in depth. Manuscripts include the papers of Hermann Broch, correspondence of the Helen and Kurt Wolff, Thomas Mann manuscripts and letters, and materials relating to Goethe.

The American Literature Collection is noted for its bibliographical strength in nineteenth and early twentieth-century writings. Manuscript holdings for the nineteenth century include works by Bryant, Irving, Cooper, Clemens, and Whitman. Among twentieth-century authors, Sinclair Lewis, Luhan, Wharton, H. D., Pound, Stein, Robert Penn Warren, and Williams are represented by major collections. Also present are the papers of the Société Anonyme and artists Stieglitz, O'Keeffe, Gabo, and Marsden Hartley; Philip Barry, O'Neill, Wilder, and papers of the Theatre Guild and the Phoenix Theatre are among the theatrical holdings. The James Weldon Johnson Collection contains papers of pre-eminent writers of the Harlem Renaissance including Johnson himself, DuBois, Cullen, Hurston, Hughes, McKay, Richard Wright, and Jean Toomer.

The Western Americana Collection consists of books, manuscripts, maps, art, prints, photographs, and printed ephemera which document the exploration, settlement, and development of the Trans-Mississippi West through World War I. The collection, renowned for its holdings in nineteenth-century government surveys of the region, also contains extensive material about the history and culture of Native American communities throughout the West, and on the history of the Spanish Southwest, Texas, the Pacific Northwest, early Mormonism, and the overland trails experience.

Yale Center for British Art

The Yale Center for British Art, both a research institute and a public museum, houses the largest collection of British paintings, sculpture, drawings, prints, and rare books outside Great Britain. Given to Yale University by the late Paul Mellon (Yale Class of 1929), the YCBA is a flourishing center for research and scholarship on all aspects of the history of British art since the 16th century. For additional information about the Center, consult the web site at <http://www.yale.edu/ycba/>

The Paintings and Sculpture collection contains masterpieces by the leading artists who worked in Britain from the 16th century to the present, including Hogarth, Gainsborough, Reynolds, Stubbs, Constable, Turner, and Bonington. British sporting art, the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, the Camden Town School, and the Bloomsbury Group are well represented, together with more recent British art. The Prints and Drawings collection offers a comprehensive view of the development of British graphic art, with an emphasis on the flowering of the British watercolor school. Other areas of interest include architectural drawings, topographical prints, caricatures, and mezzotint portraits. The Center's Reference Library holds materials in a variety of formats supporting the study of British art and related fields including architecture, history, literature, and the performing arts. The Photograph Archive, located within the Reference Library, consists of over 200,000 black-and-white study photographs of British art worldwide, with a special focus on works in United States, Canadian, and Australian collections.

The collection of Rare Books and Manuscripts contains approximately 30,000 titles, consisting of material relating to the visual arts and cultural life in the United Kingdom and former British

Empire from the 16th century to the present. Particular strengths include illustrated “color-plate” books from the renowned J.R. Abbey collection, sporting books and manuscripts, early maps and atlases, early printed books by William Caxton and his contemporaries, private press books and contemporary artist books, drawing manuals, and archival and manuscript material relating to British artists of all periods.

Divinity Library

Special Collections at the Divinity Library include original and microform archival and manuscript resources related to the following areas: Records of Christian missionary activities overseas; records of Protestant Christian religious work among college and university students; personal papers of American clergy, evangelists, and religious leaders, particularly those involved in missions, ecumenical work, or student work, those from the New England area, and those of Congregational background; personal papers of Yale Divinity School faculty, deans, and prominent alumni.

The Special Collections department also oversees the library's rare book, hymnal, Bible, and pamphlet collections.

Lewis Walpole Library

The Lewis Walpole Library, a department of Yale University Library, has significant holdings of eighteenth-century English books, manuscripts, prints, drawings, watercolors and paintings. A leading non-circulating research library for English eighteenth-century studies and the prime source for the study of Horace Walpole, it was bequeathed to Yale by Wilmarth Sheldon Lewis (1895-1979), who devoted his life to collecting the letters and works of Horace Walpole (1717-1797) and to editing the Yale Edition of Horace Walpole's Correspondence, whose 48 volumes opened windows as no other work on the life and culture of Georgian Britain.

Almost every aspect of the eighteenth century is covered by the library's holdings. The centerpiece of the book collections is a considerable portion of Horace Walpole's own library from his house at Strawberry Hill. The library's collection of prints and drawings is particularly strong in caricatures, portraits, and topographical views, including more than 13,000 personal and political satirical prints and drawings from the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Manuscripts and Archives

Manuscripts and Archives promotes and sustains the research and teaching missions of the University and serves as the documentary memory of the Yale community by making primary source materials available for study. The resources and services of Manuscripts and Archives are available to all members of the Yale community as well as to researchers from outside the University who wish to make use of them and the department assists thousands of researchers each year. Manuscripts and Archives has more than 1,700 manuscript collections and archival record groups occupying over 50,000 linear feet of space. Some of the collections have been

microfilmed in whole or in part and comprise 2,500 microfilm reels. There are more than 51,000 volumes relating to Yale and its history and an additional 27,600 volumes of dissertations. In addition to the official records of the university, major highlights of the collection areas and resources include holdings related to the United States, Latin America, Great Britain, South Africa, East Asia, the former Soviet Union and the Middle East. Especially well documented are the fields of U.S. social history, government, law, medical care, science, the environment, journalism, Native Americans, and the history of Yale University.

Manuscripts and Archives: Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies

In 1979, a grassroots organization, the Holocaust Survivors Film Project, began videotaping Holocaust survivors and witnesses in New Haven, Connecticut. In 1981, the original collection of testimonies was deposited at Yale University, and the Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies opened its doors to the public the following year. Since then, the Archive has worked to record, collect, and preserve Holocaust witness testimonies, and to make its collection available to researchers, educators, and the general public.

The Archive currently holds more than 4,100 testimonies, which are comprised of over 10,000 recorded hours of videotape. Testimonies are produced in cooperation with 37 affiliated projects across North America, South America, Europe, and Israel, and each project maintains a duplicate collection of locally recorded videotapes. The Archive and its affiliates continue to record the testimonies of willing individuals with first-hand experience of the Nazi persecutions, including those in hiding, survivors, bystanders, resisters, and liberators. Testimonies are recorded in whatever language the witness prefers, and range in length from one-half hour to 26 hours (recorded over several sessions).

Map Collection

The Collection houses one of the largest university map collections in the country. All types of maps are represented, covering the world from the 15th century to the present. The historical collection includes many landmarks in the history of cartography, and is especially strong in early (pre-1850) maps of the United States.

Medical Historical Library

The Library contains a large and unique collection of rare medical books, medical journals to 1920, pamphlets, prints, and photographs, as well as current works on the history of medicine. The library was founded in 1940 by the donations of the extensive collections of Harvey Cushing, John F. Fulton, and Arnold C. Klebs. Special strengths are the works of Hippocrates, Galen, Vesalius, Boyle, Harvey, and S. Weir Mitchell, and works on anesthesia, and smallpox inoculation and vaccination. The Library owns over 300 medical incunabula. The notable Clements C. Fry Print Collection has fine prints and drawings from the 16th century to the present on medical subjects by artists such as Gillray, the Cruikshanks, Hogarth, and Daumier. The Peter Parker Collection contains manuscripts of the 19th century medical missionary Peter

Parker and paintings by the artist Lam-Qua of patients at Canton Hospital with pronounced pathological conditions. The Edward Clark Streeter Collection of Weights and Measures is one of the most comprehensive and extensive collections of its kind in the world. Parts of this collection are on permanent display throughout the Library.

Music Library

In addition to its regular collections of books, scores, periodicals, and recordings, the Irving S. Gilmore Music Library possesses a remarkable array of special collections, including approximately 4,000 linear feet of archival materials, 500 individual music manuscripts, 45,000 pieces of sheet music, and 50,000 photographs. The Library owns a large number of rare books and scores printed before 1850; its holdings are particularly strong in historical treatises on music theory, as well as early publications of opera scores, chamber music, and works for keyboard and plucked-string instruments.

The Music Library's archival collections emphasize American music (including classical, jazz, and musical theater) and German music between the two World Wars, and feature the papers of Charles Ives, Benny Goodman, Vladimir Horowitz, Kurt Weill and Lotte Lenya, and Virgil Thomson. The Paul Hindemith Collection focuses on the composer's American years, while the Plaut and Dance Archives contain thousands of photographs of classical and jazz musicians. Individual manuscript holdings include autograph manuscripts by J.S. Bach, Frederic Chopin, Johannes Brahms, Robert Schumann, and Franz Liszt.

Music Library: Historical Sound Recordings

The Yale Collection of Historical Sound Recordings seeks to collect, preserve, and make available for study historical recordings of performers important in Western classical music, jazz, American musical theater, drama, literature, history, and oratory. HSR holds more than 200,000 recordings in a variety of formats, from the beginning of the recording era to the present. It also contains a library of printed materials and microforms offering information about composers, performers, and the recording industry. HSR administers the American Musical Theatre Collection, which incorporates the Cole Porter and E.Y. Harburg Collections as well as other scores, sheet music, manuscripts, books, memorabilia, and recordings.

Oral History, American Music

Oral History, American Music (OHAM) was founded in 1972, following an oral history project with those who knew and worked with composer Charles Ives. This project originated as an adjunct to the Yale Music Library's Ives Collection of papers and manuscripts. After the success of the Ives project, OHAM was created to obtain memoirs from American composers and those who knew them. It is the only ongoing project in the field of music dedicated to the collection and preservation of oral and video memoirs directly in the voices of those who make our musical history. In addition to creating these invaluable primary source materials, OHAM functions as an

archive where the tapes and transcripts are preserved and made available to a wide range of users.

Peabody Museum of Natural History: Archives

The collections of Yale's Peabody Museum of Natural History consist of more than 11,000,000 objects ranging from minute marine organisms to telescopes, ancient Egyptian mummies, and giant dinosaur bones. Beginning with Benjamin Silliman and the historically important mineral collection he put together in the early 19th century, a systematic effort has been made to procure specimens forming the material basis for teaching, research, and exhibition in all realms of natural history and anthropology. The museum ranks in the top dozen natural history museums in the western world in terms of size and breadth of its collections, which are maintained in eleven curatorial divisions housed in four neighboring buildings.

The Vertebrate Paleontology collection, begun by O. C. Marsh, is one of the most important collections of the Museum and the third largest in the nation. It contains the original specimens of such familiar dinosaurs as *Brontosaurus*, *Stegosaurus*, and *Triceratops*, all on public display. Invertebrate Paleontology is strongest in American Paleozoic material. Invertebrate Zoology is based on the 19th century U.S. Fish Commission oceanic collections. Entomology's million specimens center on butterflies and moths and evolutionary processes. The Herbarium contains more than 350,000 plant specimens and the Paleobotany Collection holds the world's largest collection of cycadeoids, an extinct group of Mesozoic plants. Vertebrate Zoology consists of five distinct collections: fish, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and especially birds, which are represented by 120,000 specimens of 70% of the world's species. Mineralogy and Meteorites contain important historic material from around the world; Benjamin Silliman's published description of the Weston, Connecticut meteorite, the first documented fall of the New World (1807), brought international fame to him and to Yale. Historical Scientific Instruments includes a Culpepper-type microscope acquired by Yale in 1734. Anthropology, also begun by O. C. Marsh, has its strengths in ethnological and archaeological holdings of the New World, Egypt, Southeast Asia, and Oceania.

None of these specimens would be of any scientific or historic value without documentation of its provenance—how it was found, collected, caught, or excavated, where, when, and by whom. Each division maintains its own archives which typically include correspondence, field notes, maps, drawings, photographs, and publications relating to its holdings. For instance, in connection with the artifacts collected by the Yale Peruvian expeditions to Machu Picchu in 1912 and 1914-15, Anthropology has all the paper and photographic documentation Hiram Bingham and his crew produced during the excavations, which includes field notebooks containing daily handwritten site records, hundreds of original topographical and site maps drawn in pencil and/or ink on tracing paper, thousands of black and white photographs in different sizes, ranging from 3 by 5 inch prints to enormous panorama prints, many of which are bound in albums 18 inches by 4 feet, and film and glass plate negatives. These are primary excavation documents and thus form a rich resource about the excavation of the site and its artifacts. Over the years this material has been of great interest to scholars from a variety of

fields, including archaeology and history, and complements the extensive papers of the expeditions that are housed in the Yale Library.

Much other material exists in the Yale Library relating to the Museum's collections; e.g., in the papers of Benjamin Silliman, J. D. Dana, G. J. Brush, O. C. Marsh, Charles Schuchert, Carl O. Dunbar, G. R. Wieland, and other faculty members, as well as in the records of Yale's Geology Department.

Yale Art Gallery

The Yale University Art Gallery is the oldest college art museum in the United States. Founded in 1832 with the gift by Colonel John Trumbull of his paintings of the American Revolution, the Gallery has grown to include more than 100,000 works of art from virtually every culture from ancient times to the present. Known worldwide for its collections of American art, the Jarves Collection of early Italian paintings, the finds excavated at the ancient Roman city of Dura-Europos, and the Société Anonyme Collection of early twentieth-century European and American art formed by Katherine Dreier and Marcel Duchamp, the Gallery and its collections continue to grow through the generosity of its many donors and friends. Individual curatorial departments provide access to collections in the following fields: African Art, American Decorative Arts, American Paintings and Sculpture, Ancient Art (including the Mediterranean and the ancient Americas), Asian Art, Coins and Medals, Early European Art, Modern and Contemporary Art, and Prints, Drawings, and Photographs. The museum archives are available by appointment with the archivist.