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Syracuse University Library Associates

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Modernism from Right to Left: Wallace Stevens, the Thirties, and Radicalism
By Alan Filreis, Associate Professor of English, University of Pennsylvania

Adam Badeau’s “The Story of the Merrimac and the Monitor”
By Robert J. Schneller, Jr., Historian, Naval Historical Center

A Marcel Breuer House Project of 1938–1939
By Isabelle Hyman, Professor of Fine Arts, New York University

Traveler to Arcadia: Margaret Bourke-White in Italy, 1943–1944
By Randall I. Bond, Art Librarian, Syracuse University Library

The Punctator’s World: A Discursion (Part Seven)
By Gwen G. Robinson, Editor, Syracuse University Library Associates Courier

News of the Syracuse University Library and the Library Associates
Phyllis Freeman Poushter and David L. Poushter: We honor you today for your generous gift of fore-edge paintings to the Syracuse University Library.

Natives of Syracuse, graduates of Nottingham High School and of Syracuse University—Phyllis as an illustration major in the College of Art and David as a physician trained in the College of Medicine—you have both contributed much to this community since your return in 1953. Your gifts are best known by those closest to you: your family and friends, those in your synagogue, and your professional colleagues and patients. Your passion for books and particularly for those exotic specimens possessed of paintings hidden under the gilt on their fore-edges sprang from Phyllis’s childhood love of such books in her own family’s library. Book collecting soon, if not immediately, became a shared passion after a visit, more than thirty years ago, to the rare book department of J. L Hudson Department Store where you acquired a copy of Byron’s *Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage*, the first of what was to become a collection numbering one hundred thirty-five volumes containing more than one hundred fifty painted scenes.

Your fascination with fore-edge paintings took you back to Hudson’s and to such other fine establishments as Witherspoon’s, Totteridge’s, Hartfield’s, and Bartfield’s. In your search for books so uniquely embellished you traveled both widely and close to home. Your book collecting expeditions not only brightened up many medical conferences but also, after nearly thirty years of focused and discriminating collecting, yielded one of the finest collections of fore-edge paintings ever assembled.
Phyllis and David Poushter, recipients of the 1992 Post-Standard Award, with David Starn at the Library Associates December 1991 Chancellor’s Holiday Reception.

In presenting this valuable collection to the Syracuse University Library you make available to present and future generations of students an extraordinary gathering of beautifully painted books. It is most fitting that you should jointly receive the 1992 Post-Standard Award for Distinguished Service to the Syracuse University Library.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Noted below are selected additions to the historical and graphic arts collections in the George Arents Research Library.

DePol, John

In 1959, wood engraver John DePol presented the Library with a collection of his work and designated Syracuse University as the repository for his papers. Mr. DePol’s engraving of three eighteenth-century men examining a book in a library appeared on the caption title of the first number of this journal in April
1958 and has been employed as the Library Associates emblem for thirty-four years. Recently, Mr. DePol, a Life Member of Library Associates, contributed an extensive collection of books, pamphlets, and keepsakes, together with a large number of his original prints. These materials join the DePol Collection of prints, books, proofs, sketches, and wood blocks first established by the artist more than thirty years ago. The collection now provides an extensive record of the career of one of America’s pre-eminent wood engravers. Gift of John DePol.

Fore-edge Paintings
With a recent gift of 128 volumes, the Library now has one of the world’s largest collections of fore-edge paintings, an art form that dates from mid-seventeenth-century England. The paintings on these books, typically portraits of literary figures, landscapes or buildings, are revealed by fanning the edges opposite the bindings. In this collection the oldest volume, dated 1728, is a copy of De Structura Orationis, a book of literary composition and rhetoric by the ancient Greek writer Dionysius. The edition marks the first publication of this work in England. It contains text in the original Greek with Latin translations on the facing pages. Also included are works by Samuel Johnson, Milton, and Cervantes. Gift of David L. and Phyllis Freeman Poushter.

Munsell Collection
In 1984 Henry S. Bannister gave the Library his extensive collection of books and pamphlets printed by Joel Munsell (1808–1880) of Albany. An exceptional printer and discriminating publisher, Munsell produced some of the finest books in mid-nineteenth-century America. Munsell’s scholarly and antiquarian interests, his concern for typography and design, and his passion to preserve historical documents through print were uncharacteristic of the majority of nineteenth-century American printers. Towards the end of his career, Munsell published his Bibliotheca Munselliana (1872). A fascinating document, it catalogs the products of the press for the period 1828 to 1870. However, many items were omitted, and there is no record of the work is-
sued by the press for the years after 1871. Munsell continued to produce books until his death on 15 January 1880. The press was carried on by his son Frank until 1895 when, because of declining business, the presses were sold. Other members of the Munsell family continued to issue occasional pieces, until the last known work carrying the Joel Munsell’s Sons imprint was issued in 1950.

Since the mid-1950s Mr. Bannister, assisted by his wife Olive until her death, has collected Munsell imprints; and beginning in 1980, the Bannisters began systematically to compile a bibliographical record of the Munsell firm’s output. Their bibliography now includes 3694 entries for the period 1825 to 1950, which is a 61 percent increase over the 2280 entries in Munsell’s own Bibliotheca. Over the last eight years, as a result of Mr. Bannister’s many gifts and of purchases made possible by Library Associates, the Syracuse collection of Munsell imprints now numbers 525 titles and represents one of the major collections in the country. Recently, Munsell’s biographer, David S. Edelstein, and Professor David Tatham presented the Library with additional Munsell imprints.

These Munsell books and pamphlets are listed below. It should be noted that the Library also has received a large number of minor Munsell imprints, including almanacs, city directories, school and college catalogs, church and fraternal constitutions, membership lists and by-laws, none of which are individually listed here. Unless otherwise noted, the following publications bear Munsell’s Albany imprint.


Bleeker, Leonard. *The Order Book of Capt. Leonard Bleeker, Major*


Early Voyages Up and Down the Mississippi by Cavelier, St. Cosme, Le Sueur, Gravier, and Guignas with an Introduction, Notes, and an Index by John Gilmary Shea (1861). Purchased with Library Associates funds.


Hyde, Alvan. A Sermon, Delivered at the Funeral of Mr. Nathan Ball, Who Departed this Life December 29th 1797 in the 62nd Year of His Age (1862). Purchased with Library Associates funds.


Neill, Edward Duffield. *Biographical Sketch of Doctor Jonathan Potts, Director General of the Hospitals of the Northern and Middle Department in the War of the Revolution, With Extracts from His Correspondence* (1863). Purchased with Library Associates funds.


Wallace, John William. *An Address Delivered at the Celebration by the New York Historical Society, May 20, 1863, of the Two Hun-
dredth Birth Day of Mr. William Bradford, Who Introduced the Art of Printing into the Middle Colonies of British America (1863). Gift of David S. Edelstein.


New York Society for the Suppression of Vice

*Annual Report*. Vols. 1–53 (1875–1926). The New York Society for the Suppression of Vice was founded in 1873 by Anthony Comstock, its leader for forty years until his death in 1915. The
Title with vignettes illustrating Syracuse's salt works and the First Presbyterian Church from an 1852 wall map of Onondaga County.

first such organization in the country, the Society enjoyed considerable support throughout the last decades of the nineteenth century, though it was not universally popular. The tighter postal obscenity law, passed by Congress in 1873, and similar state statutes came about through Comstock's vigorous lobbying efforts, and the resultant body of law became known as "Comstock laws". The work of the Society is summarized in these annual reports, which include statistics on activities such as the following: "Indecent playing cards destroyed"; "Obscene pictures, framed, on walls of saloons seized and destroyed"; "Miles traveled by Agent outside N.Y. City"; "Microscopic Pictures for charms, knives, etc. seized and destroyed"; and "Ob-scene plays stopped, or Places of Amusement closed". Purchased with Library Associates funds.

Onondaga County

Map of Onondaga County, New York, from Actual Surveys. By
L. Fagan under the Direction of Sidney & Neff (Syracuse: E. H. Babcock & Co., 1852). A hand-colored wall map detailing land ownership in the county and showing buildings, names of occupants, roads and toll gates, canals, waterways, and railroads. This is perhaps the first printed land-ownership map of Onondaga County. *Purchased with Library Associates funds.*

Mark F. Weimer  
Curator of Special Collections
PROGRAM FOR 1992–93

The Syracuse University Library Associates program for the academic year 1992–93 will be as follows:

September 25, 1992
Friday, 4 p.m.
1916 Room, Bird Library

October 23, 1992
Friday, 4 p.m.
1916 Room, Bird Library

November 5–7, 1992
Thursday–Saturday
1916 Room, Bird Library
(times to be announced)

November 10, 1992
Tuesday, 4 p.m.
1916 Room, Bird Library

December 11, 1992
Friday, 5 p.m.
Chancellor’s Residence
300 Comstock Avenue

December 12, 1992
Saturday, 12:00 noon
600 Bird Library
(Exhibition closes 3/31/93)

February 11, 1993
Thursday, 4 p.m.
1916 Room, Bird Library

Thomas Pinney
Professor of English, Pomona College
Editor, *The Letters of Rudyard Kipling*
KIPLING AT SYRACUSE

Paul R. Dolan
Director, ABC News, NewsOne Services
WILLOWBROOK: TWENTY YEARS AFTER

Book Sale
Co-sponsored by the Library Associates and the Syracuse University Library

Ian Willison
Editor, *Cambridge History of the Book in Britain*
ASPECTS OF PRINTING AND PUBLISHING IN GREAT BRITAIN

Chancellor’s Holiday Reception
(By invitation to members only)

“SAY! DIS IS GRATE STUFF”:
THE YELLOW KID AND THE BIRTH OF THE AMERICAN COMIC
Exhibition opening

Amanda Porterfield
Professor of Religion
Syracuse University
RECURRING TENDENCIES IN THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN CHRISTIAN WOMEN

169
March 25, 1993
Thursday, 4 p.m.
1916 Room, Bird Library

Richard D. Olson
Research Professor of Psychology
University of New Orleans
Keynote Address to The Yellow Kid Exhibition
THE YELLOW KID AND THE BIRTH OF
THE AMERICAN COMIC

May 14, 1993
Friday, 12 noon
Goldstein Student Center
South Campus

Spring Luncheon and Annual Meeting
Dr. Patricia Donlon
Director, National Library of Ireland
IN MEMORIAM

After a courageous battle with cancer, EILEEN SNYDER died on November 23, 1991. Not long before, in a Courier essay on nineteenth-century explorer-naturalists, she had observed that the questing spirit is irrepressible. Now, in sadness, we reflect on how well these words also apply to her. She was a remarkable person—warm-hearted, generous, blessed with wide-ranging intellectual and artistic interests—a person who never lacked the determination and willingness to undertake what others could not or would not tackle. As Geology and Physics Librarian, she served the Syracuse University community with unusual understanding and energy. All who knew her remember her smile and her friendly good cheer. In particular, the Library Associates, for whom she worked hard as author of Courier articles, Program Chairman for six years, and instigator of and laborer for our annual Book Fair, are affectionately and sorely missing her.
THE SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ASSOCIATES, founded in 1933, is a society whose efforts are devoted to the enrichment of the Syracuse University Library and especially the rare book and manuscript collections. The Associates make it possible to strengthen these collections through the acquisition of unusual books, manuscripts, and other research materials that are rare and often of such value that the Library would not otherwise be able to acquire them.

Those with an interest in history, literature, book collecting, and the graphic arts are welcome to join the Associates. Perquisites of membership include general use of the Syracuse University Library’s facilities, as well as invitations to exhibitions, Associates-sponsored lectures, and special events of the University Library. Members at the patron level may borrow books. In addition, all members will receive our incidental publications, typographic keepsakes, and the *Syracuse University Library Associates Courier*, a semiannual publication that contains articles related to unusual and interesting aspects of the Library’s holdings and, in particular, to rare books, manuscripts, and archival collections in the George Ar- ents Research Library.

SUGGESTED MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS are as follows: Benefactor, $500; Sustaining member, $200; Patron, $100; Individual member, $50; Faculty and Staff of Syracuse University, $35; Senior citizen, $25; Students, $15. Checks, made payable to Syracuse University Library Associates, should be sent to the Secretary, 600 E. S. Bird Library, Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y. 13244-2010. For further information about the programs and activities of the Library Associates, telephone (315) 443-2697.

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