

News from the Midwest

Assistant Editors: Alexandra Bisio, University of Oregon, and Lois Hamill, Northern Kentucky University. Please submit News from the Midwest items for Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Ohio to Alexandra at bisio@uoregon.edu and items from Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, and Wisconsin to Lois at hamill1@nku.edu. Submissions must be 150 words or less. Images are welcome!

ILLINOIS

Chicago Province of the Society of the Divine Word Archives

The Archives of the Chicago Province of the Society of the Divine Word is pleased to announce its new digital exhibit, *Empowered by the Word: 125 Years of the Society of the Divine Word in North America* (<https://scalar.usc.edu/works/svd125>). Founded by St. Arnold Janssen, the Society of the Divine Word has more than 6,000 members worldwide who serve in 80 countries. The congregation is the largest Roman Catholic order to focus on missionary work. On October 15, 1895, the first SVDs landed in New Jersey. Since then, Divine Word Missionaries have been champions of racial equality and trailblazers in religious intercultural living. *Empowered by the Word* includes information about the 1920 founding of the first Catholic seminary for African American men; the foundation of immigrant ministries in Canada; the welcoming of Vietnamese refugees during the 1970s and 1980s; and the missionaries' impact in Appalachia's poorest communities. Please contact archives@uscsvd.org with any questions or comments.

Illinois State University

Milner Library at Illinois State University is participating in the Program for Cooperative Cataloging Wikidata Pilot Project (https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:WikiProject_PCC_Wikidata_Pilot/Illinois_State_University) as part of its collaborative work with the Ringling Archives and Circus World Museum on the

Step Right Up: Digitizing Over 100 Years of Circus Route Books (<https://library.illinoisstate.edu/collections/circus-route-books/>) CLIR Grant. For this portion of the project, Name Authority Records and Wikidata items will be created for prominent performers and circuses in the digitized route books, with a focus on performers from historically underrepresented and marginalized groups. This will disambiguate performer names and create linked data that can be used by patrons and scholars in their research. PCC Wikidata Pilot team members are Angela Yon as PI, Liz Hartman, Pete Steadman, Mariah Wahl, and Eric Willey.



Cover of the route book for the Carl Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus for the 1916 season.

Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

In December, the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) of Southern Illinois University Carbondale

was awarded the 2019 SIU System Diversity Excellence Award for its Reclaiming the African American Heritage of Southern Illinois Project. The project works with individuals and organizations in the African American community to document their lives, interests, concerns, activities, and history. So far, a dozen archival collections and several oral history interviews have been deposited in SCRC as part of the project. The original project team members were Pam Hackbart-Dean, director of Special Collections; Walter Ray, political papers archivist; Dr. Pamela Smoot of the SIU Department of History; and Carbondale community member Pepper Holder.



Pepper Holder, Pam Smoot, and Walter Ray receive the 2019 SIU Diversity Excellence Award from SIU Board of Trustees president Phil Gilbert, December 4, 2019. Photo by Steve Buhman.

IOWA

University of Iowa

University of Iowa Libraries recently wrapped up its Summer Seminar Series, a summer series where Special Collections and Archives staff talked about what they know best: the collection! The talks, ranging from science fiction fans, women's suffrage, Prohibition, racial injustice in Iowa, and Peter Rabbit, were all

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

given live Wednesdays and Fridays over Zoom in June and July. They were recorded and put on Special Collections' YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmZiU7S15QUFNsZlqgVuvXA>.

Iowa Women's Archives' blog post series on Black Women in Iowa continued through the summer, ending with graduate assistant Erik Henderson's blog on Esther Walls (<https://blog.lib.uiowa.edu/iwa/2020/06/15/esther-walls-the-role-of-a-black-leader/>). Walls was one of five women who integrated Currier Hall at the State University of Iowa in 1946. After graduation, she became a librarian and built a career with international reach. Her papers are available in their entirety on the Iowa Digital Library (<https://digital.lib.uiowa.edu>).



Esther Walls. University of Iowa Libraries, Iowa Women's Archives.

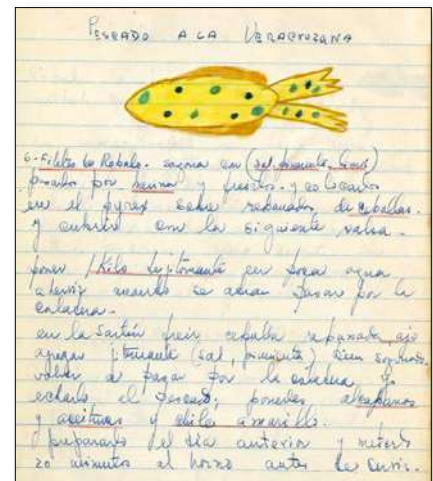


KANSAS

Kansas State University

The Richard L. D. & Marjorie J. Morse Department of Special Collections at Kansas State University Libraries is working with volunteers to transcribe some of its more than 250 manuscript cookbooks, which date from the late 1600s to the 21st century and are in a variety of languages including German, French, Spanish, and Hebrew. Using From the Page (<https://fromthepage.com/kstatelibraries/manuscript-cookbooks>),

the project is being made possible by the department's Jean F. Caul Access to Cookery endowment. Associate Professor Roger Adams (rcadams@ksu.edu), cookery collection curator and project lead said, "A key goal of this project is to share the wealth of cooking knowledge over the centuries for anyone in the world to view. The information in these cookbooks is too important to not make widely available." Crowdsourced transcription of additional digital images from the department's manuscript collections is a long-term goal, and the cookbooks are the initial project.



A page from a Spanish manuscript cookbook, written between the 1940s and 1960s, features a recipe for Pescado a la Veracruzana, or Veracruz-Style Red Snapper, a classic dish that incorporates Spanish and precolonial Mexican ingredients and cooking methods.

Pittsburg State University

The Special Collections and University Archives at Pittsburg State University (Kansas) is holding a digital and on-site exhibit of artwork by the late and noted sports artist Ted Watts (1942–2015). Watts, an alumni of PSU (1966), created game-day program covers and sports media guide covers for universities across the United States, as well as portraits of famous coaches and athletes. He also produced western art works and non-sports art; however, he is likely best remembered for the many team program covers and artworks for posters that featured team schedules. To view the online exhibit, please visit <https://digitalcommons.pittstate.edu/watts/>. This exhibit serves as the annual Gene DeGruson Memorial Lecture for 2020, in honor of the original head of the Special Collections & University Archives at PSU.



Ted Watts's program covers for various collegiate football teams. Photo by Steven Cox.

KENTUCKY

Northern Kentucky University

The Special Collections and University Archives has been working to write new finding aids for and deliver new resources via the NKU Digital Repository at <https://dspace.nku.edu/>. The newest digital collection is the MS-40 Bruce Family Papers, with finding aid, which discusses the life of a large, nineteenth-century Covington, family involved in business, banking, agriculture, and the Roebling Bridge construction. This is a very rich collection with depth in a number of areas including enslavement; the Civil War; national politics and presidential elections; women's writing about their daily lives raising families, sick children, gardening, preserving food; health issues including cholera outbreaks; and funeral arrangements for a family member in Linden Grove Cemetery.

MICHIGAN

Mid-Michigan Digital Practitioners

The Mid-Michigan Digital Practitioners (MMDP) continues to do what it does best: connecting archivists, librarians, curators, historians, digital humanities experts, and other professionals and students across Michigan. Because of the public health

emergency, the MMDP didn't hold a spring meeting, but it did hold a couple of virtual meet-ups through the spring and summer to bring the MMDP community together and share experiences about working from home, dealing with job cuts at members' institutions, or returning to a physical workspace. On December 3, the MMDP hosted its first-ever fully virtual meeting and welcomed newcomers who might not have been able to travel to past MMDP meetings. This past September, four years after winning an NDSA Innovation Award in 2016, the MMDP was interviewed by NDSA as part of a series of check-ins with past award winners. Find the write-up on the NDSA blog at ndsas.org/news.

MINNESOTA

American Swedish Institute

In 2019, the American Swedish Institute (ASI) received a two-year grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to fully preserve and make accessible its archival collections. This project will allow complete access to materials in the archives for the first time in ASI's 90-year history, encouraging research on Swedish American life and the universal nature of the immigrant experience.

Although the past year has been challenging, the project archivists are on track to finish processing collections encompassing ASI's history and founding by newspaper magnate Swan J. Turnblad. In the next year, the team looks forward to processing personal and heritage collections, which pertain to the lives of Swedish immigrants, and document the dozens of Scandinavian cultural groups founded in Minnesota.

MISSOURI

University of Missouri–Kansas City Special Collections and Archives

Photographs from the Children's Mercy Hospital Collection are now available in UMKC's Digital Special Collections. The not-for-profit hospital was founded in Kansas City in 1897. The collection features photos of patients, staff, and volunteers throughout the hospital's history. An exhibit cocurated by the American Jazz Museum and UMKC Libraries' Special Collections and Archives celebrated the 100th birthday of KC native and jazz legend Charlie Parker in August. Finally, an interdisciplinary team of scholars (Virginia Blanton, English; Yugi Lee, computer science; Chu Li, computer science; Nathan Oyler, chemistry; and Jeffrey Rydberg-Cox, English) at UMKC received a \$324,317 NEH grant for their project "Unlocking the Mysteries of a Medieval Chant Book with Multispectral Imaging," which will analyze, among other documents, the collection's Adair Chant Book.



Nurses, Children's Mercy Hospital Collection, UMKC Libraries, LaBuddle Special Collections.

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

NEBRASKA

University of Nebraska–Omaha

The UNO Libraries recently welcomed the Omaha Magical Society’s library to Archives and Special Collections. The club’s members had built a collection of books, periodicals, pamphlets, and organizational records, some of which date back to the nineteenth century and cover topics including magicians, sleight-of-hand techniques, and the history of magic. The 1,200-volume library makes the historical study of regional, national, and international magic increasingly accessible. Researchers in the study of recreation and leisure activities, the evolution of local and international entertainment and performance, gender roles, gambling, and other topics will find the collection of interest. The donation from the Omaha Magical Society to the UNO Libraries was not just conjured out of thin air. According to the Omaha Magical Society president Dave Arch, “By housing the library at UNO, the Omaha Magical Society hopes that many others will now be able to also access this resource.”



1953 version of Annemann’s Practical Mental Effects by Theodore Annemann

OHIO

University of Cincinnati

University of Cincinnati Libraries is in the process of digitizing the James B. and John J. McNamara papers, part of the Archives and Rare Books Library’s Urban Studies collections. Three of the sixteen boxes are now available, and several more will be ready soon. The collection includes correspondence, newspaper articles, ephemera, and photographs of the two brothers who were early twentieth-century radical labor activists. Originally from Cincinnati, the McNamara brothers gained notoriety for the deadly bombing of the Los Angeles Times Building in 1910 in protest against the newspaper’s virulently anti-union publisher Harrison Gray Otis. They were represented by the attorney Clarence Darrow. Found guilty, the brothers were sentenced to San Quentin Prison. The collection includes correspondence with many important figures such as Clarence Darrow, Upton Sinclair, Mother Jones, Samuel Gompers, and Alexander Berkman. You can access the collection on the UC Libraries Digital Resource Commons.



SOUTH DAKOTA

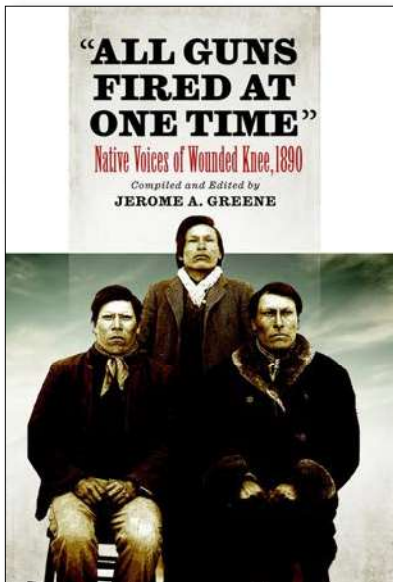
Augustana University, Center for Western Studies

The Center for Western Studies (CWS) at Augustana University recently collaborated with university faculty, Flandreau Indian School (FIS), and the Washington Pavilion in Sioux Falls on a unique archives-based exhibition project called *Re-Presenting Native American Archival Histories*. High school students from FIS and two university undergraduates researched in the center’s Native American photograph collections and selected materials to repurpose into new artworks, culminating in a public exhibition at the Washington Pavilion, South Dakota’s premier arts center, from August to November 2020. A primary goal of the project was giving the students an opportunity to “re-present” historical Native American photography from their own perspectives—the vast majority of the center’s Native American materials were created by white missionaries. Assistant Professors Carolyn Ly-Donovan (sociology) and Anna Reich (art) guided the students in critical analysis and art production. This project was funded by a \$10,000 Humanities Research for the Public Good grant from the Council of Independent Colleges.

South Dakota State Historical Society

The society’s latest book, *“All Guns Fired at One Time”: Native Voices of Wounded Knee, 1890*, compiled and edited by Jerome A. Greene, sets aside official narratives of what was once called a “battle” and centers instead on the voices of survivors and witnesses. Historians and others have long debated events surrounding the Wounded Knee Massacre

of December 1890, which followed decades of conflict between American Indians and the United States Army in the West. Government officials, reporters, and white Americans quickly appropriated the tragedy that took place on Wounded Knee Creek in South Dakota, creating narratives that echoed long-standing federal Indian policy. In addition to extensive first-person accounts, Greene assembles an array of little-known newspaper stories, interviews, correspondence, and testimony, setting them in the context of the days and moments leading to the massacre and the landscape on which it occurred. Together, these sources add a new dimension to the story of what really happened at Wounded Knee. “These accounts, largely dismissed shortly after the event and overshadowed by the versions presented from the military perspective, are primary sources of great historical value and consequence,” said historian R. Eli Paul, who has written extensively on Wounded Knee and the army in the West. “They are essential for understanding this (still) controversial event.”



WISCONSIN

University of Wisconsin— Milwaukee

UWM Archives fieldworker and School of Information Science graduate student James Sterner has undertaken a review of the metadata for one of the archives' most valuable digital collections, the March on Milwaukee. This digital collection was first created in 2010 to document the 200 consecutive nights of open housing marches and civil rights protests in Milwaukee organized by the NAACP Youth Council of Milwaukee which took place from 1967 to 1968. Sterner is using the Anti-Racist Description Guidelines (https://archivesforblacklives.files.wordpress.com/2019/10/ardr_final.pdf) from the Archives for Black Lives in Philadelphia to de-euphemize the history of violence against Black communities and to highlight the voices of Black leaders in the struggle for civil rights by improving name access to previously undescribed figures from the protests. These revisions will more fully convey the history of this chapter in Milwaukee's history and the Black leaders whose activism led to nationwide attention.