Libraries Receives Rare Book Collection

In 1839 the Duke of Bedford had 100 presentation copies of “Pinetum Woburnense,” a book on pine trees, printed as gifts for his wife and friends.

One of those copies, 117 other rare books and 240 cartons of scholarly journals are part of a collection recently donated to the University Libraries by Dr. D.K. Bailey. Valued at more than $100,000, the collection consists of books about science and nature that date from the 1700s through the 1900s. Many contain hand painted, color lithographs and illustrations.

Bailey, botanist, physicist and explorer, has collected books about the study of plants, particularly conifers, since 1937. He became interested in rare books while studying as a Rhodes scholar at Oxford University. Many of the books in the collection were purchased in England.

The Bailey collection covers the botanical sciences of North America as well as Great Britain, Africa, France, and Ireland. The addition of these works to Colorado State University Libraries significantly complements the collection of original botanical pieces already owned. They provide a valuable link between the work of early botanists and the modern world of plant science.

This remarkable collection of scientific works is the most valuable contribution of books ever received by the University Libraries. It is housed in Special Collections in Morgan Library.

The Libraries continually seeks to enhance existing collections with the addition of private special collections. For further information please contact Joel Rutstein, Collection Development Officer, 491-1838.

Jean McBride, Director of Development

The News You Never Saw

"Don’t be afraid of students, because we still have several million troops. There is no need for us to care about influence abroad. As long as our social order is stable, our image will be improved." Cynical yet image-conscious, Deng Xiaoping’s words were reported May 10, 1989, nearly a month before the slaughter on Tiananmen Square.

Don’t be surprised if you missed the story. It appeared in Chinese in the Hong Kong Ching Pao. It wasn’t overlooked by a U.S. agency, the Foreign Broadcast Information Service. The FBIS Daily Report selects, translates, and transcribes current news from local sources around the world. The information originates as foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency reports, newspaper articles, and interviews. The material is translated within 72 hours, published in microfiche, and distributed to federal depository libraries such as Morgan Library. The accumulated primary source materials constitutes a massive collection of social, political, and economic news. In many instances it is also a fascinating look at state control.

The FBIS Daily Report began in the 1950s as a CIA intelligence gathering function and has gradually evolved into an unclassified source of foreign reporting. Morgan Library receives all eight parts of the service: China, East Europe, the Soviet Union, East Asia, the Near East and South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and Western Europe. It is of interest to those doing research in Political Science, Mass Media, and most aspects of Area Studies.

If you would like to know more than what’s reported on the wire services, contact Fred Schmidt, 491-1881, or Suzanne Taylor, 491-1880, in Morgan Library’s Government Documents Department, about the FBIS collection and its index.

John Schmitt, Head, Social Sciences and Humanities Department

Did You Know?

The borrowing and copying of books was encouraging by the 4th Lateran Council of 1215. At one monastery, books were lent only to borrowers who returned the original with a fair copy. The librarian-monk then retired the original to the research collection and circulated only the copy.