New Medieval Manuscript Acquisition

Thanks to the generous support of the Saint Louis University Library Associates, the Special Collections Department has acquired its first example of a canon law text for the teaching collection of medieval and Renaissance manuscripts. Designated as MS 59, the new acquisition is a bifolium (two conjoint leaves) rescued from a binding, originally from an early fourteenth-century Italian illuminated manuscript of the Liber sextus decretalium, promulgated by Pope Boniface VIII on March 3, 1298. One page of this fragment constitutes the opening passage to the manuscript where a large illuminated B for Boniface, on a gold ground, displays two shields with upright bears. The colors of this initial point to Tuscany as the place of production; the bears represent the arms of an owner whose name is yet to be discovered. The central text is surrounded by standard commentary, or gloss, which made it so useful to medieval students of canon law. Additional commentaries and notes were written in the margins over the years, proof that the manuscript was actively used by students and teachers for a long period of time. This new acquisition will be especially interesting to professors and students of history, theology, and art history, for the textual and artistic evidence it presents.
Rare Book Collection Grows with New Titles

Special Collections has just strengthened its holdings with new titles. Thanks to a gift from the Saint Louis University Library Associates, the department was able to purchase two additions to its extensive rare book collection in the field of Jesuitica. The first is a very rare first edition of *Tractatus theologicus* by Tirso Gonzalez de Santalla, S.J., printed in 1688—a work in which the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception is strongly defended and the history of the controversies surrounding it is summarized. The second acquisition is a volume containing two works of virulent anti-Jesuit propaganda (*Origem infecta da relaxacao da moral dos denominados jesuitas* and *Doutrinas da Igreja sacrilegamente offendidas pelas atrocidades da moral jesuitica*) published in Portugal in 1771 and 1772, soon after members of the Company were expelled from Portugal in 1759 because of conflicts with that country’s most powerful minister, the Marquis of Pombal. In both texts, Jesuits are accused of a litany of atrocities, including simony, blasphemy, magic and sorcery, astrology, elective abortion, parricide, suicide, and regicide. These titles, now cataloged, join Pius Library’s strong research collection of rare printed books in the St. Louis Room pertaining to the history of the Society of Jesus.

Librarians for the Rare Book Collection are also excited to receive an influx of rare medical books that had been in storage at the Medical Center Library. The collection consists of 154 volumes ranging from the 16th to the early 19th century, and includes works on anatomy, pharmacy, diagnosis, surgery and chirurgy (the archaic word for surgery), dietetics, public health, midwifery, insanity, venereal diseases, ulcers, and other topics. One of the older books is a 16th-century German handbook for midwives and pregnant women—the *Trostbüchlein*, by Jakob Ruff. This edition in the vernacular would have been accessible to women who could not read Latin, and it marks a time when the historic
shift of medical texts to Latin and of medical authority to men was still in its beginnings. A more recent and equally fascinating book is John Hunter's Observations on the Diseases of the Army in Jamaica; and on the Best Means of Preserving the Health of Europeans, in that Climate, published in London in 1796. Scholars interested in the historical view of epidemics can read Hunter's description of the shocking mortality rate of soldiers from disease in tropical climates, and his recommendation that swampy areas near military bases be cleared and drained. Hunter mentions mosquitoes as a nuisance, but misses their critical role in the transmission of disease. These and the rest of the titles will be cataloged, used in teaching, and made accessible to researchers in the St. Louis Room at Pius Library.

Woodcut of a birthing chair from the Trostbüchlein
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- **Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts** with Full Text (LISTA) – Mid 1960s to present
- **MasterFILE Premier** - 1975 to present. Targeted to public library users.
- **MEDLINE (EBSCOhost)** – 1880s to present - Ovid version is still available.
- **Middle Search Plus** – 1985 to present. K-12 student and teacher resource.
- **Newspaper Source** – Provides full text for more than 40 national and international newspapers along with radio and TV news transcripts.
- **Primary Search** – 1985 to present. K-12 student and teacher resource.
- **Professional Development Collection** – Some 1930s to present – Varies by resource. Teacher and teacher-educator resource.
- **Public Affairs Index** – Some 1937 to present. Indexes and abstracts a wide array of over 3,600 sources.

To view and access most electronic resources available to the Saint Louis University community, go to our Databases page at [http://libraries.slu.edu/databases/databases.php](http://libraries.slu.edu/databases/databases.php).

Need help?

Check out our Research Guides by subject at [http://libguides.slu.edu](http://libguides.slu.edu)
Stop by the Reference Department in Pius Library, call (314-977-3103), email, chat, or text your question (314-282-7587).

Contact your liaison librarian by phone or email.
“From the Father Luke collection”: Digitized Photo of the Month

The photo shows a group of students relaxing in a swimming pool. It was taken by Fr. B.T. Łukaszewski on July 22, 1952 at a picnic hosted by a student organization called “Club 1951”.

Nearly 8,000 images are now available in the University Libraries’ online Digital Collections (http://cdm.slu.edu), nearly half of them taken by Father Luke. The original of this photo is in the University Archives, number PHO.1.09.01, and can be seen online at: http://cdm.slu.edu/u/?/photos,6303

Events/ Exhibits

Road Trip Reads Exhibits
June - August 2011
Level 1 Atrium, Pius Library
Free and open to the public

There’s always something alluring about setting off on the open road to explore new places and possibilities, and there’s no better time than summer to enjoy such an adventure. Let these novels, travelogues and works of non-fiction inspire your wanderlust!
Young Adult Memoirs
June 15 - August 2011
Level 2, Pius Library
Free and open to the public.

Every one has a story, even those who are young. This display is about young memoirists: young people who document their own stories before they are considered adults.

The display features a diverse array of authors from Ishmael Beal to Anne Frank to Tobias Wolff. The display demonstrates how broad the field is of these young peoples’ stories. They are all from unique backgrounds and tell their stories in a unique way.

It is a great way to show young people that people their age have stories to tell and, hopefully, it will encourage them to someday tell their own stories. - Laura Plack, Volunteer Library Intern

Steps through Time: Journeys in the Middle East by Thomas Oates
Exhibit October 2010 - October 2011
Level 2, North wall, Pius Library
Free and open to the public

Thomas Oates is a nationally-known documentarist and a distinguished Saint Louis University alumnus, having received his Ph.D. in English at Saint Louis University.

The photographs in this exhibit represent Oates’ work of the last two decades, currently supported by a grant from the Ford Foundation. The images are drawn from Oates’ twelve years of travels in Turkey, Jordan, the West Bank, Israel, and Cyprus.
Cafe Libros will reopen August 22