



The Sanders Mayoral Papers

In April, Special Collections Manuscripts curator Chris Burns announced that processing archivist Erin Doyle had finished arranging and describing the Bernard Sanders Mayoral Papers and that a guide to the collection was available (<http://cdi.uvm.edu/findingaids/>).

Bernie Sanders was elected mayor of Burlington, Vermont in 1981, winning by ten votes over Democratic incumbent Gordon Paquette. Sanders, an independent and self-described socialist, served four terms as mayor from 1981-1989. He was subsequently elected to the U. S. House of Representatives and served from 1991-2007, before being elected to the U. S. Senate in 2007.



The Sanders Mayoral Papers document Sanders' time in Burlington City Hall. They are an especially rich resource for studying the work of a progressive municipal administration, Sanders' early career as an elected official, and a wide range of Burlington issues such as downtown and waterfront development. The development of the many new initiatives launched by the Sanders administration is well represented in the collection, including the Mayor's Youth Office, the Community and Economic Development Office, and Burlington City Arts.

The sizeable collection, just shy of 50 cartons, provides a detailed record of the work of the Sanders administration and his various campaigns, as well as the reaction to his election and subsequent service as mayor. One highlight from the correspondence is a March 19,

1981 letter from former Democratic Governor Thomas Salmon, written shortly after Sanders was elected. In the letter, Salmon offers his congratulations on Sanders' "rather remarkable victory" and the following advice:

My personal hope is that your administration will not be forged on the anvil of confrontation and adversarial rhetoric, but will seek to establish clear priorities and reach out broadly into the community for the absolutely essential grass roots support central to their achievement.

The collection also features photographs, meeting minutes, speeches, and letters and memos regarding ongoing issues or projects. Some noteworthy projects represented include the Southern Connector; healthcare costs; the Burlington International Airport; housing; taxation; utility rates (including cable television, telephone service, and heat); and Central America (including Burlington's sister city of Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua).

One of the most significant progressive politicians of his era, Bernie Sanders' four terms as mayor are essential to understanding his philosophy on governing as it was being developed and put into practice. After Sanders announced his candidacy for president of the United States, journalists and other researchers have taken full advantage of what one journalist described as the "meticulously organized" mayoral papers.

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1568 *Divine Comedy* Purchased in Memory of Birdie MacLennan



After our esteemed colleague Birdie MacLennan passed away unexpectedly in 2014, Special Collections staff gave a lot of thought to how we might best honor her memory. Birdie, who was hired in 1990 as a serials cataloger and appointed Director of Resource Description Services in 2008, loved old books and was very fond of the Romance languages. She was a member of the local chapter of Alliance Française and the Italian Club of Vermont. Birdie earned a master's degree in French in 2005 and was learning Italian when she died. We concluded, therefore, that an addition to the Rare Book collection of an important book in French or Italian would be an appropriate memorial.

As it happened, we had no early editions of Dante's *Divine Comedy*, a defining work of the Renaissance and one that maintained its popularity through the transition from manuscript to printed books. In fact, we had no editions of the *Divine Comedy* printed before the mid-eighteenth century. An early printing of this work, then, seemed the ideal choice, and we contacted a highly regarded book seller to inquire whether he could locate a fine copy for us.

Within a couple of months, we had a beautiful copy of the *Divine Comedy* printed in Venice in 1568. Bound in green morocco in the eighteenth century, with marbled endpapers from the same era, the book is in remarkably good condition. This edition contains the commentary of Bernardino Daniello da Lucca (1500-1565) and was printed by Pietro da Fino, an obscure Venetian printer whose ten known books span the years 1555 to 1576.

Daniello's Dante includes full-page engravings at the beginning of each book—Inferno, Purgatorio, and Paradiso—as well as printer's devices on the title page and last page. The title page device shows a rooster perched on a globe (which rests on a book), with the motto “tota nocte excubo” (I keep watch throughout the night). The device on the last page features a similar rooster on a globe against a more elaborate background, with the motto “excubo ac vigilo” (I keep watch and remain awake).

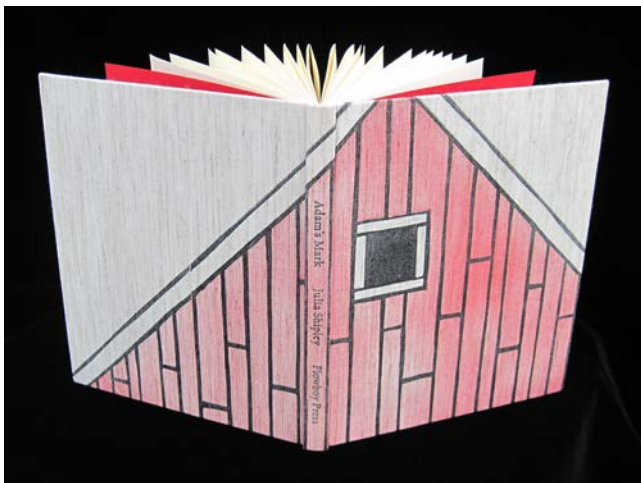
Early printed books are valuable for many reasons. Early printers were usually highly conscious of the relationship between book design and text, producing books that are esthetically pleasing. Often, scholarly works featured the author's text in a block surrounded by the editor's annotations, and other devices that demonstrate the detailed, exhaustive analysis Renaissance scholars applied to great works. This form of commentary had largely disappeared by the eighteenth century, often replaced by extensive introductions and footnotes. The physical aspects of the book, as well, suggest much about the status of the work, its intended audience, and the cultural context of its creation at the time of printing.

Birdie MacLennan had a large and lasting impact on the University Libraries. Special Collections is pleased to add an important sixteenth-century book to the Rare Book collection in her memory and trust that she would think it an appropriate token of our affection and esteem.

Building the Book Arts Collection

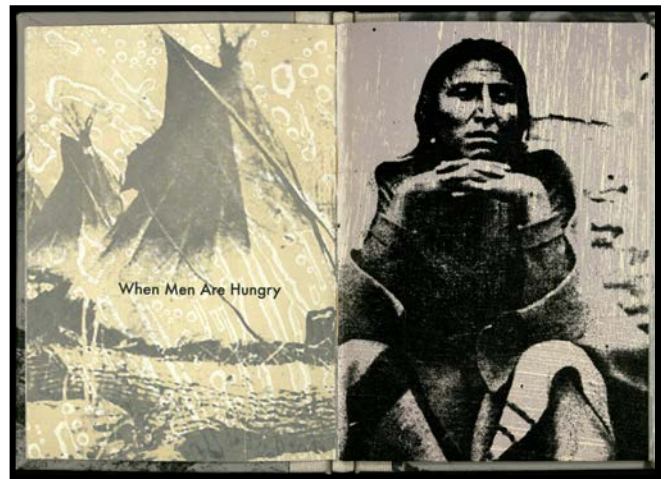
Special Collections Assistant Ingrid Bower, Public Services Librarian Prudence Doherty, and Rare Books curator Jeffrey Marshall continue to develop a strong Book Arts teaching collection at UVM. The selected recent acquisitions described below demonstrate the breadth and depth of the collection available to students, faculty and community members.

Special Collections maintains a standing order with Andrew Miller-Brown's Plow Boy Press in Burke, Vermont, which focuses on rural life, farming and Vermont. The latest Plowboy Press offering is *Adam's Mark, Writing from the Ox-House* (2014). In *Adam's Mark*, Julia Shipley's short essays and poems about farm life and writing in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom are illustrated with prints by Mary Simpson. As she farms with her boyfriend, Shipley learns more about her writing process, noting "I saw the resemblance between the process of raking hay into windrows and the crafting of words into verses and sentences. Whereas he baled hay, I baled sentences into paragraphs of prose."



Many years ago, Special Collections acquired Sandra McPherson's *At the Grave of Hazel Hall* (Ives Street Press, 1988). Hall was a seamstress and poet who spent most of her life confined to a second-floor room, "within four gray walls," in her family's home. Her needlework poems received the Young Poets' Prize from *Poetry Magazine* in 1921. When Hall died in 1924, *Poetry* editor Harriet Monroe commended her poetry to "the next age." We recently added *Something Sorrow Has Made*, from Barbara Henry and Barbara Mauriello's Granden Press (2010), which brings Hall's sewing poems to this age in a presentation inspired by the hand sewing of an earlier time. A gray paper slip case is hand stitched in white thread with Hall's initials. Inside the bright orange cover, the same gray paper, decorated with different embroidery stitches, surrounds poems and pochoir illustrations printed on fabric-like Yatsuo paper in brighter colors.

UVM Art professor Mildred Beltré introduced us to the work of Minnesota artist Fred Hagstrom. We have collected a good sample of his work published under the Strong Silent Type Press imprint, including *Kill-Box* (2009), *Deeply Honored* (2010), and *Paradise Lost* (2012). In *When Men are Hungry* (2014), Hagstrom juxtaposes historical photographs and carefully chosen texts to re-examine the tragic 1862 Dakota Indian uprising in Minnesota that was prompted by the United States government's failure to make timely treaty payments needed to buy food and prevent starvation.



Other new acquisitions also address contemporary and historical issues in powerful and provocative ways. *I in 3* is a flag book by Jaime Lynn Shafer (2014) inspired by media attention on domestic violence. The flags contain images of victims and facts about the prevalence of domestic violence in the United States. A victim's narrative fills the covers and the front end sheet. *Unbound* (Short Twig Press, 2014), our second book from Jessica Peterson, is about school desegregation in Virginia in the 1950s and 1960s. When a community refused to desegregate its public schools, black students' education suffered during the five years it took for lawsuits to prevail. *Unbound* tells the story of the school closing with a detailed timeline and personal stories. Small gold stars that flow across the pages of the double-sided, 70-inch long accordion book represent the 4,000 children whose schooling was interrupted.

In July, Prudence Doherty and Ingrid Bower invited library colleagues to a presentation on collecting and teaching with artists' books and shared many of the new acquisitions with them. Our colleagues were particularly drawn to Gabriella Cooksey's *Monsters and Beasts: Tales Imagined from Greek Myths* (2014). A delicate gold foil design on a rich blue Cave paper cover invites the reader to explore. Inside, five silkscreened and hand-painted animal drawings surround short stories that are letterpress printed in blue.

Civil War Objects from the University of Vermont Collections



During the fall and spring semesters, Special Collections was pleased to contribute items to the Fleming Museum's recent exhibition, "Civil War Objects from the University of Vermont Collections." Margaret Tamulonis, the museum's registrar and curator of the exhibition, worked with Special Collections librarians to select items from our manuscript, print and photograph collections to help show how Vermonters experienced the war. Tamulonis chose letters from soldiers and their families, friends, and loved ones and a carte-de-visite



album of unidentified soldiers in uniform (shown above on the right). She borrowed a medical register maintained by Dr. Henry Janes, the surgeon for the 3rd Vermont Infantry, to display with medical instruments from the Dana Library's Medical History Collection. Other items included two decorative lithographic registers listing members of Vermont military units that were displayed flanking a memorial tribute to brothers Michael and Thomas Eagan (shown above on the left).

Photos courtesy of the Fleming Museum.

New Special Collections Blog

Special Collections launched a new blog in February. Librarians Chris Burns, Prudence Doherty and Jeffrey Marshall, as well as guests, are contributing monthly articles that highlight items in the Vermont research collection, the University Archives, and the Rare Book Collection. We also let blog readers know about events, exhibits, and department news.

During the last several months we've published articles about Mrs. Leon Gay's handwritten lessons for the Cavendish, Vermont cooking school, a unique copy of Celia Thaxter's *An Island Garden*, the records of Longhouse, Publishers and Booksellers, and Bernard Sanders' venture producing educational filmstrips about Vermont and New England history. In the most recent post, Manuscripts Curator and University Archivist Chris Burns describes a special tour of UVM'S Old Mill that he led for a group of second graders from Burlington's Edmunds Elementary School who were engaged in a curriculum unit called "If These Buildings Could Talk."

<http://blog.uvm.edu/uvm-sc-specialcollections>