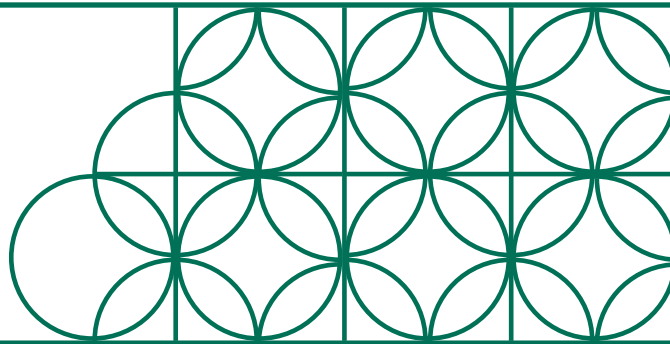


NO. 52, FALL 2019

# Liber

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF  
THE SILVER SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY



## Silver Special Collections Welcomes Research Fellows

The first researchers to visit Silver Special Collections Library as Fellows of the New England Regional Fellowship Consortium (NERFC) began their work this summer. Special Collections joined NERFC last year, and in March, Director Jeffrey Marshall attended the NERFC spring meeting to participate in the selection of this year's fellows. Out of nearly one hundred applicants, the assembled representatives of Consortium libraries awarded twenty-six fellowships. Each of the fellows is required to undertake research in at least three member libraries, usually within a twelve-month period following the award notification.

The applicants represent a wide range of interests and disciplines (including history, English, geography, gender studies, education, and political science), but the bulk are history graduate students, with a sprinkling of junior faculty members and independent researchers. The criteria for selection emphasize the strength of the proposed project and the likelihood that resources in the libraries to be visited will fulfill the researchers' needs. Each of the thirty member libraries is guaranteed at least one researcher per year, and almost all receive three or more.

Four researchers have or will visit Silver Special Collections in this year's round. Lucian Bessmer, who is pursuing a PhD in education at Harvard, visited in August to make use of extensive archival and manuscript collections for his project, "What Should We Teach Our Teachers? The Changing Educational Priorities in New England, 1950-1990." John Morton, a doctoral candidate in history at Boston College who earned his BA at UVM in 2000, is consulting our early Vermont historical materials to adapt his dissertation, "To Settle the Frontier on Sober Principles: Power, Faith and Nationality in the New England-Maritime Borderlands," into

a book. Dylan Yeats will explore the intersection of religion and politics in northern New England for a monograph based on his New York University dissertation, "Shaping Northern Political Culture: Evangelical Networks and the Politics of State Building, 1790-1840." The fourth researcher, Princeton assistant professor Peter Wirzbicki, has postponed his visit to next year, when he will use our collections for his projected work "The Abolitionist Nation: An Intellectual History of Nation, Democracy, and Race during Reconstruction, 1863-1877."

Membership in NERFC raises the profile of the Silver Special Collections Library among those researchers who are doing some of the most interesting work in history and other disciplines. We expect that research interest in our collections will continue to grow through NERFC as more scholars discover the opportunities these collections offer.

### *inside* Liber

**MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPTS IN FALL CURRICULUM**

**NOTABLE GIFTS ADDED TO RARE  
BOOK COLLECTION**

**FALL 2018 LECTURE PUBLISHED**

**JOHNSON MAPS, SURVEYS AND DRAWINGS  
AVAILABLE ONLINE**



# Medieval Manuscripts in the Curriculum This Fall

Medieval manuscripts will receive special attention this fall in a semester-long “Medieval Manuscripts and the Modern Humanities at UVM” program. Faculty members in History, Religion, English, Romance Languages, and Special Collections will utilize a Lattie Coor collaborative grant from the UVM Humanities Center to support research, teaching, and public programming focusing on medieval manuscripts and their relevance to an informed understanding of today’s world. The program marks the emergence of Medieval Studies as a concerted area of teaching and research excellence in the College of Arts and Sciences. The program will include classroom use of manuscripts to explore topics in medieval Europe and a colloquium.

The program will be greatly enhanced by an arrangement that Special Collections has made with booksellers Les Enluminures to borrow twenty-one exemplary manuscript books for the fall semester. Medieval scholar Dr. Sandra Hindman, president of Les Enluminures, invited us to participate in the company’s “Manuscripts in the Curriculum” initiative to make these books available for teaching and public programming. These books will supplement the department’s sixteen complete texts and dozens of individual leaves. As part of the arrangement, Laura Light, another Les Enluminures manuscript expert, will speak on “The Paris Bible: What’s in a Name (And Why It Matters)” in the Marsh Room (Billings 308) on November 20 at 5:30 pm.

Students are using the manuscripts in a fall seminar, “Books and Readers in Europe, 1250-1550” taught by Charles Briggs (History) and Jeffrey Marshall (Silver Special Collections). The course emphasizes manuscript book culture and the evolution of book production into the early years of printing. In addition, Sean Field (History) will teach a course for first-year students on “Medieval History through Manuscripts.” Faculty in other departments are taking advantage of the program.

A colloquium on “Interpreting the Handwritten Book: Medieval Manuscripts at UVM,” will be held in the Billings Library on November 8-9. The symposium will feature presentations by UVM faculty and students as well as by invited speakers Ray Clemens (Beinecke Library, Yale University), Lisa Fagan Davis (Medieval Academy of America), Cecilia Gaposchkin (Dartmouth College) and Walter Simons (Dartmouth College). For more details about the colloquium, please check our website at [specialcollections.uvm.edu](http://specialcollections.uvm.edu).

The staff of Special Collections are pleased to be able to support the fall program with our materials and expertise, and grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues in what promises to be a most enlightening semester.

*Les Enluminures* has sold us several important manuscript books over the last six years to support teaching and research. In the last issue of *Liber* we introduced *Les roys de la tres crestienne maison de France* (*The Kings of the Very Christian House of France*), purchased in 2018 with support from the President’s Humanities Fund. This year, we tapped the Humanities book fund again to purchase the *Book of the Confraternity of the Holy Name of Jesus* (Genoa, ca. 1500-1582), an illuminated manuscript containing the statutes and liturgical services for a laymen’s religious group. Social organizations devoted to religious or charitable endeavors, commonly called confraternities, were widespread in late medieval and early modern Europe. This confraternity book is unusual for its high-quality Gothic script and colorful illustrations.



# Notable Gifts Added to Rare Book Collection

**WILLIAM PICKENS III**, a 1958 graduate of UVM, recently made a special gift that included significant books of African American history, literature, and works on civil rights and black life in America. Many of the books were passed down to Bill Pickens by his father and grandfather and include inscriptions by writers such as James Weldon Johnson, Langston Hughes, and others.

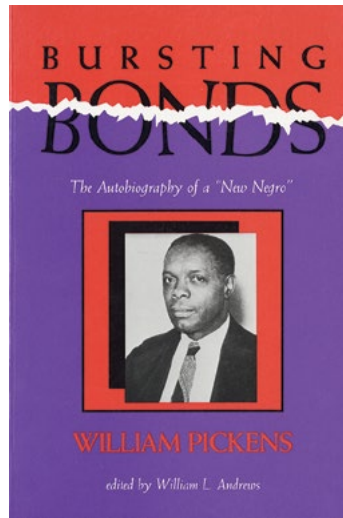
William Pickens I was a major figure in the civil rights movement before the climactic era of the 1950s and 60s. A 1904 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Yale University, Pickens first published the autobiographical *Bursting Bonds* in 1923. Indiana University Press published a new edition of *Bursting Bonds: The Autobiography of a New Negro* in 1991.

Folk traditions of African Americans have been documented by many writers, including James Weldon Johnson, who published numerous collections of poetry and spirituals in the first half of the twentieth century. The Pickens copy of *God's Trombones: Seven Negro Sermons in Verse* was inscribed by Johnson to Bill Pickens's grandfather.

The Pickens family was close to many luminaries of the Harlem Renaissance. Langston Hughes was a close associate of William Pickens II, Bill's father; he inscribed a copy of *Simple Speaks His Mind* to the elder Pickens in 1952.

The Pickens collection includes works by and about great African American thinkers and activists such as W.E.B. DuBois. Henry Lee Moon, author and editor of *The Crisis*, inscribed *The*

*Emerging Thought of W.E.B. DuBois* to Bill Pickens in 1973, "with best wishes for a happy future for which your forebears worked so hard."

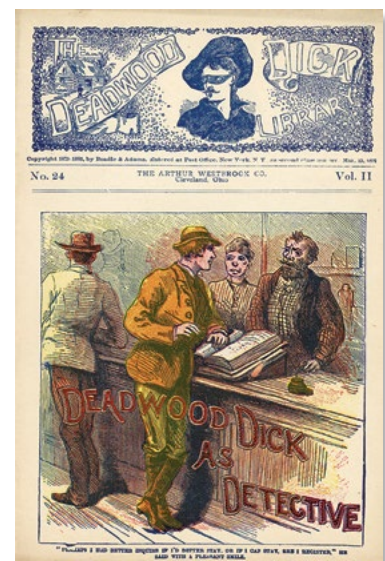


Burlington native **BRUCE LISMAN**, a 1969 UVM graduate and a former member of the Board of Trustees, donated a significant gift of American literature. The collection of over 150 titles covers a wide range of late nineteenth- and twentieth-century novels, poetry and short stories from authors such as Stephen Crane, Henry James, Theodore Dreiser, Sinclair Lewis, Thomas Wolfe, Saul Bellow, Bernard Malamud, Carson McCullers and Shirley Jackson.

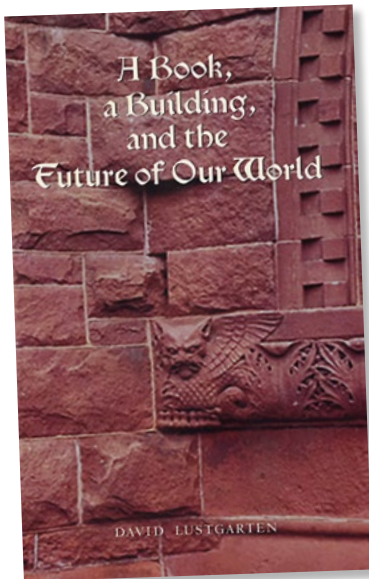
All of the books are first editions, and many are autographed or inscribed by the authors. Highlights include Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* (1949), which is inscribed by the author and signed by the entire cast of the original Broadway production. A first edition of William Styron's *Confessions of Nat Turner* (1967) includes a playful inscription alluding to the possibility it will win the Pulitzer Prize—which it did.

The collection includes some unusual formats. *The Sombrero*, the University of Nebraska yearbook of 1894, contains an early poem by Willa Cather as well as a short story she wrote with Dorothy Canfield Fisher, whose father was president of the university. F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night* is serialized in the first four issues of the 1934 *Scribner's Magazine*. Eleanor Perry's screenplay for the John Cheever short story, "The Swimmer," became the 1968 film starring Burt Lancaster. Among the western fiction, the "handsome tri-color covers" of thirty-one titles in the *Deadwood Dick Library* (1899) stand out.

Beat writers include works by Allen Ginsberg, William Burroughs, Jack Kerouac and Gregory Corso. There is a copy of Kerouac's *On the Road* (1957) in hardcover rather than the iconic paperback and a copy of his first novel, *The Town and the City* (1950), published under the more formal John Kerouac. The author photos, seven years apart, are telling.







## Fall 2018 Lecture Published

Last fall, Silver Special Collections welcomed David Lustgarten, Associate Professor of Design and Design History at Champlain College, to speak on the occasion of our relocation to the venerable Billings Library. For fourteen years, Lustgarten brought his classes of budding designers to Special Collections to deepen their knowledge of the Arts and Crafts movement through examination of books published by William Morris's Kelmscott Press. His lecture explored the relationship between one of those books, John Ruskin's *The Nature of Gothic*, a building, Henry Hobson Richardson's Billings Library and its contents, and the future of our world. In 2019 Lustgarten published the lecture in a beautiful booklet, profusely illustrated with many photographs of Billings. If you would like a copy, please email [uvmssc@uvm.edu](mailto:uvmssc@uvm.edu) or call 802-656-2138.

## JOHNSON MAPS, SURVEYS AND DRAWINGS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

The UVM Libraries Center for Digital Initiatives launched the John Johnson Collection this fall. The collection includes 168 maps, surveys and architectural drawings selected from the John Johnson Papers. The versatile Johnson (1771-1842) was a prominent surveyor, mapmaker, builder and engineer who worked primarily in northern Vermont. The collection includes town and lot maps as well as plans and drawings for buildings, bridges, and other structures. Johnson's surveys played an important role in land development during the early years of Euro-American settlement in Vermont. As historian Robert McCullough has noted, Johnson's plans and drawings provide a unique historical record of building projects that more typically involved informal agreements. The carefully inked maps and drawings are sometimes enhanced with watercolors. Visit the collection at [cdi.uvm.edu](http://cdi.uvm.edu).

