

Rare Books Collections

The Department of Archives and Special Collections houses over twelve thousand rare books. The strengths of our premiere book collections include first editions of important British and American literature, works by and about Thomas More and his world, Catholic authors, incunabula and other early printed works, and materials from early Southern California family collections.

Inquiries and appointments to use the holdings are made with the Department of Archives and Special Collections: Special.Collections@lmu.edu | 310-338-5710.

Selected book collections:

Jesuit Rare Book and Manuscript Collection



Saint Ignatius Loyola freeing the people 1

The collection contains over 500 titles covering a wide range of works authored by and about the Society of Jesus with a particular emphasis on early printed books, including editions of

Loyola's *Exercitia Spiritualia* and other foundational texts, publications documenting the missionary and scientific encounters of the Society in the 17th century as well as Reformation and Catholic Reformation works related to Jesuit history.

Helena and John Weadock Collection of Rare and Fine Printed Books and First Editions



Frontispiece portrait of William Shakespeare

Image from: *First Folio* [Mr. William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories & Tragedies] London, 1623

Also referred to as the Chilton Collection, after donor T. Marie Chilton, this spectacular gift includes some of the finest gems among LMU's rare books. From the 1481 edition of Dante's *Commedia* with illustrations designed by Botticelli to the Britwell Court copy of Shakespeare's *First Folio* (1623), the Chilton Collection provides the foundation for LMU's History of the Book holdings. Among the primarily British and American literary classics are first editions of Austen, Byron, Coleridge, Dickens, Fielding, Hardy, Hawthorne, Keats, Kipling, Lamb, Maugham, Milton, Scott, Shaw, Shelley, Stevenson, Swift,

Tennyson, Thackeray, Twain, Wells, Wharton, Whitman, Wilde, Wordsworth and Yeats, many of which are signed or presentation copies. LMU's set of the four Shakespeare folio editions of the seventeenth century are part of the Chilton holdings. Additionally, the collection contains two volumes from the library

of George Washington, bearing his autograph signature: the incomplete advance sheets of Simes' *Military Guide for Young Officers* (1776), presented by the publishers to Washington when he assumed command of the Continental Army, and Volney's *The Law of Nature* (1796), presented to Washington by the author.

Ygnacio del Valle Family Collection



Books from the family collection of a prominent Californio family consist primarily of 18th and 19th century Spanish-language devotional works. The collection's highlights feature several chapbooks of prayers sewn together by the Del Valle family into home-made bindings created from fabric remnants. The collection also includes novels, including Josefa del Valle de Forster's personal copy of the novel *Ramona*, said to be inspired by the Del Valle home of Rancho Camulos, and domestic instructional works. See the Art and Artifacts guide for a description of Roman Catholic vestments from the Ygnacio del Valle Family Collection.

Leonard William Longstaff Saint Thomas More Collection



Hythlodæus tells Thomas More of the Island of Utopia

Image detail from the first illustrated edition of More's *Utopia*. Basel, 1518

The book collection of Leonard William Longstaff, a direct descendant of Saint Thomas More, is comprised of over 800 titles by and about More, his contemporaries and descendants, the country and the times, and Chelsea, where More lived. Works by Thomas More include the March and November illustrated editions of *Utopia* printed by Johann Froben in 1518, as well as over sixty other editions of *Utopia* in several languages. Works about More include early biographies (Roper, Cresacre, More, Stapleton, etc.), fiction and drama. Saint Thomas More's contemporaries found in the rare book collection include Erasmus, Tunstall, Pole, Colet, Henry VIII, Luther, Fisher, Wolsey, Holbein, and Tyndale. The Longstaff collection also includes non-book materials: nine volumes of newspaper clippings, stills from the motion picture *A Man for All Seasons*, over 900 prints and portraits on Saint Thomas and related subjects, from 17th century engravings to 20th century postcards, prayer cards with pieces of More's linen shirt (saint's relics), 40 sets of glass plate photographic negatives, music and songs dedicated to the saints, programs and lectures, and letters to Mr. Longstaff. Also in the collection: original sketches and drawings by L. W. Longstaff and several of his manuscripts, including Margaret Roper's translation of Erasmus, copied by him from the British Museum printed copy, a lecture of his on Thomas More, and notebooks with

biographical quotes and details related to his sketches. Photographs from Thomas More's canonization ceremony of 1935, which Mr. Longstaff attended are included in the image collection.

George Bramwell Baker Collection of the Writings of Oliver Goldsmith

The 18th-early 20th century books in this Oliver Goldsmith collection include a large number of translations of his best-known novel, *The Vicar of Wakefield*, into Chinese, Czech, Danish, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish, and phonetic English.

Daniel T. Mitchell Collection

The Mitchell Collection holds over 200 titles on 18th century English literature. The bulk of the collection is comprised of works by and about Oliver Goldsmith, including forty-six editions of *The Vicar of Wakefield* published from 1766 to 1965. Included among the Goldsmith titles is an 1854 London edition of Goldsmith's collected works from the personal library of Charles Dickens.

Christie Miles Bourdet Collections

The Christie Miles Bourdet Rudyard Kipling Collection contains nearly 150 books by and about Kipling, many of which are first editions (British and American). The collection includes several non-book items including letters, news clippings and several issues of the South African newspaper *The Friend*, for which Kipling was a correspondent.

The Christie Miles Bourdet California Collection has over 150 books on California, dating from 1850 through the twentieth century.

Charles Boyer Collection

Over 300 volumes acquired from the Charles Boyer French Research Foundation consist mainly of hundreds of bound-together 17th-19th century pamphlets, mostly in French, on history, politics, philosophy, literature, and science. Other works include La Harpe's 24-volume *Abrégé de l'Histoire Générale des Voyages* (1780) and *Bibliographie Catholique*, a 25-volume set published in the 19th century.

Other Book of Interest

A Noble Fragment: Leaf 58 of volume 2 of a Gutenberg Bible (1454)

Books with Fore-edge Paintings:

Biblia Sacra Vulgatae editionis Sixti V. Pont. Max. (Rome, 1603) Anne Brontë. *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* (circa 1880?)

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Holy Bible (London, circa 1846)

Vicesimus Knox. Winter Evenings (1795 v.2) Walter Scott. Marmion (1808)

Laurence Weber. Annotated Dictionary of Fore-edge Paintings and Binders (2010)

Books of Hours:

Hours of Paris (illuminated manuscript, circa 1450)

Hours of Paris (circa 1488)

Hours of Coutances (1508)

Hours of Tours (1513)

Other books include a fine collection of early editions of Virgil, including Giacomo Britannico's 1485 Brescia printing of Virgil's works.