SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

I. PROGRAM INFORMATION

Special Collections as a department incorporates several discrete collections, all of which require special, often unique, policies and procedures for acquiring, processing, storage and patron use. The material collected is rare, unique or otherwise extraordinary.

Special Collections encompasses nearly all subjects collected in Hamilton Library. Principal disciplines served include anthropology, art, classics, drama, English, ethnic studies, geography, Hawaiian studies, history, library and information studies, linguistics, Pacific Islands studies, political science, religion, sociology, and any discipline which offers cross-cultural studies of Hawai‘i and the Pacific region.

Special Collections grew out of the need to provide specialized service to the Hawaiian and Pacific Collections and to the general rare holdings. At the time of its creation, the Special Collections Department included the University Archives, but University Archives and Congressional Papers were separated from Special Collections in 2004 to form a new department of Archives and Manuscripts.

Over the years resources were enhanced by the additions of the Book Arts, Social Movements, Tsuzaki-Reinecke Creole Collections and the Aitken Papers. The Jean Charlot Collection was generously donated to the UH Library by the Charlot family in 1981, and was part of Special Collections until 2003, when it became a separate unit reporting directly to the Head of Public Services.

II. COORDINATION OF COLLECTING RESPONSIBILITIES

The Hawaiian Collection, including both general and rare Hawaiian and the Pacific Collection, including both general and rare Pacific, are under the direction of curators who have created collection development policies for their programs. This document covers the general rare collection and some smaller collections that are separate from the Hawaiian and Pacific Collections.

Each collection is responsible for its intra-library coordination and its inter-library cooperative arrangements.

III. GUIDELINES TO MATERIALS COLLECTED OR EXCLUDED

Miscellaneous Special Collections:

The head of Special Collections acts as curator of the miscellaneous special collections and is responsible for the collection development policy. Among these collections are the following:
**Rare Books Collection:** This is the library’s general rare books collection. It covers every subject and all periods, except those within the scope of the Hawaiian, Pacific, or Asia Collections. This Collection is particularly strong in literature and natural history. Expensive limited editions of the 20th century are included.

Criteria for materials include:
- **Language:** Although English, French, German and Latin are the principal languages, other languages are not excluded
- **Geographical:** British and U.S. publishers, with some French and Italian publications
- **Imprint date:** Books printed before 1700
  - Books in English before 1720
  - Books printed in the Americas before 1800
  - Books printed in the U.S. before 1820
  - West Coast books printed before 1880
- **Books of aesthetic importance or typographical interest**
  - Fine printing
  - Books from private presses
  - Books designed by important typographers
  - Books with fine illustrations, including photographs
  - Books with fine binding
- **Books whose irreplaceability or uniqueness makes them rare.**
  - Limited editions (300 copies or less)
  - First editions (especially of 19th century British and American authors)
  - Association and autographed books of significance
- **Books subject to loss or damage**
  - Fragile or unique format
  - Fine or loose plates or illustrations
  - Literary curiosities
- **Books of substantial market value.** Although the inflation factor makes it difficult to assign set dollar values, materials of $500 or higher should be reviewed for possible rare designation.
- **Books of importance to established special collections**

Due to budget constraints, there is not an active acquisitions program for rare books. Most additions have been received as gifts or transfers from the main stacks.
**Book Arts Collection**: This collection gathers examples of printing as an art and craft, and bookmaking through the ages. It includes examples of early forms of books, small presses, elegant private presses, noted printers and book designers, finely illustrated editions, and miniatures and broadsides.

Material is primarily in English with imprints mostly in the 19th and 20th centuries. Additions are primarily through gifts. No effort is made to keep the collection current.

**John A. Carollo-Edward Gorey Collection**: In 1998, John A. Carollo donated the first of what is a continuing gift of books authored by or illustrated by Edward Gorey. Mr. Carollo has also deposited on extended loan, a collection of posters, prints, journal articles, ephemera, and memorabilia, all relating to Edward Gorey. To date, the collection holds over 130 books and over 650 other items.

**Juvenile Collection**: This is a collection of rare children’s books. It includes examples of early books, renowned anthologies, first editions of children’s authors, noted illustrators, limited and numbered copies, and significant inscribed copies.

Holdings are primarily in the English language, published in the 19th and 20th centuries.

**Tsuzaki/Reinecke Pidgin Creole Collection**: A collection of approximately 3000 items, including books, pamphlets, and ephemeral material (reprints, book reviews, etc.) donated by the Linguistics department in 1979. The collection includes publications in all languages, some of them in the creole vernacular language. Additions to the holdings are primarily through gifts.

**Social Movements Collection**: A pamphlet collection of socialist literature covering roughly 1900-1930. Collected by Eugene Bechtold, it was purchased from a California book dealer in 1966. It excludes trade books and journals and contains some 500 pamphlets.

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