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Special Collections in the Classroom

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SPECIAL COLLECTIONS IN THE CLASSROOM

by Isabella O'Neill, Curator of Special Collections/University Archives

Several new acquisitions have been added to the Bertrand Library's special collections to support teaching and learning across the disciplines, including English, Italian, and Art History. These and other materials from the special collections provide students with exposure to unique and rare materials that support their classroom learning. We encourage faculty to contact the Curator to discuss their class needs and ways that the Special Collections/University Archives collections can provide support for their classes through instruction or through the acquisition of materials.

1564 edition of Dante Alighieri's *The Divine Comedy* with commentary

A rare first edition of Dante's *The Divine Comedy* by the Florentine editor, Francesco Sansovino, brings together in one edition the Christoforo Landino and Alessandro Velutello's critical commentary about Dante's work. It is a folio edition in fine condition with the original vellum binding, calligraphy title on the spine, and over 90 fine woodcuts illustrations. The edition is known for printing the first portrait of Dante on the title page, often referred to as the "big nose" portrait.

Both Italian and Art History students visited Special Collections/University Archives to study the woodcuts illustrations of the work and to compare this 16th century edition with contemporary illustrations of Dante's *The Divine Comedy*.

Pirated edition of James Joyce's *Ulysses*

This scarce, first American printing of James Joyce's 1922 novel *Ulysses* was produced by Samuel and Max Roth during the time Joyce's work was censored in the United States and other countries outside of France. In 1929, Roth printed between 2000 and 3000 copies of *Ulysses* from the 1927 authorized edition published by Shakespeare and Company. The majority of Roth's pirated work was seized by the Society of Suspension of Vice, making existing copies of this printing difficult to locate.

Roth's printing showed little concern for the literary merits of *Ulysses* and included numerous instances of corrupt text, proving the copy was unedited and did not mirror the 1927 Shakespeare and Company edition on which it was based. Adding further to the publishing history of *Ulysses*, Roth's 1929 printing was mistakenly used by Random House to publish the first authorized edition of *Ulysses* in 1934 when the United States censorship ban was lifted.

The James Joyce Seminar class used the edition to introduce students to the publishing history of *Ulysses* and the controversy over its censorship. Professor John Rickard and his students had the opportunity to see and touch this rare edition, bringing the textual controversies that plague the novel to life.

Print study collection

Over the past few years, special collections has developed a study collection of early printed and illustrated leaves from books. Professor of Art History, Christiane Andersson, uses this collection to give students the opportunity to study early illustrative and printing techniques from original works.

Added to the print collection:

- *Five Children as a Triumph of Bacchus*, a 1545 woodcut by Hans Holbein the Younger from *Dance of Death*. A fine impression on a full sheet of laid paper with text and a single border.
- *Scene in a Mine*, an etching by artist Wenzel Hollar, from the first edition of the *Golden Remains of the Ever Memorable John Hales of Eton College*, published in 1859. Shown are two female figures, one labeled Reason, the other Revelation, with the bottom half showing men working in a mine topped with a quotation from Mr. Hales.
- 1569 Matthias Zundt etching, *the Coat of Arms of Seyfried Pfinzing of Hensenfeld*, laid on paper with a narrow white margin outside the borderline. A Latin motto is printed from a separate plate at the bottom of the page.
- *Silver Mining in the New World*, a 1592 engraving by Theodor de Bry with a full sheet of text on the front and back and a narrow right margin.

If you have questions about any of Special Collections/University Archive's new acquisitions, please contact scua@bucknell.edu, or call 570.577.3101

