

Special Collections, part of the Digital Library and Archives, is housed on the first floor of Newman Library. Accessible through the public Reading Room are rare books, manuscript collections, including maps and historical photographs, and the University Archives. Special Collections preserves and provides access to unique historical materials in their original form and online at <http://spec.lib.vt.edu/>. Many of the materials in Special Collections are valuable, fragile, and irreplaceable, and can only be used within the security of the Reading Room. Notes must be taken in pencil, and photocopying of fragile materials may be restricted.

Special Collections is open to the public Mondays, 12 to 4:30 p.m.; Tuesday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and at other times by appointment. For more information about Special Collections and the materials that it collects, preserves, and makes available, call 540-231-6308 or visit <http://spec.lib.vt.edu/>.

RARE BOOKS

Housed in a special temperature and humidity controlled environment, the rare book collection contains approximately 77,000 volumes. These include books published before 1820, first editions of literary and historical works, small-press publications, and signed and limited editions. Special strengths include English and American literature from 1880-1940, the history of technology in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, heraldry, Civil War history, speculative fiction, early juvenile literature, culinary history, and Appalachian history. Notable research collections include the Sherwood Anderson Collection, Col. Harry D. Temple's heraldry collection, the William J. Heron collection of speculative fiction, the Bailey-Law ornithology collection, the John H. Barnes collection of Victorian juvenile adventure fiction, the Elden T. Billings Civil War history, and a comprehensive collection of history and genealogy for Southwest Virginia.

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

Special Collections contains over 7,000 cubic feet of manuscript material, with concentrations in local Blacksburg history, Appalachia, Civil War, the Norfolk and Western Railway and its predecessors, the history of science and technology, and the International Archive of Women in Architecture. Local Blacksburg history sources include maps, newspaper clippings, and documents from local businesses and residents, as well as architectural drawings from Henry Boynton of Roanoke. The many Civil War collections include diaries, ledgers, and correspondence of both Union and Confederate soldiers, as well as the papers of prominent families, such as that of Judge William Harris. The railroad collections contain the records of the Norfolk and Western Railway Company, the Southern Railway Company, and predecessor companies, documenting over 300 railroads in the Southern and Midwestern U.S. from the 1830s to the 1930s. Prominent scientific collections include the archives of the Virginia Academy of Science and the papers of Robert E. Marshak, a sub-atomic physicist and Virginia Tech professor.

Special Collections has specialized archives such as the **Archives of American Aerospace Exploration** was created in 1986 with the gift of the papers of Christopher C. Craft, Jr., former director of the Johnson Space Center. The AAAE also includes the papers of Robert R. Gilruth, director of NASA's Space Task Group, which was created in 1958 to begin the Mercury project; Evert B. Clark, former aerospace journalist for the New York Times and Newsweek; Samuel Herrick, a pioneer in the field of astrodynamics; John T. Parsons, father of "numerical control" (the application of computer technology to manufacturing processes); and Michael Collins, astronaut for NASA's Gemini and Apollo programs and command pilot for Apollo XI, the first lunar landing mission. The **International Archive of Women in Architecture** collects the papers of women who designed the built environment, including

architects, interior designers, urban planners, and landscape architects. Notable collections include the papers of Lois Gottlieb of San Francisco, residential designer and author; Anna W. Keichline, industrial designer; Helene Koller-Buchwieser of Vienna, Austria, many of which detail reconstruction following World War II; Sigrid Lorenzen Rupp, German born architect who practiced in Palo Alto, California; Han Schroeder, a Dutch architect and Professor of Interior Design at the New York Institute of Technology and Virginia Commonwealth University; Louise Hall, long-time member of the North Carolina Chapter of the AIA who taught architecture at Duke from 1931-1975 and mentored many architects and scholars; Beverly Willis, artist, craftswoman, designer, and nationally recognized San Francisco architect; and Eleanor Pettersen, Susana Torre, and Zelma Wilson, and Lane Zimble; and the records of the Association of Women in Architecture, Los Angeles, California Chapter. The **Appalachian Collection** contains materials about the religious, educational, business, and cultural history of the Southern Appalachian region. Prominent collections include the archives of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia; the papers of former Virginia governor J. Hoge Tyler; and the records of a number of railroads, coal companies (e.g., Pocahontas), textile plants (e.g., Fries), and oral histories such as the Patrick County [Virginia] Project and Blue Ridge Parkway Folklife.

Guides to the manuscript collections are available in the Special Collections Reading Room and online at <http://spec.lib.vt.edu/specgen/msguide/mgintro.htm>. Detail finding aids to some collections are also available through a statewide project, Virginia Heritage, at <http://ead.lib.virginia.edu/vivaead/>

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVE

Special Collections also collects, preserves, and provides access to materials documenting the history and development of the University and its various components in the University Archive. The papers of past presidents and other administrators constitute the core of the collection, but the University Archive collects all types of materials that document the work, development, and accomplishments of each component of the University, its administrators, faculty, and alumni. In addition to building the historical record of the university through cooperation with Records Management, the University Archive also collects records such as the personal papers of faculty and alumni. Correspondence, diaries, historical photographs, minutes, notes, oral histories tapes and transcripts, press releases, publications of faculty, reports, research documentation, scrapbooks, theses and dissertations, University publications, postcards, posters, textiles, and memorabilia can be found in the University Archive in addition to vertical files with historical and current information on the University and biographical files on personnel. Frequently used publications such as catalogs, Bugles, and published histories of the University are available in the Reading Room. Increasingly online theses and dissertations are available via the Internet at <http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/theses>. Bound archival copies are available for use in Special Collections if circulation copies are unavailable. A guide to the resources of the University Archive is available at the Special Collections Reference Desk and at <http://spec.lib.vt.edu/archives/>.

MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

The historical map collection largely contains maps of Virginia (especially the Appalachian Region) and the university campus.

Special Collections houses approximately 50,000 historical photographs. Apart from the campus photographs that are part of the University Archive, prominent collections include photographs of Blacksburg, the Norfolk and Western Railway, and those of Appalachian photographer Earl Palmer. Many digitized images are available online at <http://imagebase.lib.vt.edu/>