

## **USC Libraries, Special Collections Rare Books Collection Development Policy**

Rare Books in USC Libraries Special Collections help advance the research, instructional, and service mission of the University of Southern California and the USC Libraries by building, organizing, preserving, and providing access to and information about books made by hand and/or collected to highlight specific areas of inquiry.

Special Collections seeks to collect rare books that:

- Support and encourage the academic and research endeavors of faculty, students, and staff in all subjects and disciplines.
- Support class instruction.
- Help our students to develop as engaged world citizens by seeking handmade books representing diverse peoples and fields of study and that engage a diverse University community.
- Are of critical importance in fields of study relevant to our faculty and students.
- Encourage critical thinking and support primary source literacy in order to build a community of critical consumers of information.
- Reflect the diversity of our campus community and our multicultural region.

Special Collections collects rare books in specific subject areas. These include:

1. American Literature, focusing on California authors and local imprints
2. Artists' books, with an emphasis on California, Latin America, and women artists.
3. German-speaking exiles in Southern California
4. Holocaust and Genocide Studies
5. Iberian, Latin American and US Hispanic Studies
6. Lewis Carroll and Alice in Wonderland
7. Los Angeles and Southern California histories
8. Natural History, focusing on nature and the environment along the Pacific Rim

Special Collections' historical strengths include:

1. Works of American poets and novelists, such as Hamlin Garland, Charles Bukowski, Lawrence Lipton, Stephen Longstreet, and Kenneth Rexroth. The American Literature collection includes first or early editions of best sellers, predominantly of the period 1866-1920, but it also reflects America's reading habits over the period including popular history, gift books, poetry, and other publications with mass appeal such as boys' and girls' series books.

2. Philosophical books from the Hoose Library primarily acquired by Ralph Tyler Flewelling with funding from the Mudd Foundation, and the books collected by Theodor and Heinrich Gomperz. These include many of the early manuscripts and incunabula in Special Collections.
3. Books and serials from the Hancock Library primarily acquired with the purchase of the Boston Society of Natural History's library in the mid-1940s, covering all areas of natural history from the 16<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Strengths in zoology, botany, geology, travel narratives, Darwin and evolution, and expeditions (primarily oceanographic).
4. Books from the Feuchtwanger Memorial Library on European history and literature from the 1400s onward in support of Lion Feuchtwanger's research for his novels