Brown University’s John Hay Library has received a $72,466 Title-IIC grant from the U.S. Department of Education for a two-year project to provide original cataloging for 4,000 books, pamphlets, and serials in the H. Adrian Smith Collection of Conjuring and Magicana. The Smith collection covers the art, theory, and history of magic as a performance art and includes a copy of the second edition of *Hocus Pocus Junior* (London, 1635) signed on the title page “Harry Houdini, London, Jan 4/1904, The Jail Breaker.”

**Grants and Acquisitions**

The University of California, Irvine’s East Asian Collection recently received two grants from Japanese sources. For the second consecutive year, the Japan Foundation approved a two million yen ($16,000) grant to support the library’s Japanese acquisitions program. A $10,000 grant was also provided by Toshiba International, Tokyo (with the assistance of the Irvine-based Toshiba America Electronic Components), to aid in collection development.

**Northern Illinois University (NIU) has been awarded $2,475 from the Cooperative Collection Management Coordinating Committee of the State Library of Illinois for the acquisition of the San Francisco Bay Area Gay and Lesbian Serials microfilm collection—almost all of the major lesbian and gay publications produced in Northern California between 1950 and 1990 as well as a significant number of lesser-known and short-run journals. The gay press collection already housed at Northern emphasizes both the regional press of the Midwest and the newspapers of record from cities with substantial homosexual communities. According to NIU, this acquisition will create the largest single microfilm collection of this genre at any research library in the United States. The collection presently includes titles from Canada, England, and France as well as the United States. The NIU collection began in 1982 as a project to create an index to *The Advocate* under the direction of Robert B. Marks Ridinger.

**Acquisitions**

A library of Josiah Wedgwood information collected by Elizabeth Chellis has been donated by Lucille Stewart Beeson to the Birmingham Museum of Art. The 1,200-volume library includes a core collection of 18th-century books documenting the facts of Wedgwood’s world including the impact of the discovery of classical artifacts on 18th-century European tastes. Also included are 21 letters, 13 of which were inscribed or written by Wedgwood.

**Henry S. Villard, former U.S. ambassador to three African nations, has donated his papers to the Twentieth Century Archives at Boston University. Villard’s career as a foreign service officer spanned a period from the late 1920s to the early 1960s. As a diplomat he served at posts in Tehran, Rio de Janeiro, Caracas, and Oslo and as ambassador to Libya,**
Senegal, and Mauritania. The collection includes manuscripts from his articles, books and speeches, diaries, foreign service dispatches, and correspondence from numerous American statesmen including Dwight Eisenhower, Christian Herter, Hubert Humphrey, John F. Kennedy, and Lyndon B. Johnson.

Microfilm runs of the major newspapers of record produced by the Chicago gay and lesbian community between 1973 and the present have been donated to the Chicago Historical Society by Robert B. Marks Ridinger of Northern Illinois University in memory of the late Joseph Gregg, head of the Henry Gerber and Pearl M. Hart Library and Archives. Gregg died of AIDS in 1987. The donation includes full runs of The Chicago Gay Crusader, Gay Life, Windy City Times, and Chicago Outlines.

The entire book collection from Alliance College of Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania, has been donated, upon the college’s closing, by the Polish National Alliance to the Hillman Library at the University of Pittsburgh. The collection of 35,000–45,000 items consists mainly of Polish-language books on the history of Poland, Polish literature, and the history of Poles in America. A small part of the collection contains English-language books on the same topics. To help catalog the collection UP has hired a full-time cataloger, and the Polish-American Kosciuszko Foundation is sending an exchange fellow from Poland to work for ten months beginning in the fall.

Eleven ink, pencil, and watercolor drawings of the “Yellow Kid” by artist Richard Felton Outcault (best known for his later creation, “Buster Brown”) have been discovered in the archives at Syracuse University Library. The “Yellow Kid” was America’s first comic strip superstar according to Brian Walker of the Museum of Cartoon Art. The 11 illustrations are believed to be designs for the Yellow Kid magazine. The Yellow Kid character was a bald, beady-eyed street urchin with two teeth, large ears, and bare feet, dressed in a formless yellow nightshirt.

Papers of the Barbarian Press, a small press in British Columbia, have been donated to the University of British Columbia (UBC). The press had a varied output from fine mono-}

graphs, miniatures, and pamphlets, to typographical oddities, broadsheets, keepsakes, and business cards. The papers include project files, financial records, and sample presswork.

UBC also received an addendum to the papers of Nan Cheney (1897–1985), a noted landscape and portrait painter, and the first medical illustrator at UBC (1951–1962). The addendum includes editorial pages generated by the publication of Emily Carr’s letters to Cheney (UBC Press, 1990) and a large collection of medical drawings spanning Cheney’s career.

Actor, writer, and director Crane Wilbur’s papers have been acquired by the University of Southern California Cinema-Television Library. Correspondence, scrapbooks, photographs, diaries, and scripts are included in the collection which covers a 58-year show business career encompassing motion pictures, television, radio, and the Broadway stage. Wilbur first gained recognition on the stage, then rose to international fame as Handsome Harry, Pearl White’s leading man in the 1914 movie The Perils of Pauline. He also produced a script for the 1953 3-D chiller “House of Wax.”

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library products and services. S. 2748, the Library of Congress Fund Act of 1992, replaces the earlier S. 1416. While the new bill includes some improvements suggested by ALA’s Committee on Legislation together with the Association of Research Libraries and the American Association of Law Libraries, problems remain.

Improvements include a clearer delineation of three different kinds of LC products and services—core (no cost), national (distribution cost only), and specialized (full cost recovery). Protections have been added concerningpository library distribution, copyright, and reciprocal exchange agreements. Problems include inclusion of both direct and indirect costs of distribution, a broad and inclusive list of distribution cost elements, and a too-limited protection against redistribution fees. An overarching problem is the difficulty of drawing the line between core and fee-based services, made even more troublesome by LC’s late addition of “electronic access to the contents of the collections” to the list of specialized full-cost recovery services. At this writing, ALA’s Committee on Legislation was engaged in further analysis of S. 2748.