The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) has received a $505,232 federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences. The award will allow UNC to post the recorded interviews of more than 500 southerners describing their personal experiences of history to the university library’s historical Web site. The recordings are among more than 3,700 collected by UNC’s Southern Oral History Program. The project will also enable further development of new information technology pioneered by the university library.

Acquisitions

The Black Film Promotional Materials Collection has been acquired by Washington University. The collection is made up of 2,700 posters, programs, photographs, advertisements, press kits, and other materials used to promote more than 400 films between 1915 and 1980. Among the more rare items in the collection are materials related to films made before 1950, including The Birth of a Nation (1915), Cabin in the Sky (1941), and Stormy Weather (1943). The collection offers extensive materials from popular movies, such as No Way Out (1950), Carmen Jones (1954), The Defiant Ones (1958), In the Heat of the Night (1967), and Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner (1968). Materials related to the classic Blaxploitation films of the 1970s are particularly rich. Most of the films were made in the United States, but there are some rare holdings from the United Kingdom, Denmark, France, Germany, Poland, Romania, Latin America, and Australia. A detailed guide to the collection is available online at library.wustl.edu/units/spec/archives/guides/pdf/black-film.pdf.

The papers of C.A.E. (Earle) Rinker (1883–1965), a stenographer and miner, who lived and worked in Goldfield, Nevada, from 1906 to 1909 during its heyday as one of the richest gold mining areas in the world, have been acquired by the Special Collections Division of the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. Although one of the state’s most celebrated ghost towns today, Goldfield was once the centerpiece of a thriving mining community in central Nevada. Founded in 1902, Goldfield boasted a population of some 30,000 at the height of its boom in 1906, along with an elegant hotel and an opera house (Las Vegas, by comparison, had a population of under 1,000 at this time). Rinker’s papers, composed of almost 500 pieces of correspondence, personal diaries, photographs, stenographers notepads, and published materials such as pocket maps, mining prospectuses, mining publications, and annual reports from mining companies, document some of the most significant events and personalities in the history of early 20th-century Nevada. They also serve to chronicle many aspects of Nevada’s mining industry during this important time period.

The Burndy Library has been acquired by the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. The gift is composed of some 67,000 rare books and reference volumes, as well as a collection of scientific instruments. The library, founded by Ukrainian-born and Connecticut-based inventor and industrialist Bern Dibner (1897–1988), is the largest library collection to come to the Huntington since Henry E. Huntington’s founding gift to the institution in 1919. The library consists of an extensive collection in the history of science and technology, with a strong focus on the physical sciences. The Burndy Library comprises important materials from antiquity to the 20th century, with a particular emphasis on 18th-century physics, including collections by and about Isaac Newton, as well as major collections in 18th- and 19th-century mathematics,
the history of electricity, civil and structural engineering, optics, and color theory, among others. The collection includes such rare treasures as a 1544 edition of Archimedes’ *Philosophiac Geometrae*, a first edition of Robert Boyle’s Experiments and notes about the mechanical origin or production of electricity (1675), and the scientific library of Louis Pasteur. Dibner designed and patented the first solderless electrical connector—a new way to join cable and wire—and founded the Burndy Engineering Company in 1924. He established the Burndy Library in 1941 to house his growing collection of rare books and manuscripts.

The Elmer Bernstein Collection has been donated to the University of Southern California’s Cinema-Television Library. Bernstein, who died in August 2004, taught at the USC Thornton School of Music for more than eight years. To honor Bernstein’s lifelong commitment to musical education and to celebrate his connection to USC, his family has donated his personal archives, which contain numerous treasures, ranging from original scores to momentos. It is valued at more than $5 million. Plans to digitize a significant portion of the collection will make it easily accessible to students, aspiring musicians, composers, and fans.

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“In the News” (links to news, Webcasts, and campaigns dealing with violence).

The message that one is not responsible for any act of violence perpetuated against her or him is a strong component of this site. The straightforward presentation of information on all types of violence and on ways to find assistance makes this an excellent site for professionals and victims of abuse.

This Web site is an excellent, easy-to-navigate resource for information and help in dealing with personal violence. As an additional bonus, much information is available in Spanish.—Karen Evans, Indiana State University, kevans4@isugw.indstate.edu

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