California State University-Northridge’s Oviatt Library has received a grant of $39,000 to digitize the Clarence Easley Collection of classical guitar scores. Easley was the former director of the Guitar Department at the San Francisco Conservatory. He joined the American Guitar Society in 1930 and began long-time correspondence with Vahdah Olcott-Bickford, founder of the society. The Easley collection of musical scores, along with his correspondence, is a major archival resource for research on guitar history in the United States from 1930 to 1956. The collection contains about 2,000 editions of guitar scores, including many early arrangements by Segovia. Over time, Easley’s collection of scores was dispersed. Fortunately, he made a microfilm copy of his collection, which was held at Saint Mary’s College of California until two years ago when CSU made arrangements to receive the microfilm. There are 43 reels of microfilm and 3,300 index cards.

Acquisitions

The Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards Archives have become part of the Comic Arts Collection at the Virginia Commonwealth University. The archives consist of books, comics, and other materials that have been nominated for or have won Eisner Awards, given every July at Comic-Con International in San Diego, since 1992. The collection consists of a wide range of more than 100,000 items, including more than 30,000 traditional comic books along with graphic novels, memorabilia, collectors’ items, comic journals, fanzines, and a broad array of reference materials to support the entire collection. The Comic Arts Collection began in the 1970s with the donation of a large comic book collection and the papers of noted editorial cartoonists Fred Seibel and Bill Sykes.

The papers of Joseph E. Persico, author of Roosevelt’s Secret War, Edward R. Murrow: An American Original, The Imperial Rockefeller; The Eleventh Month, Eleventh Day, Eleventh Hour: Armistice Day, 1918, World War I and its Violent Climax; Nuremberg: Infamy on Trial, and coauthor of former Secretary of State Colin Powell’s autobiography My American Journey, as well as other acclaimed works of history and biography, have been acquired by the University at Albany, State University of New York. Persico, who earned his degree from Albany in 1952, is also known for his accomplishments as chief speechwriter for New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller. He remained Rockefeller’s primary speechwriter when the governor assumed the office of the vice presidency of the United States (1975–77). In what he refers to as one of his proudest moments, Persico served on the commission that oversaw the design of the new National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., and penned two inscriptions for the memorial, including, “Here we mark the price of freedom” inscribed on the Field of Gold Stars.

The Hilton Kramer Papers at Bowdoin College have recently been opened for research. The collection (28 linear feet; 1950–2002) documents the life and writings of Hilton Kramer, chief art critic for the New York Times (1973-1982) and cofounder of New Criterion magazine. Kramer traveled extensively throughout the United States and abroad in his career, and he commented critically on a number of the most important art exhibits and artists of the time. His writings appeared in numerous important exhibition catalogs, journals, and newspapers, and his files reflect that professional engagement in social and cultural matters, especially in the realm of 20th-century art.

Ed. note: Send your news to: Grants & Acquisitions, C&RL News, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611-2795; e-mail: agalloway@ala.org.