University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (UNC) has received two awards to fund the cataloging of rare Russian-language periodicals and books in the Andre Savine Collection. A grant of $218,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation will be used to catalog all 1,616 serials from the collection. The grant will run from January 1, 2008, through June 30, 2010. An additional gift from donors Kay and Van Weatherspoon of Charlotte, North Carolina, will be used to catalog approximately three-quarters of the monographs in the Savine Collection. The cataloging project will begin July 1, 2008, and end June 30, 2011. Savine, a book dealer and owner of Le Bibliophile Russe bookstore in Paris until his death in 1999, amassed a collection of more than 60,000 items documenting the lives of Russians who lived in exile, from the 1917 revolution onward. UNC acquired the Savine Collection in 2002 with a gift from the Weatherspoons. The cataloging projects are part of the UNC’s multiphased endeavor to maximize access to the Savine Collection. A 2005 grant of $363,000, also from the Mellon Foundation, helped to create the Core Module of the “Russia Beyond Russia Digital Library.” The Core Module enables scholars to search and read Savine’s original research about and annotations to materials in his collection. New serial and monograph records will link to the Core Module, providing context for researchers who encounter records via the Internet or OCLC’s WorldCat.

The Library of American Broadcasting at the University of Maryland received two $50,000 donations to catalog the Gomery Collection and the Gliner Humor Collection—a personal collection of mass media-related materials and a collection of humor-related content. Douglas Gomery is an author and media economist, and Art Gliner is founder of the Gliner Center for Humor Studies at the University of Maryland. The Gomery Collection consists of 250 boxes of books, journals, research materials, book drafts and galleys, and correspondence. Gomery has written on such a wide range of media-related topics including a volume of early 1900s “Little Nemo” cartoons next to a copy of Gomery’s own work Who Owns the Media (2004). There are several items in the collection of which Gomery is particularly proud: original copies of the Film Daily Yearbook (1926) and a personal signed copy of Story of Films, published in 1927 by Joseph Kennedy, father of President John F. Kennedy. The Gliner Humor Collection is a mix of scholarly books and journals; Playboy, MAD Magazine, and National Lampoon compilations; mass market paperbacks; children’s joke books; audio and video tapes of stand-up comics; bio and subject files composed of newspaper clippings; and articles from magazines. Gliner says the collection consists of more than 1,500 books and between 500 and 1,000 audiocassettes with more than 60 hours of comedian recordings.

Acquisitions

Father of the sociology of science Robert K. Merton’s (1910–2003) archive has been donated to Columbia University’s Rare Book and Manuscript Library. The collection was donated by Merton’s widow, sociologist Harriet Zuckerman, who is currently senior vice president of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and professor emerita at Columbia. Merton’s archive includes unpublished lecture notes, course syllabi, draft manuscripts, and extensive primary data and records from his long and varied career in the social sciences. The papers also feature Merton’s correspondence with other pivotal figures in 20th-century
sociology and public intellectual discourse, including Paul Lazarsfeld, C. Wright Mills, Daniel Bell, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Pitirim Sorokin, Pierre Bourdieu, Granville Hicks, Lionel and Diana Trilling, and Stephen Jay Gould, among others. The archive contains empirical data from a number of significant, but mostly unpublished, research projects that Merton conducted in the 1940s and 1950s, as well as unpublished manuscripts on mass communications (Dwight Eisenhower’s presidential candidacy), the sociology of science, and on sociological semantics, his last area of research. The archive includes multiyear studies focused on two of the nation’s oldest public housing projects and on patterns of American social life in friendships, politics, labor relations, and among different races and ethnicities. Merton’s papers include extensive correspondence with his Columbia colleague and collaborator of 35 years, Paul F. Lazarsfeld, with whom Merton worked at the Bureau of Applied Social Research on studies of mass communication. It was in this period that Merton developed the “focused interview” procedure—laying the groundwork for the focus groups now widely used in marketing research.

Materials associated with Sinclair Lewis and Lloyd Lewis’ (no relation) play “The Jayhawker” have been donated to St. Cloud State University by the family of Hubert Irey Gibson. Gibson served as Lewis’ personal secretary in the fall of 1933 in Chicago at the Hotel Sherry while “The Jayhawker” was written. The play was performed in Washington, New York, and Philadelphia in the fall of 1934, and was novelized in 1935. Included in the collection are several drafts of the play as it evolved, including the final draft autographed by the authors and given to Gibson. Other materials include letters from 1933 between Lloyd and Sinclair Lewis regarding the plot, letters from Hubert Gibson to his daughter Barbara regarding his time with Lewis, and contemporary newspaper clippings highlighting the collaboration of Sinclair Lewis and Lloyd Lewis.

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