

John J. Burns Library of Rare Books and Special Collections

The University's special collections, including the University's Archives, are housed in the magnificently appointed Honorable John J. Burns Library, located in the Bapst Library Building, north entrance. These distinguished and varied collections speak eloquently of the University's commitment to the preservation and dissemination of human knowledge. The Burns Library is home to more than one hundred thousand volumes, some twelve million manuscripts, and important collections of architectural records, maps, art works, photographs, films, prints, artifacts, and ephemera. These materials are housed in the climate-controlled, secure environment of Burns either because of their rarity or because of their importance as part of a special collection. While treated with special care, these resources are available for use at Burns to all qualified students, faculty, and researchers. Indeed, their use is strongly encouraged, and visitors to Burns are always welcome, either simply to browse or to make use of the collections.

Though its collections cover virtually the entire spectrum of human knowledge, the Burns Library has achieved international recognition in several specific areas of research, most notably: Irish studies; British Catholic authors; Jesuitana; fine print; Catholic liturgy and life in America, 1925-1975; Boston history; Caribbeana; Balkan studies; and Congressional archives. It has also won acclaim for significant holdings on nursing, detective fiction, Thomas Merton, Japanese prints, Colonial and early Republic Protestantism, and banking.

Some of the significant collections at Burns include:

The Aylesford Press Collection
Banking Archives: Hibernia Savings Bank, Union Warren, The Provident Institution for Savings, the Yankee Bank for Finance and Savings, and the Savings Banks Association of Massachusetts
Samuel Beckett Collection
Hilaire Belloc Collection and Archives, 1870-1953
The Honorable Edward Boland Papers
Bookbuilders of Boston Archives, 1938-
British Catholic Authors
Bruce F. Browning Boston Theater Collection
Burns, Oates and Washbourne Collection, 1847-1954
The Wallace P. Carroll Papers
The Charitable Irish of Boston Collection
Gilbert Keith Chesterton Collection, 1874-1936
Citywide Coordinating Council Archives, 1975-1978
Josephine A. Dolan Collection
Theodore Dreiser Collection
The Reverend Robert F. Drinan, S.J. Papers
East European Collection (Bulgarian and Romanian)

Eire Society of Boston Archives
Fine Print Collection
Flann O'Brien Papers
Eric Gill Collection
Howard B. Gill Papers
Joseph A. Grace's Early Modern English Collection
Graham Greene Library and Archive
Seamus Heaney Collection
The Honorable Margaret Heckler Papers
Irish Collection
Irish Music Center- John McCormack Irish Music Collection
Jane Jacobs Collection
Janet Wilson James Collection on Women's History
Elizabeth Jennings Collection
Jesuitana Collection, 1540-1773
David Jones Collection
Rita Kelleher Collection
Leeming Collection of Irish Literature
Reverend William J. Leonard, S.J. Liturgy and Life Collection, 1925-1975
Peter Levi Collection and Papers, 1931-
Robert and Patricia Lowery's Sean O'Casey Collection
Reverend Robert J. McEwen, S.J. Catholic Social Action as Embodied in the Modern Consumer Movement
McNiff Collection of the Stanbrook Abbey Press
Thomas Merton Collection
Meynell Family Collection
Morrisey Collection of Japanese Prints, 18th-19th centuries
New England Deaconess Hospital Nursing Collection, 1896-1989
Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill Papers
Nursing Archives
The Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Papers
Flann O'Brien Collection
Mary L. Pekarski Nursing Archives
Pope John XXI Collection of Medical Ethics
Salem Divines Collection
Joseph Coolidge Shaw, S.J., 1821-1851, Collection
Francis Stewart Collection
Rex Stout Collection and Archives
Francis Sweeney, S.J. Collection
Francis Thompson Collection, 1859-1907
Typography and Design
University Archives
Sr. Madeleine Clemence Vaillot, O.P. Papers
Nicholas M. Williams Memorial Collection of Caribbeana
William Butler Yeats Collection

The John J. Burns Library is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Library is closed on all University holidays. Visitors are always welcome and are encouraged to view the permanent exhibition areas of the Library. Guided tours are also available upon request. Patrons using the collections must do so in the Burns Reading Room where specialized reference and copy services are provided. Burns sponsors an active exhibits and lecture series program.
Source: University Librarian