

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 150,000 volumes, some 15,000,000 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; the Caribbean, especially Jamaica; Balkan studies; Nursing; and Congressional archives. It has also won acclaim for significant holdings on American 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
- ◆ Gerald Chartres Dawe Collection
- ◆ John F. Deane Collection
- ◆ 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 Authors Collection
- ◆ Graham Greene Library and Archive
- ◆ Bobby Hanvey Photographic Negative Archive on Northern Ireland
- ◆ Seamus Heaney Collection
- ◆ The Honorable Margaret Heckler Papers
- ◆ Irish Collection: Books, Manuscripts, Paintings, Sculpture, Photographs, Maps and Ephemera
- ◆ Irish Music Center- including the Frederick Manning Collection of John McCormack
- ◆ Jane Jacobs Collection
- ◆ Janet Wilson James Collection on Women's History
- ◆ Elizabeth Jennings Collection
- ◆ Jesuitana Collection, 1540-1773; 1814 - present
- ◆ David Jones Collection
- ◆ Rita Kelleher Collection on Nursing
- ◆ Brian and June 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 Collection of Sean O'Casey
- ◆ Reverend Robert J. McEwen, S.J. Collection of Catholic Social Action as embodied in the Modern Consumer Movement
- ◆ Mary and Joseph McNiff Collection of the Stanbrook Abbey Press
- ◆ Thomas Merton Collection
- ◆ Morrissey Collection of Japanese Prints, 18th-19th centuries
- ◆ Arthur Morrissey, M.D., Collection of Haitian Paintings
- ◆ New England Deaconess Hospital Nursing Collection, 1896-1989
- ◆ Nuala Di Dhomhnaill Papers
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Pasquale Sconzo Collection of Physics and Astronomy
- ◆ George Bernard Shaw Collection
- ◆ Joseph Coolidge Shaw, S.J., 1821-1851, 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: Burns Librarian