



SOONER HORIZON

A special collections newsletter for the
University of Oklahoma Libraries

Spring 2020 | Vol. 8, No. 1

Letter from Associate Dean for Special Collections, Bridget Burke

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Sooner Horizon*. I'm grateful for the support of a team of curators, communication professionals, students, photographers and others to help get the word out about our work. I know how fortunate we are to have a dedicated forum to bring together our stories. 2019 was a year of exceptional activity and impact for university libraries special collections.

Several projects that have been in the planning stages came to fruition, including the *Native Voices* exhibit and ongoing programming, the *Renegades: Bruce Goff and the American School* exhibition and outreach activities.

The Chinese Literature Translation Archive continued to serve as a site of scholarship and community for visiting scholars from China. Other long-term projects like *Red Dust Oklahoma: A Poetic History* continued to spark new iterations around the state, reaching expanded audiences via traveling exhibits.

We launched major collecting initiatives in the history of geology and in indigenous and native contemporary authors, and provided internships and curricular learning opportunities for student of all ages. Our fellowship programs continued to draw top-tier students and scholars from around the globe.



We honored the university's past through the collection of the papers of faculty members such as Dr. George Henderson, and also committed to an initiative with Project STAND that recognizes that questioning – dissent, protest, activism – also has a place in the story of our university.

All of this work happens because we are valued and supported as a center of excellence within the libraries and within the university. We are grateful for your interest and your support as we continue to refine our collections, services, and facilities to meet the needs of twenty-first century students and scholars.

Bridget Burke

*Associate Dean for Special Collections,
University Libraries*

**Support OU Libraries
Special Collections**

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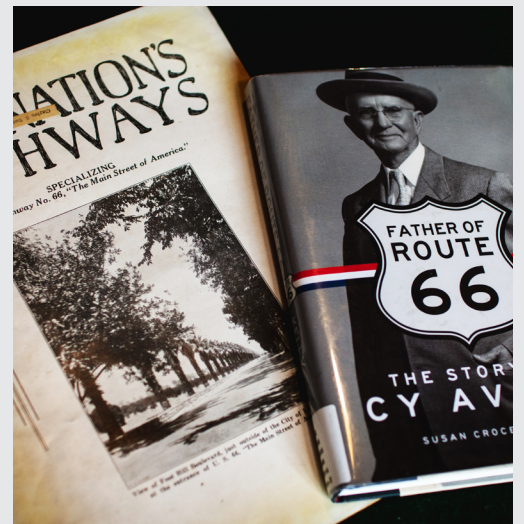
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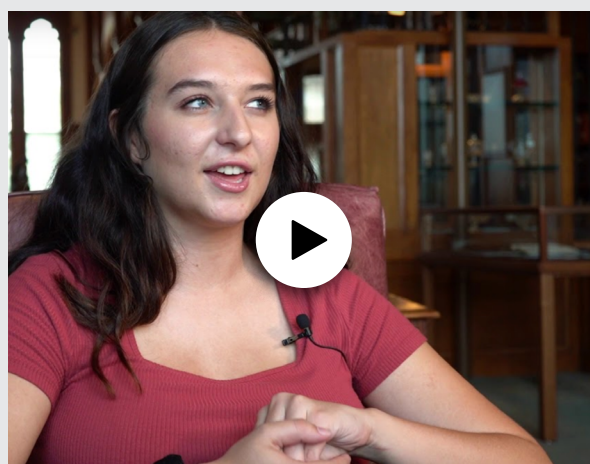
Featured Stories

Sally Johnson

OU junior, Sally Johnson, became the OU Libraries' first Project STAND intern in fall 2019, continuing as an OU Libraries student employee this spring. Working with associate dean for special collections Bridget Burke, they identified historical material related to student activism and dissent in the University Archives held within the Western History Collections.

Johnson has piloted the role of "peer student archivist," as an approach that acknowledges that documentation is more likely to occur when a student peer is promoting the archival value of the records that members of student organizations create.

As a result of this internship, Johnson was selected as a speaker at the Project STAND forum in February at Arizona State University. She presented as part of a panel on "Representation and Overcoming Silences in University Archives."



Watch Johnson discuss the impact of this internship.

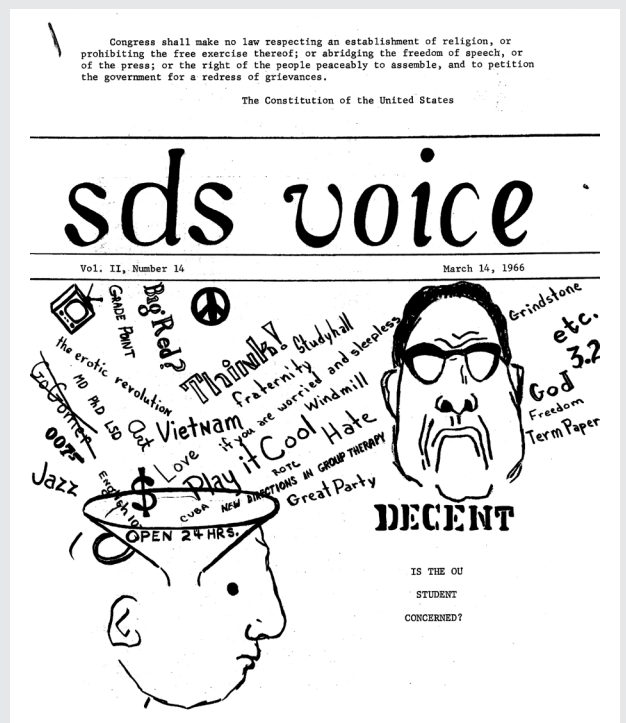
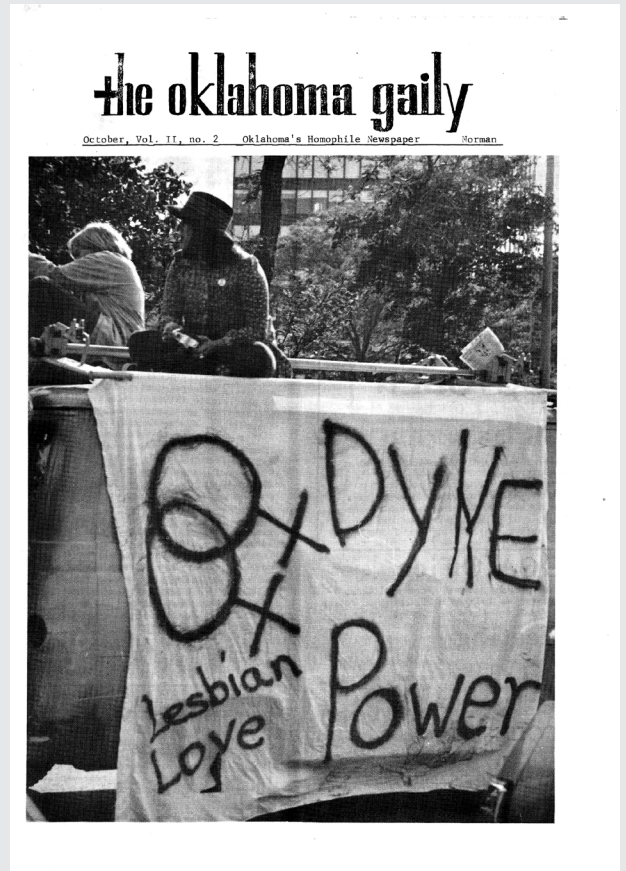
"OU Libraries is proud to be represented at the Project STAND forum and to share the work we've done in the past year with our colleagues. Sally's presence at the conference is a wonderful learning opportunity for her, and the presentation she gave demonstrates that she is actively building her portfolio and gaining skills that will add to her success in graduate school and in pursuing archival work in the future."

Bridget Burke

OU Libraries Associate Dean
for Special Collections

Two collections from the University Archives are now described on the Project STAND site: a selection of papers of OU president George Lynn Cross that reveal the university's reaction to the OU chapter of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) in the early 1960s, and a collection of underground student newspapers published on campus that explore gay rights, student reactions to the war in Vietnam, and the counterculture during that decade.

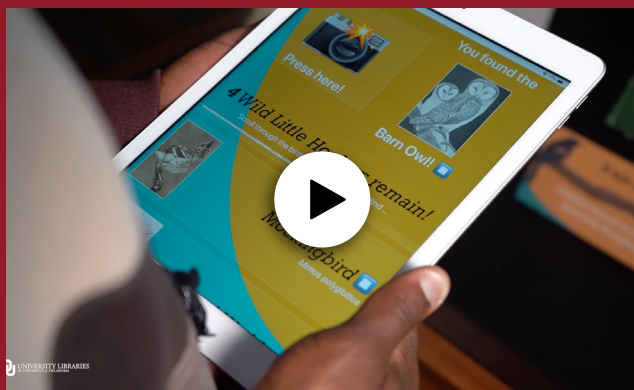
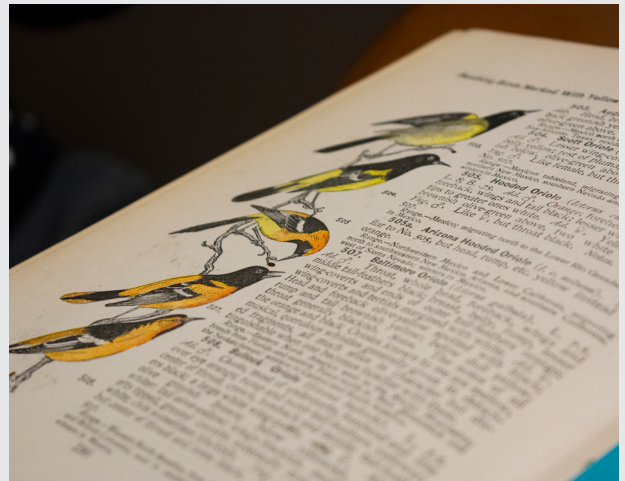
The SDS papers were heavily used by Cameron University faculty Dr. Sarah Eppler Janda in her book *Prairie Power: Student Activism, Counter Culture, and Backlash in Oklahoma 1962-1972* (University of Oklahoma Press 2018).



Birds From the Special Collections

The exhibition, on display in the special collections gallery on the 5th floor of the Bizzell Memorial Library, features works from the Lois Lenski Collection of Children's Literature, the Jackson Rinn Pope III History of Ornithology Collection, and the History of Science Collections. Many of the books have not been displayed before and not widely seen by the public. The books include guides for bird identification, bird stories for children, ways of describing bird song with words and notation, and information about bird watching. The exhibition is on display through May 15.

A series of small, rotating exhibits on current bird research occurring at OU are also on display on the main floor of the library. These pop-up exhibits rotate on a monthly basis and cover avian-related research including aeroecology, birds and bird-watching.



Visitors may also check out an iPad from the 5th floor help desk to discover eight of the birds referenced in the display, hear their calls and learn more about the different species.

Once all eight birds have been found, participants can receive a small 3D printed bird to keep as a souvenir.

Native Voices Over the Airwaves: The Indians for Indians Radio Show

Nearly 90 people attended the opening reception of the *Native Voices* exhibition. Justin F. Wood, Principal Chief of the Sac and Fox tribe, and Donna Williams, the granddaughter of Chief Whistler who was the founder of the radio show, spoke of the show's significance and the value of this resource becoming digitally preserved and accessible. The celebration continued into the evening with a tribute performance in Catlett Music Center, where eight tribal and school groups demonstrated the diversity of cultures represented in the Indians for Indians radio show.

Programming for the exhibition continues on March 26 with a symposium and a staged reading of Arigon Starr's original play "Indian Life" which is based on the radio show.

The symposium is scheduled for 1-5 p.m. in Bizzell Memorial Library, featuring a line-up of media professionals, scholars, and Indians for Indians radio show participants who will reflect on the show's impact. The staged reading of "Indian Life," begins at 7:30 p.m. with a musical performance.



Mellon Fellows

The History of Science Collections hosted two Mellon Fellows during the spring semester - Francesco Luzzini (top right) and Adam Mednick (bottom right).

The Mellon Fellowship Program is a collaboration between the Department of the History of Science and the History of Science Collections at OU Libraries. Funding through the Andrew Mellon Foundation enables scholars from all over the world to visit the collections and conduct research for their academic projects and other publishing ventures.

DR. FRANCESCO LUZZINI

Dr. Francesco Luzzini returned to Norman as a Mellon Fellow to work on his current project, "Sounding the Depths of Providence: On Mineral (Re)generation and Human-Environment Interaction in the Early Modern Period." For this project Luzzini will use the collections' holdings of books on geology, mining and natural philosophy to understand the historical connections between ideas about mineral growth and genesis and ideas about exploitability of nature and renewability of resources

Luzzini is currently a research affiliate at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science.

He spent the 2015-2016 academic year at the OU as an Edition Open Sources Fellow, working on his book *Theory, Practice, and Nature In-between* (2018), a critical edition of a 18th century text by Antonio Vallisneri.



DR. ADAM MEDNICK

Dr. Adam Mednick became the first visiting scholar to conduct research using our History of Geology Archive. Mednick is a physician with a neurology consulting practice.

He is writing a book for young readers *The Magic Calendar Chronicles: Meeting Mary Anning, November 6, 1812*.

Mednick became aware of the History of Science Collections through Hugh Torrens, whose papers were the first to establish our History of Geology Archive.

News Roundup



Nine of the recently donated collections within the American School of Architecture Archive are now available for research.



OU-Norman campus deans visited the special collections on Jan. 27 where curators discussed the crown jewels of our holdings and demonstrated the transdisciplinary impact of these resources.

A screenshot of the website for the Consortium for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine. The header includes the logo and navigation links: About, Events, Fellowships, Collections, Groups, Contribute, and Log in or Create Account. The main content area features three news items:

- The Transparent Woman: Medical Visualities in Fin-de-Siècle Europe and the United States, 1880-1910**
The history of how medical training came to dematerialize the human body offers lessons for how we understand health and the body today.
- University of Oklahoma Collections Added to Consortium Search Hub**
Listings for more than 61,000 published works from the University's History of Science Collections are now included in the Consortium's search hub.
- December 2019 Newsletter**
Read about the Consortium's newest member, news about fellows and fellowships, working groups, and the collections of member institutions.

OU Libraries added more than 60,000 records to the Consortium for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine's combined search hub, which allows simultaneous searching of the holdings of member institutions, including Yale University, the Newberry Library, the Huntington Library, and the Smithsonian. Our inclusion in this database makes it likely that more researchers will visit OU Libraries and makes our special collections more visible internationally.



Visiting scholars to the Chinese Literature Translation Archive hosted a Lunar New Year dumpling party for special collections students, faculty and staff.



Todd Fuller, curator of the Western History Collections was named the William J. Welch Professor of Bibliography and an affiliate faculty member in the English Department.



Bailey Hoffner joined the University Libraries special collections department as the metadata and collections management archivist. Her previous experience includes serving as the curator and archivist at the American Organ Institute and as an archivist at the Carl Albert Center.



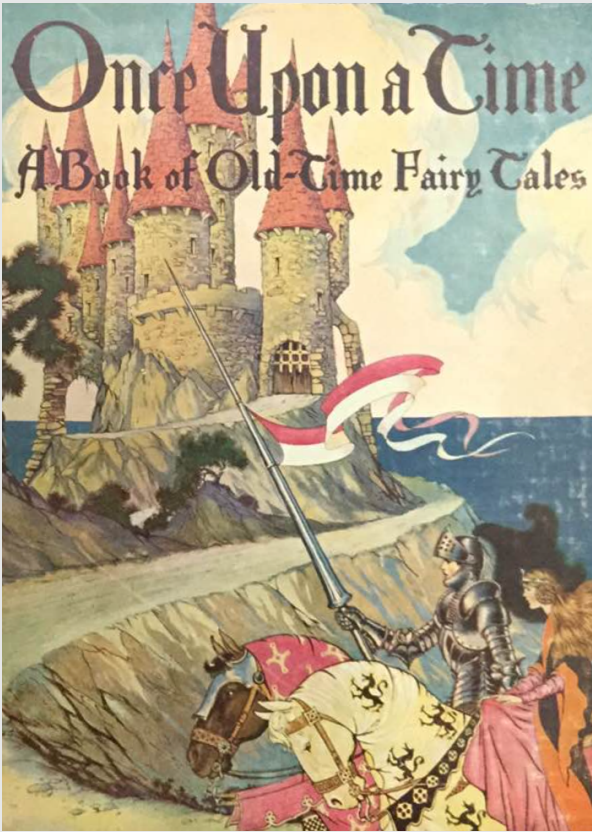
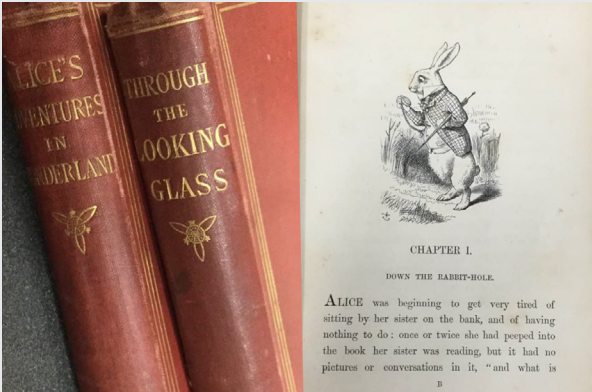
History of Science Collections Curator Kerry Magruder presented a public talk to kick off a new "Science: The Cutting Edge" lecture series to promote scientific literacy. With his talk, "Early Theories of Ice Ages & Mass Extinctions," Magruder described how a new sensibility of geohistory emerged in the early 19th century, and introduced the new history of geology archive in the History of Science Collections that supports research in this area.

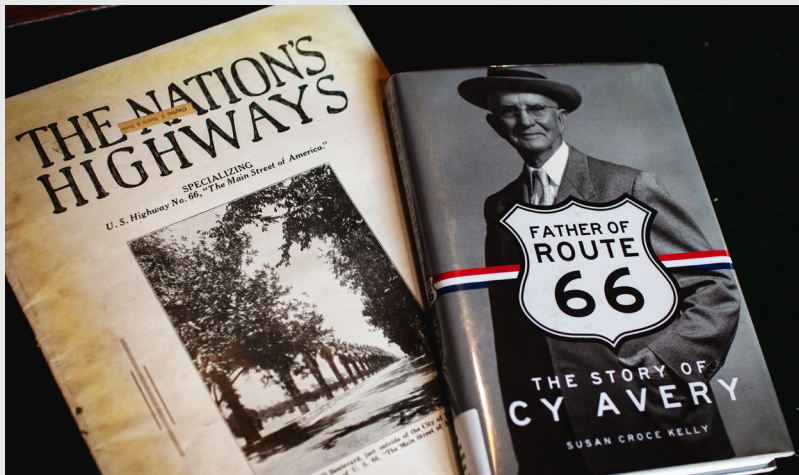
Exhibits Coming Soon

Fairy Tales

Once Upon a Time: Fairy Tales and the Stories We Tell (& Retell) will open in August 2020.

The exhibit will showcase holdings from the John and Mary Nichols Collection, including the Andrew Lang series of books, *Alice in Wonderland*, a variety of items from the Lois Lenski Children’s Literature Collection, as well as items from the History of Science Collections that intertwine fairy tales with scientific themes, like *The Water Babies and the Fairy-land of Science*.



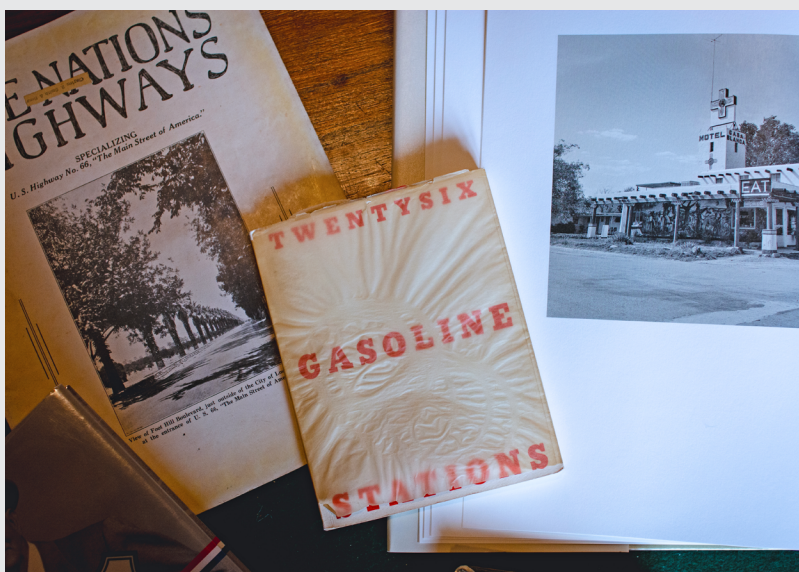


Route 66

Movements and Borders, an upcoming exhibit in the Western History Collections considers how and why people leave one place arrive at another.



Route 66 played a prominent role in human movement during the mid 20th century, and the exhibit will explore ramifications reaching across agriculture, pop culture, race and ethnicity, as well as travel and tourism in varying complexities.



Credits

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