



JOHN AND MARY NICHOLS

RARE BOOKS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA LIBRARIES



The University of Oklahoma Libraries have actively sought to collect rare books and research materials in support of the academic curricula since the earliest days of the university. In the tradition of this commitment to scholarly endeavor at the University of Oklahoma, the University Libraries established the John and Mary Nichols Rare Books and Special Collections in April, 2001. The collection is named for John and Mary Nichols of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, who are longtime supporters of the University of Oklahoma and the University Libraries. The collection was founded by the University Libraries to promote scholarship in the field of English literature, and to provide stewardship for the general collection of rare books within the library system.

Located on the fifth floor of Bizzell Memorial Library, the collections are comprised of rare books and special materials in English literature and related subjects, dating from the 15th century to the present. Although the collections focus primarily on English literature, a broad range of American and European literatures are represented as well. A collection of general rare books, including several incunables, and a Bible collection complement the focal literature collections. These collections offer opportunities for interdisciplinary research in such fields as literary studies, the history of printing, and religion.

The mission of the John and Mary Nichols Rare Books and Special Collections is to collect, preserve, promote, and make available its rare and special materials in support of scholarly research. The University Libraries encourage faculty, students, and other researchers to use the collection materials.

The John and Mary Nichols Rare Books and Special Collections join three existing special collections within the University Libraries. The History of Science Collections, the Harry W. Bass Collection in Business History, and the Western History Collections are established research collections which offer rare and specialized materials to scholars. The John and Mary Nichols Rare Books and Special Collections complement these libraries by expanding the scope and depth of research materials available at the University of Oklahoma.



*John W. Nichols, Dean Sul H. Lee and
Mary D. Nichols*

John W. Nichols, a 1936 University of Oklahoma business alumnus, and his wife, Mary Davis Nichols, a 1937

alumna, are strong supporters of the University of Oklahoma's academic mission. Mr. Nichols is chairman emeritus of Devon Energy Corporation, and director emeritus of Liberty National Bank and Trust Company. Together, Mr. and Mrs. Nichols have fostered an enduring relationship with Bizzell Memorial Library through their continued interest in its services and programs.