

Rare and Manuscript Collections

Located on Level 2B of the Carl A. Kroch Library, the Cornell University Library's Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections includes more than 400,000 printed volumes and more than 70 million manuscripts, photographs, prints, and other visual media. The Rare Book collections document the history of the written word from ancient clay cuneiform tablets to an extensive representation of works by 20th century authors. The collections support research in fields such as medieval and Renaissance studies, 18th and 19th century France and England, American history and culture, Anglo-American literature, Icelandic history and culture, the history of science, and sexuality. Other collections focus on agriculture, architecture and city planning, New York State history, ornithology, witchcraft, and the performing arts.

The Cornell University Archives, a component of the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, promotes knowledge and understanding of the university's origins, growth, and ideals. The Archives collects and preserves records of historical, legal, fiscal, and/or administrative value to Cornell University. Holdings include official records and reports of the university, its officers, and component parts; private papers of faculty, students, staff, and alumni; official and student publications; maps and architectural records; audiovisual materials including still photographs and negatives, motion picture film, oral history interviews, and audio and video tapes; and artifacts and ephemera documenting Cornell's history.

The division plays an active teaching role at Cornell and promotes the use of its collections through a variety of programs, including instruction, tours, exhibitions, websites, and networked access to collections. The staff is available to collaborate with individual faculty members in developing research projects to introduce students to original sources. The division's seminar and lecture rooms provide ideal space in which to use rare books and manuscripts for instructional purposes. Staff members also provide walk-in reference services and individual consultations on special subject areas. Faculty members are invited to make use of this repository for teaching, research, and for the preservation of their own papers and university records. For additional information, visit the division's website at <http://rmc.library.cornell.edu/>.