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Rhode Island Special Collections Libraries: A Brief Guide

Rhode Island Council for the Humanities

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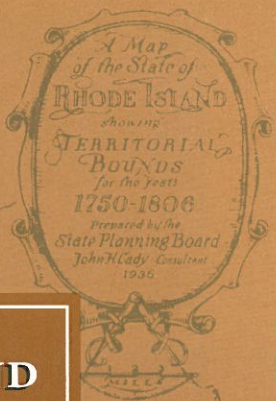
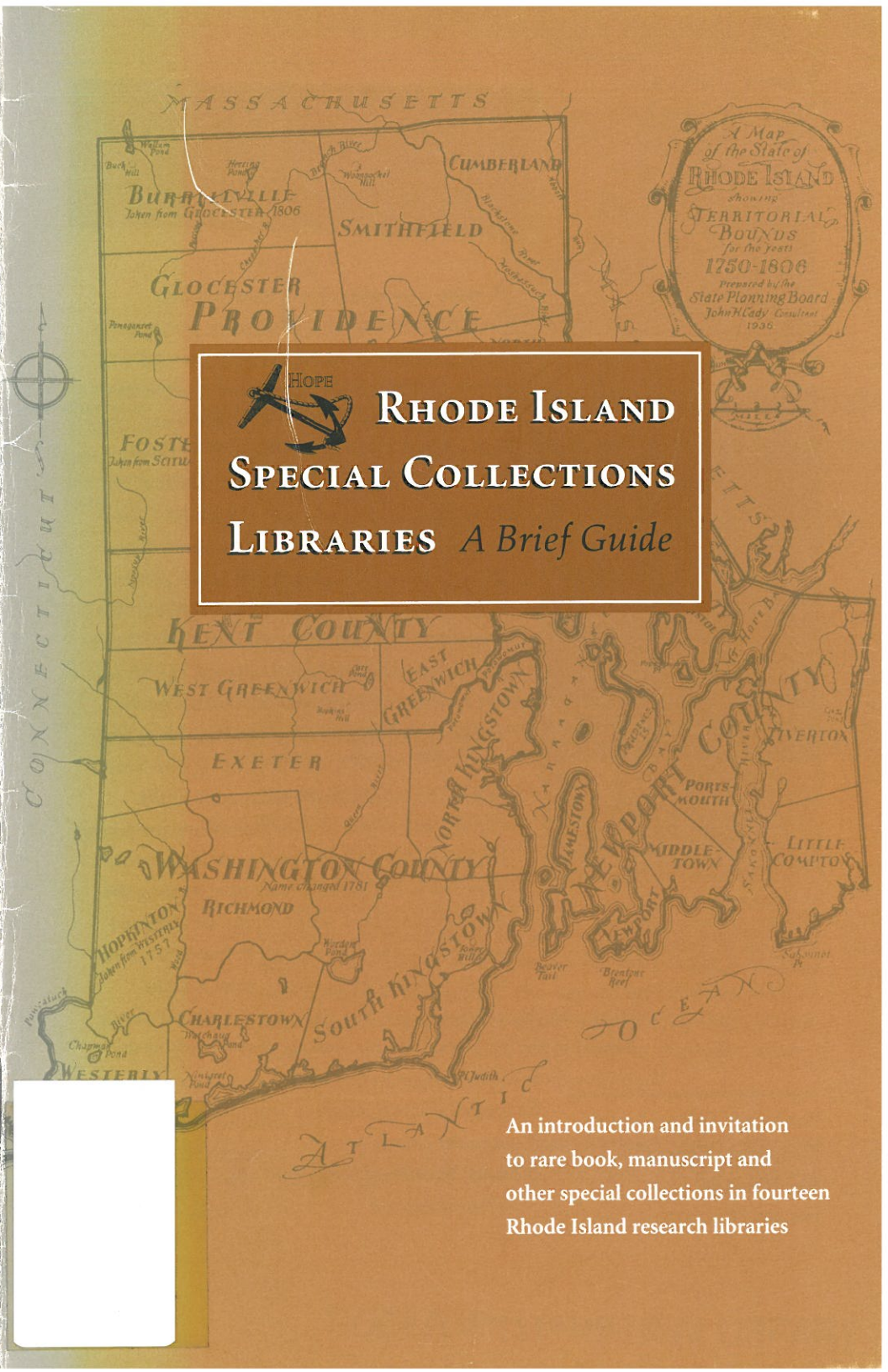
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RHODE ISLAND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARIES *A Brief Guide*

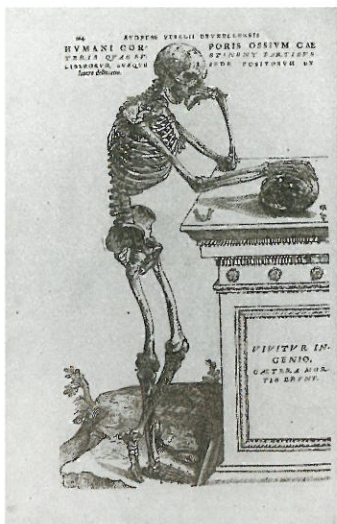
An introduction and invitation
to rare book, manuscript and
other special collections in fourteen
Rhode Island research libraries

BROWN UNIVERSITY
THE JOHN HAY LIBRARY

Rhode Island special
collections libraries : a
brief guide

With some 350,000 printed books and over 2,000,000 manuscripts, broadsides, prints, maps, photographs and pieces of sheet music, the John Hay Library at Brown University constitutes the largest and most diverse special collections library in Rhode Island. Special strengths include the Anne S. K. Brown Military Collection; the Harris Collection of American Poetry and plays; the Miller Collection of Humorous Literature; the Annmary Brown Memorial Collection of books printed before 1501; the Lownes Collection of Significant Books in the History of Science; the Rider Collection of Rhode Island History; the McLellan Lincoln Collection; the H. Adrian Smith Collection of Magic books; the Hall-Hoag Collection of Extremist and Dissenting Literature; one of the largest stamp collections in the United States; and various collections pertaining to the history of mathematics, children's literature, the occult and the book arts. Among the individual authors whose works are collected extensively are Thoreau, H. P. Lovecraft, Poe, Bernard Shaw, H. G. Wells, John Buchan,

Dante, Machiavelli and Zola. The University Archives also is located in the John Hay Library and contains records of the institution from its foundation in 1764, as well as biographical information on alumni/ae.



ANDREAS VESALIUS
De Humani Corporis Fabrica
Basel: Joannes Oporinus, 1543
Lownes Collection

Prospect & College Streets
Providence, RI 02912
401 863-2146
Fax 401 863-1272

■ Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M.

REFERENCE

"Cuisinier Turc"
Plate from
unidentified 16th
century book.
Szathmary Family
Collection

The culinary archives contains approximately 100,000 volumes and supports the teaching programs of Johnson & Wales University. The CAM is one of the principal institutions in the United States

for the study of the history of food, cooking, nutrition and related subjects including travel and tourism, direct marketing, hotel management and fashion retailing, reflecting interests from ancient times to the present.

Established in 1979 with a donation of rare cookbooks from the late Paul Fritzsche, a prominent collector, the holdings were enlarged further in 1989 by the donation of the Szathmary Family Culinary Collection of approximately 300,000 items. Several other noted collectors enhanced the holdings with invaluable collections, including the archives of the Honorable Order of the Golden Toque and Les Dames d'Escoffier International.

The holdings include approximately 30,000 cookbooks, 30,000 menus, 30,000 hospitality industry and travel related postcards, 20,000 culinary pamphlets, 6,000 tradecards and a graphics collection of more than 70,000 items dating from the 15th century to the present. The manuscript collection contains food-related correspondence signed by emperors, kings, United States Presidents, politicians, artists, writers, musicians, scientists, explorers and renowned chefs.



315 Harborside Boulevard
Providence, RI 02905
401 598-2805
Fax 401 598-2807

- *Hours:* Museum Tours: Monday–Friday: 9:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M.; Saturday: 10:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M.; Research by appointment.

THE JOHN CARTER BROWN LIBRARY

JOHN OGILBY

*America: Being the
Latest, and Most
Accurate Description
of the New World.*
London: Printed by
the Author, 1671



The John Carter Brown Library is an independently funded and administered center for advanced research in history and the humanities, located at Brown University since 1904. As a comprehensive collection of printed materials pertaining to the entire Western Hemisphere during the colonial period, including both American and European imprints, the John Carter Brown Library is generally considered the finest in the world. The Library's holdings, for example, of European

books about Brazil printed before 1800, of books printed in Mexico before 1700, of American Revolutionary pamphlets, of works in Native American languages dating from before 1800, of German language titles about the Americas before 1800, and of books and maps concerning the literature of discovery from 1492 to 1750, are nearly unrivaled.

For more than 130 years the Library has served scholars from all over the United States and abroad. In order to facilitate and encourage use of the collection, the Library offers fellowships, sponsors lectures and conferences, regularly mounts exhibitions for the public, and publishes catalogues, bibliographies, and other works that interpret its holdings.

The John Carter Brown Library is open to any properly qualified investigator whose research requires the use of its materials after other possible resources have been exhausted.

Brown University
The College Green
Box 1894
Providence, RI 02912
401 863-2725
Fax 401 863-3477

■ *Hours:* Monday–Friday: 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.;
Saturday: 9:00 A.M.–12 noon.

NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM



Items from the
Robinson Family
Collection, 1715–
1940

The Newport Historical Society's collections include a research library of 9,000 volumes, 800 shelf feet of manuscript materials and over 100,000 photographs. These materials are used by researchers worldwide for information on the history of Newport County and southern New England. Special collections include the second largest genealogical resource in Rhode Island, containing letters, diaries and an extensive library of published genealogies.

A complete collection of records for the oldest Quaker congregation in America, encompassing minutes of meetings, disciplines, vital records and manumissions, provides an invaluable resource for the study of Newport's overall history. Of particular interest are the Robinson Papers, a comprehensive collection of manuscripts chronicling the history of a prominent Newport and Philadelphia family. The history of Jewish settlement and mercantile success is illustrated in account books of Aaron Lopez and other merchants. Other account books detail rum and slave trafficking and daily business transactions of furniture maker Job Townsend. Also available are church records, maps and atlases, newspapers, town records, ships' logs and the personal correspondence of hundreds of Newport families.

- *Hours:* Tuesday–Friday: 9:30 A.M.–4:30 P.M.;
Saturday: 9:30 A.M.–12 noon

82 Touro Street
Newport, RI 02840
401 846-0813
Fax 401 846-1853

THE PROVIDENCE ATHENAEUM

The Providence Athenaeum is the oldest library and cultural center in Providence. Its roots go back to 1753, to the founding of the Providence Library Company which predated by a century the era of tax supported libraries. The present Greek Revival building was completed in 1838 to house the library's collections; additions to the building were made in 1911 and 1978.

Founded to provide "a home library, larger, better arranged, and more useful than that within the means of any individual," the library houses over 150,000 books, periodicals and audio and video cassettes. The Athenaeum's tradition has been to remain

EZRA STOLLER
View toward
Rare Book Room



contemporary and to reflect the tastes of the diverse membership. Special strengths include history, biography, the natural sciences, the arts, literature and detective fiction. The rare book collection numbers 20,000 volumes, from medieval manuscripts through such 19th century titles as John James Audubon's magnificent *Birds of America* and *Viviparous Quadruped of North America*.

The Athenaeum offers adult and children's programs to its members and to the general public. The open shelves and comfortable, 19th century atmosphere invite one to browse.

251 Benefit Street
Providence, RI 02903
401 421-6970
Fax 401 421-2860

- *Hours:* Monday, Tuesday, Thursday–Friday: 8:30 A.M.–5:30 P.M.; Wednesday: 8:30 A.M.–8:30 P.M.; Saturday: 9:30 A.M.–5:30 P.M. (closed July and August); Sunday: 1:00 P.M.–5:00 P.M. (January–April)

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE
PHILLIPS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



Photograph of John F. Kennedy and the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation, ca. 1962.
John O. Pastore Collection

Built upon the initial donation in 1967 of Congressman John E. Fogarty's papers (a collection of over one-half million pieces rich with insights into the expansion of government participation in health and education), the College's 42 special collections emphasize the individuals and organizations who have played

a leading role in the political, legal and cultural history of Rhode Island during the 19th and, especially, 20th centuries.

Prominent mayoral, gubernatorial and congressional papers include those of Joseph A. Doorley, Jr., Dennis J. Roberts, Robert E. Quinn, Edward P. Beard, Aime J. Forand, Edward J. Higgins, J. Howard McGrath and John O. Pastore.

Other collections of interest to local historians are those from the Quonset Point Naval Air Station, The Urban League of Rhode Island and Rhode Island Constitutional Conventions. Many of the holdings also reflect an emphasis on minority groups contributions to the state's development.

The Blackfriars' Guild, William R. Bonniwell, O.P., and Thomas M. McGlynn, O.P., Collections illustrate the traditions and contributions of the Dominican Order, which conducts Providence College.

Eaton Street
Providence, RI 02918
401 865-2377
Fax 401 865-2823

■ Hours: Monday–Friday: 8:30 A.M.–5:30 P.M.

PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT

Altar Book
Boston: Merrymount
Press, 1896.
Daniel Berkeley
Udike Collection



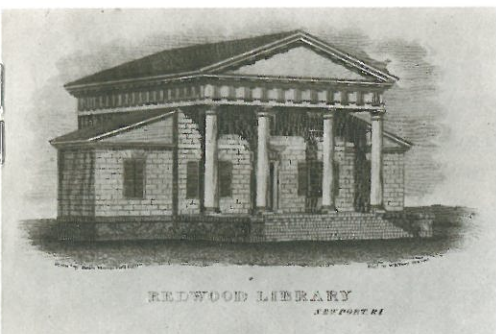
The Providence Public Library acquired its first special collection in 1884, the C. Fiske Harris Collection on the Civil War and Slavery, which now numbers over 10,000 items. Today the library has 15 special collections including the Daniel Berkeley Udike Collection of Books on Printing, the Potter-Williams Collection on Irish Culture, the Edith Wetmore Collection of Children's Books, the Nicholson Whaling Collection, the Percival Collection on Magic, the William H. Edwards Collection on Legal History, the Udike Pamphlet Collection, the Edward B. Hanes Collection on Checkers, the Barney Collection on Whist, the Edith Wetmore Collection of Illustrated Books, the Alfred E. Brownell Collection on Maritime History, the Louis Huntoon Collection of World I and II posters, the Udike-Arnold Collection of Manuscripts and the David Wallis Reeves Collection of Band Music. In addition there are about a thousand miscella-

neous rare books and a supporting collection of reference books. All of these books and manuscripts are kept in the Department of Special Collections. Elsewhere in the Library are the Rhode Island Collection, the Nickerson Collection of Books on Architecture and a collection of books on costume and textiles.

225 Washington Street
Providence, RI 02903
401 455-8021
Fax 401 455-8080

■ *Hours:* Monday: 1:00 P.M.–9:00 P.M.; Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 9:30 A.M.–5:00 P.M.; Closed Wednesday

THE REDWOOD LIBRARY AND ATHENAEUM



Bookplate, ca. 1829
Depicting Original Library Building
Drawn by James Stevens
Engraved by William D. Terry

The Redwood Library was founded in 1747 by Abraham Redwood and a group of his friends and associates. The neoclassical original building, designed by Peter Harrison and constructed between 1748 and 1750, is the oldest library building in the country. The grounds and the Library's holdings of fine and decorative arts are also of national importance. Redwood is the oldest of the 18 surviving American membership libraries to retain

a circulating collection. The non-circulating special collections comprise about a quarter of the Library's approximately 150,000 volumes.

Redwood's Special Collections Department was established in 1991 to bring together various book, manuscript, archival and other collections acquired by the Library over the previous 240 years. Components include the Original Collection, purchased in England in 1749, the earliest surviving incunable in an American library (a 1487 Venetian Bible); the Cary Collection, emphasizing 18th-century English furniture, interior design and decoration, one of the best collections of its kind in the world; several 19th-century private libraries, including those of author George Henry Calvert of Newport and attorney James Emott of Poughkeepsie and New York City; and a large collection of printed material related to Newport.

50 Bellevue Avenue
Newport, RI 02840
401 847-0292
Fax 401 841-5680

■ Hours: Monday–Saturday: 9:30 A.M.–5:30 P.M.

THE RHODE ISLAND BLACK HERITAGE SOCIETY



Photograph of Rev. Reading Johns and His Flock,
Union Congregational Church, Newport, ca. 1900.
Rice Collection

The Rhode Island Black Heritage Society, founded in 1975, has as its purpose to research, document, exhibit and interpret the history of blacks in Rhode Island. Its collections date from the 17th century to the present.

Among the Society's holdings are 3,500 documents, newspapers, periodicals, books and public records. Runs of local and national newspapers and

magazines span the 19th and 20th centuries and there are over 250 rare books, manumission papers, residency exams and petitions. City and state papers and records cover the years from 1877 through the 1960's. The records of many black churches also are held by the Society. The collection includes over 4,000 photographs which document important black social and political events, and the collection of artifacts covers a wide range of materials including clothing, weaponry and household utensils and implements. The 2,500 item audio and slide collection includes jazz records, oral history tapes and slide programs documenting the past and present experience of the Cape Verdean community. Finally, the small but growing fine art collection includes paintings and sculpture by Rhode Island blacks from the 19th century to the present.

46 Aborn Street
Providence, RI 02903
401 751-3490

■ Hours: Monday–Friday: 9:00 A.M.–4:30 P.M.

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE
JAMES P. ADAMS LIBRARY
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Located in the James P. Adams Library, the Special Collections Department of Rhode Island College was established in 1974. It consists of the College Archives plus a variety of personal papers and subject collections that are particularly strong in the areas of education and social history.

The Nathaniel Terry Bacon Papers illustrate the many personal and business interests, 1876–1926, of this engineer and philanthropist. The Carl Russell Gross Collection chronicles the African American experience, 1696–1971, and offers a broad range of historical and cultural material. Other collections document the struggle for fair housing and welfare rights, 1950–

1970, opposition to school busing in Providence, 1965–1975, and the careers of artist Nancy Elizabeth Prophet and Judge Michael DeCiantis.

Among the ethnic materials are the Cape Verdean Collection, the Ethnic Heritage Studies Project, the International Institute Papers, the Muratore collection on Italian culture and genealogy and the

Archives of the Portuguese Cultural Association. The Social and Political Materials Collection contains printed materials from left and right wing extremist groups and other socio-political movements, 1950–1975. Book collections include 19th century textbooks, nursing education and art.

■ Hours: Monday–Friday: 9:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M.

Photograph of the First Home of Rhode Island College, ca. 1875. Rhode Island College Archives



Mt. Pleasant Avenue
Providence, RI 02908
401 456-9653
Fax 401 456-9646

THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY



AVERY LORD
Photograph of the
U.S. Light House
Service Ship *Pansy*,
Narragansett Bay,
1926.
Avery Lord
Collection

Established in 1822, the Society is the fourth oldest in the country. Its mission is to collect, preserve and share the documentary and physical evidence reflective of life and human endeavor in Rhode Island. It accomplishes its mission through

four major programs: education, publications, a museum and research library.

The library houses the second largest genealogical collection in New England. The printed collection exceeds 150,000 volumes including local, military, economic, social, political, ecclesiastical histories, municipal and corporate publications and the pre-eminent collection of Rhode Island newspapers and early imprints.

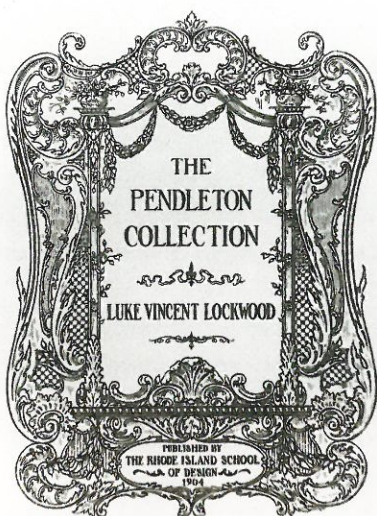
Manuscript collections date from 1652 to the present. They include personal papers, business records of textile, toolmaking and insurance companies, churches and organized labor, and those of fraternal, social, recreational, literary, civic, and charitable organizations as well as maritime records which document Rhode Island's coastal and global trade.

The graphics collection houses a quarter-million images and a premier collection of architectural drawings, maps and broadsides. It is equally rich in watercolors, drawings, engravings, etchings and ephemera. Audiovisual holdings contain 4 million feet of amateur, feature and news film, and sound recordings. It provides researchers with the best available visual documentation of Rhode Island's landscape and culture.

121 Hope Street
Providence, RI 02906
401 331-8575
Fax 401 751-7930

■ Hours: September–June, Wednesday–Saturday:
9:00 a.m.–5:45 p.m.; Memorial Day–Labor Day,
Tuesday: 12 noon–8:00 p.m.; Wednesday–Friday:
9:00 a.m.–5:45 p.m.

Founded in 1878, the RISD Library is one of the oldest independent art school libraries in the United States. The collections, focusing on art, architecture and design, include 75,000 books and 9,000 bound periodical volumes. Special col-



LUKE VINCENT LOCKWOOD
The Pendleton Collection of American
Furniture at the RISD Museum.
Providence: RISD, 1904

lections include the 500 volume Artists' Books collection and the 500 volume Lowthorpe Collection of Landscape Architecture, acquired as a result of the merger of the Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture with RISD in 1945.

Special collections have developed to support not only the curriculum of the school, but also the curatorial departments of the RISD Museum of Art. Notable strengths include architecture and the decorative arts, such as furniture and ceramics, as well as textiles, apparel design, jewelry and metalwork.

The Library has extensive visual collections including 420,000 clippings arranged by subject and 19,000 mounted reproductions of paintings, drawings, sculpture and architecture. The poster collection of more than 2,000 items

includes representations of recent graphic design and the history of the poster in Poland.

College & Benefit Streets
Providence, RI 02903
401 454-6365
Fax 401 454-6320

- Hours: Monday–Thursday: 8:30 a.m.–11:00 p.m.; Friday: 8:30 a.m.–8:00 p.m.; Saturday: 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.; Sunday: 2:00 p.m.–11:00 p.m.; Call to confirm summer and holiday hours.

UNITED STATES NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NAVAL HISTORICAL COLLECTION

The Naval Historical Collection of the U.S. Naval War College Library was established in 1969 and contains four major research divisions: Archives, Manuscripts, Oral Histories and Special Collections. Holdings focus on the history of the Naval War College, the Navy in Narragansett Bay and the art and science of naval warfare during the 19th and 20th centuries.

The College Archives contains 1,500 linear feet of records documenting the history of the institution since its founding in 1884. Holdings include administrative correspondence, syllabi, student theses, staff studies, lectures and publications from 1884 to the present.

There are 145 collections of personal and corporate papers and 349 single items. Outstanding collections include the papers of College Presidents Stephen B. Luce, Alfred Thayer Mahan, Raymond A. Spruance and Richard G. Colbert. Regional collections document the Newport Naval Base and Station,

the Naval Torpedo Station and the Quonset Point Naval Air Station. Single manuscripts include letters, diaries, journals, log-books, and memoirs.

The collection of 150 oral histories focuses on flag rank officer biographies as well as Navy wives, WAVES, and College civilian and military faculty and staff. Special collections include the only extant run of the *Navalog*, the Naval Base newspaper, and naval pamphlets.

■ Hours: Monday–Friday: 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.



Rear Admiral Stephen B. Luce, 1827–1917, Founder and First President of the Naval War College

686 Cushing Road
Newport, RI 02841
401 841-2435
Fax 401 841-1140

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT

REFERENCE

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FRITZ EICHENBERG
"Total Disarmament"
Wood Engraving
from *Fables With a
Twist*. Peace Dale,
R.I.; F. Eichenberg,
1976

The University of Rhode Island Special Collections Department includes notable holdings of rare books, manuscripts, political and business archives, photographs, maps and the New Leaves Press.

The 8,000 volume rare book collection has strong holdings in botany (including herbals), zoology, fine printing, history, poetry, cookery and philosophy. Comprehensive book collections include the works of Walt Whitman, Ezra Pound, Edna

St. Vincent Millay, E. A. Robinson, Leonard Bacon and Fritz Eichenberg.

The 3,850 volume Rhode Island Collection consists of historic books, maps and atlases, tax books, directories, state publications before 1900, almanacs and periodicals. Manuscript collections consist of 6,075 linear feet of 18th-20th century material, including personal and political papers, church, ferry-boat, mill, oyster bed and fishery records, store ledgers, journals and weather statistics. The collection also contains 707 cassettes and many transcripts of local oral history projects on various aspects of early Rhode Island, especially mill life.

The University Archives contains official non-current records and printed materials. The collection also contains over 137,500 photographs from 1889 to the present.

The New Leaves Press consists of three 19th-century hand presses which produce fine press memorabilia, keepsakes, and graphics for the Library.

■ Hours: Monday–Friday: 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Kingston, RI 02881
401 792-2594
Fax 401 792-4608

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIV. LIBRARY

Brown University
The John Hay Library

Culinary Archives and Museum
at Johnson & Wales University

The John Carter Brown Library

Newport Historical Society and Museum

The Providence Athenaeum

Providence College
Phillips Memorial Library Special Collections

Providence Public Library
Special Collections Department

The Redwood Library and Athenaeum

The Rhode Island Black Heritage Society

Rhode Island College James P. Adams Library
Special Collections

The Rhode Island Historical Society Library

The Rhode Island School of Design Library

United States Naval War College
Naval Historical Collection

University of Rhode Island
University Library Special Collections Department



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