

Sooner Horizon, Fall 2018, Vol. 6 No. 2

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Sooner Horizon The University of Oklahoma Libraries Special Collections | Fall 2018 Vol 6, No 2

NOW ON DISPLAY

RENEGADES

Bruce Goff and the American School of Architecture AT BIZZELL

Main Floor, Bizzell Memorial Library

“A new school, probably the only indigenous one in the United States”

is how the architect Donald MacDonald described Bruce Goff and Herb Greene’s influence on the University of Oklahoma School of Architecture from 1947 through the 1960s. The famous architects transformed the ways architecture was learned, taught and practiced, creating a uniquely American architectural style now represented in an archive at the University of Oklahoma Libraries and displayed in an exhibition in Bizzell Memorial Library.

“The Renegades exhibition at Bizzell will give the public a first peek at the fantastic and experimental work of our American School alumni,” said Stephanie Pilat, director of the Division of Architecture in OU’s Christopher C. Gibbs College of Architecture. “The exhibition will illustrate why the OU School of Architecture has long been known as one of the most original and innovative design schools in the world.”

Renegades: Bruce Goff and the American School of Architecture at Bizzell features selections from the American School Archive, including drawings and virtual tours of three residences designed by Bruce Goff, rendered by Skyline Ink of Oklahoma City. The exhibition opened Sept. 22, 2018 and closes July 29, 2019.

Under the leadership of Goff, Greene, Mendel Glickman and many others, OU architecture faculty led a pedagogical shift beginning with Goff’s arrival on campus in 1947. These professors developed a curriculum that emphasized individual creativity, organic forms and experimentation. This radical approach to design drew students to Oklahoma from as far away as Japan and South America and later spread the American School influence to professional practices in California, Hawaii, Greece and beyond.

“The astonishing drawings included in the exhibition highlight how Bruce Goff promoted creative freedom and the extraordinary skills developed by the students under a new

pedagogy,” said Luca Guido, visiting associate professor in the Gibbs College of Architecture and curator of the exhibition.

The American School Archive includes items from Frank Lloyd Wright, Fred David Shellabarger, Albert Yanda, Arn Henderson, Donald McDonald, John Hurtig, Norman Froelich and Jim Gardner. It also includes student drawings and slides, with new donations still arriving.

The exhibition also explores the role of archives and documentation as historical evidence. An example is the Barby House, built by Goff for Celestine Barby in Tucson, Arizona. The archive includes letters between Goff and Barby about costs, material and design decisions.

“Buildings are made of materials that last, but architectural records, drawings, plans, glass slides and models are fragile with specific preservation needs,” said Burke. “Architectural records appear in vastly different settings with vastly different purposes, including as building records, as documents of artistic process, as records of built environments and as the records of regulatory history. These records serve many constituents, from scholars, practicing architects and builders, people doing historic preservation and even legal and regulatory interests. For projects that were never built, they are evidence of what might have been.”

Visit <https://renegades.libraries.ou.edu/> for more information.



Luca Guido, Stephanie Pilat, Angela Person, and Erik Baker receiving donations that make up the American School Archive.

OU Libraries and the College of Architecture are grateful for the generosity of donors and their families who are helping build a documentary archive of the American School by sharing these collections.

Thank you to our donors and supporters!

- Donald MacDonald

- Varouj Hairabedian
- Arn Henderson
- Herb Greene
- Don Olsen
- Jim Gardner
- Bob Bowlby
- John Hurtig
- Vincent "Vince" Mancini
- Melvin Shivers
- Ernest "Ernie" Burden
- Harvey Ferrero
- William "Bill" Murphy
- Helen Colton

NOW ON DISPLAY



Western History Collections, Monnet Hall

Red Dust Oklahoma: A Poetic History celebrates the achievements of Oklahoma poets through published works and unpublished manuscripts. The exhibition reveals a literary history rich with authors, editors, and educators whose work shaped the state's narrative. The display is on display through June 30, 2019 in the Western History Collections Reading Room, Monnet Hall.

Left: Oliver, Jennie Harris. "Red Earth." In *Red Earth: Complete Collection of Poems*. Kansas City: Burton Publishing Company, 1934. Right, Top: Lynn Riggs and Gilbert Seldes in France. Lynn Riggs is one of the featured poets in the exhibit. The photo was taken while Riggs was in France for a Guggenheim Fellowship, and that is where he wrote *Green Grow the Lilacs*, upon which the musical *Oklahoma!* is based. Phyllis Braunlich Collection, #6. Right, Bottom: The old Riggs house at Lone Elm near Claremore, Oklahoma. Phyllis Braunlich Collection, #7.

Dr. Todd Fuller and Dr. Crag Hill visited the Western History Collections seeking poems about Oklahoma and its environs. They found poems in abundance, and also found evidence of the poets behind the poems in WHC's rich manuscript and print collections. Fuller and Hill rediscovered a complex, vibrant literary Oklahoma they had not previously imagined.

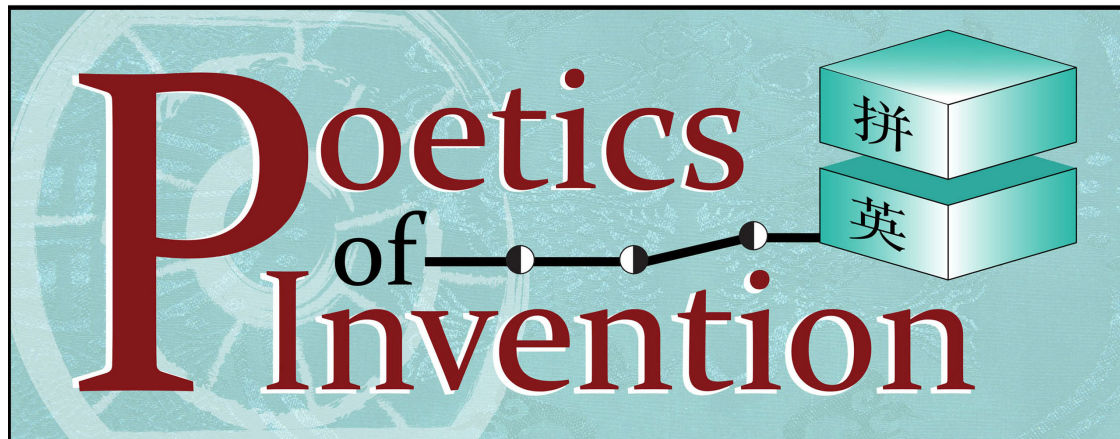
"WE FOUND...POETS WHO HAD INCREDIBLY INTERESTING LIVES IN THE '20S AND '30S IN OKLAHOMA AND BEYOND. EVEN MORE SO, WE FOUND THAT OU WAS THE CENTER OF A LITERARY RENAISSANCE THAT GAVE IT NATIONAL ATTENTION. THERE WAS GENIUS HERE IN THE '20S AND '30S. I HOPE ANYBODY FROM OKLAHOMA OR OUTSIDE OF OKLAHOMA SEES THAT THERE WAS GENIUS HERE EARLY IN STATEHOOD, AND THAT IT'S STILL HERE."

Red Dust Oklahoma highlights Oklahoma's poetic history through six themes:

- 1) OU's role, by both professors and students, in the shaping of the Oklahoma literary landscape
- 2) The burgeoning oil industry and Oklahoma's geological past
- 3) Native American responses to changing times and advocacy for Native rights
- 4) The Oklahoma landscape as it transitioned from a "frontier" territory to a "settled" state
- 5) Military service, including service during the Civil War and World War I.
- 6) Expressions of love, including love of nature.

The exhibition is sponsored by the Mark Allen Everett Poetry Series, the OU Libraries, the College of Arts and Sciences and the Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education.

Learn more at exhibits.libraries.ou.edu



"Poetics of Invention" travels to the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Poetics of Invention explores the process of invention from ideation, to fabrication, and to commercialization from the perspective of an OU professor, inventor, and entrepreneur as he attempts to make English more accessible to the 350 million Chinese learners through merging the world's two most-spoken languages at the level of their phonetic DNA.

Learn how this OU exhibition advances the mission of University of Missouri-Kansas City Libraries and scholars around the globe through an interview with **Bonnie Postlethwaite, Dean of Libraries University of Missouri-Kansas City**

What interested the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) Miller Nichols Library about "Poetics of Invention?"

UMKC will be hosting the opera *Yinglishi*, which will be performed during the biennial Edgar Snow Symposium to be held in early October in Kansas City, MO.

"Our original plan was to have an exhibit up for the symposium giving a history of Snow's book, *Red Star over China*, but it was not completed so we were looking for something that would appropriate in its stead. Because the UMKC Libraries has the Edgar Snow papers in its special collections, the symposium is an important event for us. Edgar Snow was the first American journalist to interview Mao Tsetung during his Long March...This exhibit seemed like a perfect solution as it highlights entrepreneurship and innovation—frequently a key theme for these symposia—as well as talking about Dr. Stalling's innovation to help Chinese people learn English."

What do you hope visitors' learn or gain from the exhibition?

"We hope they learn something about the history of Chinese language and poetry and their links to statecraft or government qualification; about the structure of Chinese and its relation to English; about a different literary tradition, and about language pedagogy."

We are excited about having the exhibit which links so nicely with the scholarship being done with the Edgar Snow papers.

The exhibition will be on display through May 17, 2019 in the Miller Nichols Library, University of Missouri-Kansas City.

SUPPORTING RESEARCH IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Jack Haley Fellows

Lindsay Marshall and Joe Schiller joined the OU Libraries Western History Collections over the summer as the inaugural cohort of Jack Haley Fellows. The Jack Haley Fellows, as well as Masterson and Dale Society Fellows made use of the collections to advance their scholarship while gaining experience working in the collections.

The Jack Haley Fellowship in the Western History Collections provides curatorial experience and research support for graduate students in the OU department of history. Launched in 2018, the Haley Fellowship announcement in the Spring 2018 issue of *Sooner Horizons* inspired two OU alumni to contact the Libraries and share their stories about working with Jack Haley.

Anthony Crawford, a university archivist, now emeritus, at Kansas State University wrote to say

“I continue to be impressed and proud of the accomplishments of Special Collections...I received my MLS from OU in the summer of 1973. I worked as a research assistant in the Western History Collections in the basement of Bizzell Library as a graduate student. The experience and training that I received in WHC enabled me to enter the archival profession. . . . I retired in January after 31 years in the department of special collections at Kansas State University. ... Jack Haley was my supervisor. My career in the archival profession would not have been possible had I not been employed there as a graduate student. I look on my time affiliated with the WHC and OU library as the most enjoyable and formative months of my career.

Chales McClure, currently Director of the Information Institute at Florida State University, shared a similar story, one that demonstrates how mentorship in a special collection can lead to both professional and scholarly success:

By way of introduction, I was a student assistant working with Jack Haley in the Western History Collection in 1972-73. During that time (and with Odie Faulk at OSU while getting a MA in Western American History) I learned a lot from Jack. He was quite a guy and a lover of 'his' collections and Western History overall. Very fond memories. In fact, while working there [Haley] led me to a collection of materials that resulted in an article I published in the Great Plains Journal.

The 2018 Haley fellows spent the summer engaged in curatorial projects and furthering their own dissertation research. We are certain that the experience has been both “enjoyable and formative” for both the fellows and for the WHC faculty who had the privilege of working closely with two of OU’s outstanding graduate students.

Left image: Photo of Jack Haley in the Western History Collections.

Visiting Scholars

This summer the Chinese Literature Translation Archive (CLTA) hosted five visiting scholars from China and the United Kingdom. From left to right they are:

Wenqian Zhang is a Ph.D. candidate from the University of Leeds, United Kingdom. His research involves the construction of Howard Goldblatt's brand as a translator.

Yuanying Li is a lecturer in English, school of foreign languages at Hubei University of Technology, China. Li visited the CLTA to study the reception of Chinese literature in America.

Yan Jia is a visiting scholar from the Civil Aviation University of China who has researched Howard Goldblatt's translations since 2009. She has been studying the role of editors in the translation process and helping to catalogue Goldblatt's letters.

Dr. Wang Guoli, is an associate professor at Northwest Normal University, China, who visited the CLTA to continue his research on the reception of Chinese literature in the English-speaking world, and the history of literary interaction between China and the English-speaking world.

Helen (Shiyan) Xu is a professor of English at Nanjing Normal University, China. She returned to OU following a previous visit in 2015-16, to conduct research on the editorial correspondence between Howard Goldblatt and the editors of the Hong Kong journal *Renditions* on the translation of a novella by Yang Jiang.

Edition Open Source Fellow Francesco Luzzini

Francesco Luzzini released the ninth volume of Edition Open Sources in March 2018. This publication is the fruition of an Edition Open Sources post-doctoral fellowship established by OU Libraries and the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin (MPI).

Luzzini produced this critical edition of Antonio Vallisneri's *Primi itineris per Montes Specimen Physiocomedicum (First Report of a Mountain Journey, 1729)*. Vallisneri was one of Italy's preeminent physicians and natural philosophers. The text is a travel account of Vallisneri's trip across the northern Apennines. His engaging account illumines many aspects of natural history at the time, including the development of methodologies in geology, anthropology, geography and other field sciences. The original manuscript, discovered by Luzzini in 2009, has never been available to scholars and is now published courtesy of the State Archive of the Italian city of Reggio Emilia.

Luzzini's edition, *Theory, Practice, and Nature In-between: Antonio Vallisneri's Primi Itineris Specimen (2018)* includes a complete facsimile of the sole surviving original manuscript, a transcription (including its complicated alterations and additions), an English translation, and an introductory essay.

Explanatory notes throughout address textual, historical, philological, and scientific aspects of the text, making the work accessible and of value to a broad spectrum of readers.

[Edition Open Sources](#) (EOS) is an international collaboration between the Max Planck Institute in Berlin and the University of Oklahoma to promote open access as a publishing paradigm. EOS is a peer-reviewed, scholarly publishing series in both digital and physical formats. Digital-format publications in EOS are free and immediately accessible to the public worldwide under a creative commons license. The print-format edition is an impressive folio volume with full color plates.

EOS continues as a collaborative venture between MPI and OU Libraries, the OU Libraries History of Science Collections and the the OU department of the history of science.

Left Image: Autograph manuscript, State Archive of the Italian city of Reggio Emilia, identified by Francesco Luzzini in 2009.

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

University Archives, Western History Collections, Receives Presidential Papers of David L. Boren



Retired OU President David Boren teaching his first class at OU, spring 1995. Photo provided by University of Oklahoma Photo Services.

This summer the University of Oklahoma family marked the end of an era with the retirement of longtime president David L. Boren.

Administrative staff transferred custody of his official papers to the University Archives, held by the Western History Collections. The papers span the length of his 23-year tenure and reflect the depth and breadth of his influence on our university community.

This historic transfer of university records took place quietly without fanfare during the last few working hours of June. The papers were kept in dozens of file cabinets located in the maze of basement rooms in Evans Hall. Stacks of colorful photographs, art, awards, and bits of memorabilia from Boren's many years of public service filled the rooms. University Libraries staff carefully emptied the cabinets of their contents and placed them in boxes for transport. They sent nearly 130 boxes to the Library Service Center. There, archivists will process and prepare them for scholars to use.

The materials cover nearly the full scope of Boren's tenure starting with his nomination and inauguration as OU's 13th president. These early files include programs of events surrounding the ceremony and certificates of congratulation from colleges and universities across the nation. Later records touch on highlights of his presidency such as his signature programs Arbor Day and campus historical markers. Notable events documented in the papers include special visits to campus by political figures such as General Colin Powell and U.S. Senator John McCain. Both candid and professional photographs appear in these files. Some depict serious moments while others show decidedly lighthearted moments, like Boren's guest appearance as Wylie Post in a 1997 OU musical theatre production of *The Will Rogers Follies*.

Image caption: President Boren enjoying an OU basketball game with former President George L. Cross, 1995. [OU Media and Photo Services]

A subseries of records kept by Boren's press secretary accompanied the papers. These newspaper clippings and publicity images cover major events on campus and show how the media reported on them. Videos on compact disc and VHS tape supplement the clippings.

In addition to the official records, many plaques, awards, and mementoes also arrived with the collection. They range from a crimson commemorative bat presented by the 1994 National Champions OU baseball team to three volumes of Boyd House sign-in registers, and a framed photograph of Boren with his mentor, OU's longest-serving president, George Lynn Cross.

This rich archive will offer historians a greater understanding of how the Boren presidency shaped the University of Oklahoma over more than two decades.

Image caption: Hayride at an OU Cousins barbecue, Whinery Ranch, 1998. [Robert Taylor]

Left image: Inauguration of OU President David L. Boren, 1995. Right image: OU Chant

Rare Geological Work Acquired in Honor of Marcia M. Goodman

For eight days in late June and early July, 1638, earthquakes shook the Azores Archipelago. People fled the towns for the safety of open country, having endured many devastating earthquakes over the previous century which toppled buildings on numerous occasions. On

July 3, near the port town now known as Ponta da Candelária, along the northwest side of the island of São Miguel, a volcano lying immediately below the surface of the sea dramatically erupted.

A rare book acquired in memory of Marcia M. Goodman, former librarian of the History of Science Collections, reports events as they transpired over the following month. The loud, fiery explosions of the eruption were accompanied by a sulfurous stench. A small island emerged from the sea. Fishermen collected great quantities of fish that died throughout the eruptive period

Right image: Duane H.D. Roller and Marcia M. Goodman, upon publication of the Roller-Goodman catalog, 1976.

"Relatione D'un Fuoco Prodigioso" (Velletri, near Rome, 1641)

Charles Lyell's *Principles of Geology*, first published in 1830, surveyed a multitude of historical earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Lyell regarded the Azores as of significant interest to the understanding of volcanic phenomena in southern Europe, writing that "a line drawn through the Grecian Archipelago, the volcanic region of Southern Italy, Sicily, Southern Spain, and Portugal, will, if prolonged westward through the ocean, strike the volcanic group of the Azores, which may possibly therefore have a submarine connection with the European line" (vol. 1, ch. 22).

Yet, Lyell did not mention this eruption and it is unlikely he consulted this report. An original Spanish account is preserved in only five copies recorded by WorldCat. The OU copy may be the sole surviving exemplar of this hitherto unknown Italian translation. It was not previously recorded in WorldCat and has not received scholarly attention.

As noted in the [Fall 2017 issue of *Sooner Horizon*](#), Mrs. Goodman was particularly interested in the various editions of Lyell's *Principles*. She worked tirelessly to preserve materials and make them available for scholars in the History of Science Collections. This rare work has now been cataloged and digitized and added to the History of Science Collections in her honor.



On the Map: collections of global significance

Guest submission by Garret Olberding, associate professor of history, OU College of Arts & Sciences

Over the last decade, OU Libraries has taken great strides in the acquisition of materials pertaining to the study of pre-modern China, covering an incredible range of subject areas: religion and the supernatural, geography, history, archaeology, astronomy, philosophy, politics, engineering, economics, medicine, mathematics, law, art, library science, military science, linguistics, and more.

Our collection now surpasses that of a significant number of peer state flagship universities, with OU becoming a magnet for scholars in pre-modern China.

Combined with the recent acquisitions in modern Chinese literature and translations, OU has the potential of becoming one of the national leaders in China studies more broadly. Senior scholars at OU working at the frontiers of pre-modern China studies assist in selecting carefully the best, most worthy items for our collection.

Some of our pre-modern acquisitions are also very rare, found in only the most elite collections. Our rarest volumes are often already out of print, but a few are still published in very limited quantities.

A prime example of a rare in-print acquisition is a folia set of transcriptions some of the earliest religious writings on earth, the Shang dynasty oracle bone inscriptions. The original texts, numbering in the thousands, date to around 1,200 BC. After years of laborious study, the texts have finally been transcribed into modern Chinese and published.

OU is one of the very few libraries in the U. S. to have this set, expanding our understanding of an ancient autonomous religious culture.

A very fine, out-of-print acquisition is a volume of the earliest printed terrestrial and celestial maps, datable to the 12th-13th centuries AD. Less than forty libraries in the world retain a copy of these reprinted maps. Most of our acquisitions, of course, are not as rare but nevertheless canonical, an array of primary texts from the millenia of recorded Chinese history. Texts such as the earliest known works of recorded history, celebrated works of medicine, or the greatest works of poetry.

Without the support of generous donors like you, the acquisition of these rare, valuable volumes would not have been possible. With donor assistance, the OU Libraries hopes to continue augmenting its collection of these valuable items, promoting the study of a culture that is of ever rising global importance.

THANK YOU FOR READING



Your support makes all the difference. Please consider making a contribution to invest in OU Libraries special collections and ensure that students and researchers around the globe continue to have access to these rare scholarly and cultural resources.

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