

# UB LIBRARIES TODAY

A PUBLICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO LIBRARIES

## Polish Room



Preserving the cultural heritage and history of Poland

### ALSO INSIDE:

UB Reads 2010  
Open Access Week  
UB Libraries in the Community  
Charles Olson Exhibition  
J. Warren Perry Profile  
Joyce Catalog Award



# UB LIBRARIES TODAY

WINTER 2010

*UB Libraries Today* is published by the University at Buffalo Libraries for alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends.

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## Cover Photo: by James A. Ulrich

This unique stained glass and wrought iron lamp was crafted by Polish-American artist Joseph Mazur and donated to the Polish Room in 1955 by the artist and his wife.

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## DID YOU KNOW?

The University at Buffalo Libraries own more than 3.6 million print volumes as well as extensive online resources, media and special collections.



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *UB Libraries Today*, our new University at Buffalo Libraries' newsletter. *UB Libraries Today* will be published three times a year and will be available online at [library.buffalo.edu/news](http://library.buffalo.edu/news). It will feature news about events at the University Libraries, profiles of our donors, information about current exhibits and initiatives, descriptions of our outstanding collections and more.

This is an exciting time for UB and for the University Libraries. The Libraries are busier than ever—we receive over 3.5 million in-person visits a year and our electronic collections and services are used at an even higher rate. The Libraries affect people across the campus: we are vital to the academic success of our students, the teaching and research of our faculty and the intellectual pursuits of our alumni and community members. The Libraries connect people with information that sparks intellectual curiosity and enables the creation of knowledge.

This newsletter highlights some of the activities that demonstrate the Libraries' commitment to research and learning. Detailed here is the history of our Polish Room, a collection of archival resources as well as books and journals that document Polish history, literature, art and achievement. The Polish Room supports the work of Polish studies scholars worldwide. This issue of *UB Libraries Today* also celebrates our renowned Poetry Collection, focusing here on our current exhibit on Charles Olson, one of mid-twentieth century's most innovative poets. In addition, this issue highlights the generous gifts of the late Dr. J. Warren Perry, who gave our Music Library his incredible photograph collection as well as funding that allowed for the digital reformatting of audio performances. Three digital collections are also described—the Archacki Cartoon Collection, the J. Warren Perry Collection of Photographs and the J. Warren Perry Collection of Ballet Photographs. It is a priority of the University Libraries to digitize our impressive collections so that material can be accessed online by anyone at anytime in any place. To learn more about our digital collections, see: [ubdigit.buffalo.edu](http://ubdigit.buffalo.edu).

As I read the stories included in this issue of *UB Libraries Today*, I am struck by the energy and enthusiasm of our library staff, and by our level of engagement with our community, from the Libraries' sponsorship of campus discussions about this year's UB Reads book, *Three Cups of Tea*, to our annual Health Sciences Library's garage sale that benefits UB's annual Campaign for the Community. I'm excited to share these stories of our activities with you.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the University Libraries. Your support is what enables us to expand our collections, offer new services and achieve the goal of becoming a top-tier public research university.

I wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

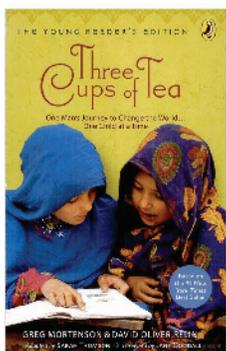
Sincerely,

## H. Austin Booth

Interim Associate Vice President for University Libraries

[library.buffalo.edu/habooth](http://library.buffalo.edu/habooth)

## UB Reads 2010: Three Cups of Tea



The University at Buffalo's annual book club, *UB Reads*, is currently in full swing, and the Libraries joined students, faculty and staff as participants in this shared reading experience. A book discussion, sponsored by the Libraries and the UB Undergraduate Academies, took place in the Special Collections Reading Room on October 27, 2010. English Department faculty

member Dr. Barbara Bono led a lively discussion of this year's selection, *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Fight Terrorism and Build Nations... One School at a Time*, by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin.

In conjunction with the book discussion, the Libraries created an exhibit highlighting the authors and themes discussed in the book. The exhibit, located in Lockwood Library, runs through December 31, 2010.

Copies of the book are available for free in 150 Student Union to all UB students, faculty and staff. For more information about *UB Reads*, visit:

[student-affairs.buffalo.edu/nsp/readub](http://student-affairs.buffalo.edu/nsp/readub)



### UB Libraries Celebrate Open Access Week

In conjunction with Open Access Week (October 18-24, 2010), the UB Libraries sponsored a series of talks on the future of scholarly communication. Open Access Week, an international event now in its fourth year, promotes open access as a new model for research and scholarship.

Additional information on the ways in which open access is impacting the scholarly communication landscape is available on the UB Libraries' Scholarly Communication website:

[library.buffalo.edu/scholarly](http://library.buffalo.edu/scholarly)



## Lending a Hand in the Community

### HSL GARAGE SALE

In what has become a popular annual tradition, the Health Sciences Library (HSL) sponsored its fourth Back-To-School Garage Sale on September 10 and 11, 2010, to benefit the University at Buffalo's annual Campaign for the Community. The sale offered UB students, staff, faculty and others an inexpensive opportunity to furnish their dorm rooms and apartments at the start of the new school year.

Hundreds of "gently used" donated items were priced to sell, and students arrived early in order to secure some great bargains. According to Lori Widzinski, head of HSL multimedia services and one of the event's organizers, top selling items included cookware, comforters and small appliances. The 2010 garage sale raised over \$2,500, and the proceeds were split between this year's designated charities – Ronald McDonald House of Buffalo and Suicide Prevention and Crisis Services, Inc.

### HOLIDAY GIFTS



RENEE BUSH

For over six years, the UB Libraries have supported Haven House, an organization that provides safe, confidential services for victims of domestic violence and their children. Coordinated by Associate Librarian Renee Bush, head of collection management services in the Health Sciences Library, UB Libraries faculty and staff donate dozens of gift bags filled with toiletries and cosmetics during the winter holidays. The goal of the project is to provide a gift bag for every adult woman and teenage girl resident of Haven House. Additionally, Libraries' staff contribute new gift items so that Haven House residents may give gifts to their loved ones during the holiday season.

## COLLECTION PROFILE

**T**he University Libraries' Polish Room is home to a unique collection that documents the rich cultural heritage and history of Poland.

Located in Room 517 of Lockwood Memorial Library on the UB North Campus, the Polish Room was founded in 1955 by Polish émigré journalist and author Aleksander Janta, who was president of the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo, and Clifford Furnas, then Chancellor of the University of Buffalo.

That year, the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo hosted the national convention of the American Council of Polish Cultural Clubs at the University of Buffalo. A special exhibition displayed during the convention under the auspices of the Polish Arts Club featured documents and letters from the Royal Court of Poland, dating from the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries.

# Polish Room

A Lockwood Library Treasure



By: Jean Dickson, Curator  
Kathleen Quinlivan, Editor



Following the convention, Aleksander Janta and John Ulinski, then Director of the Seaway Project of the Niagara Frontier, launched a search for a purchaser of the royal documents. They were rewarded when Aaron Rabow, then president of Sattler's Department Store in Buffalo, stepped forward to purchase the royal letters and documents. Mr. Rabow, in turn, presented these historic materials to the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo as a tribute to Buffalo's Polish-American community. Since the Polish Arts Club did not have a permanent home, Chancellor Furnas agreed to create a permanent exhibit area at UB for these documents and related books. Thanks to the generosity of the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo, and the contributions of numerous Polish-American donors, sponsors, patrons and friends throughout Western New York, the university's Polish Room was established.



Aleksander Janta

At the time of its founding, the Polish Room was located in the original Lockwood Memorial Library (now Abbott Hall) on the UB South Campus. In addition to carefully chosen reference materials about Poland and its history, the original collection featured some pieces of fine hand-crafted furniture, several lovely stained-glass portraits, and a treasure-trove of unique documents of Polish history

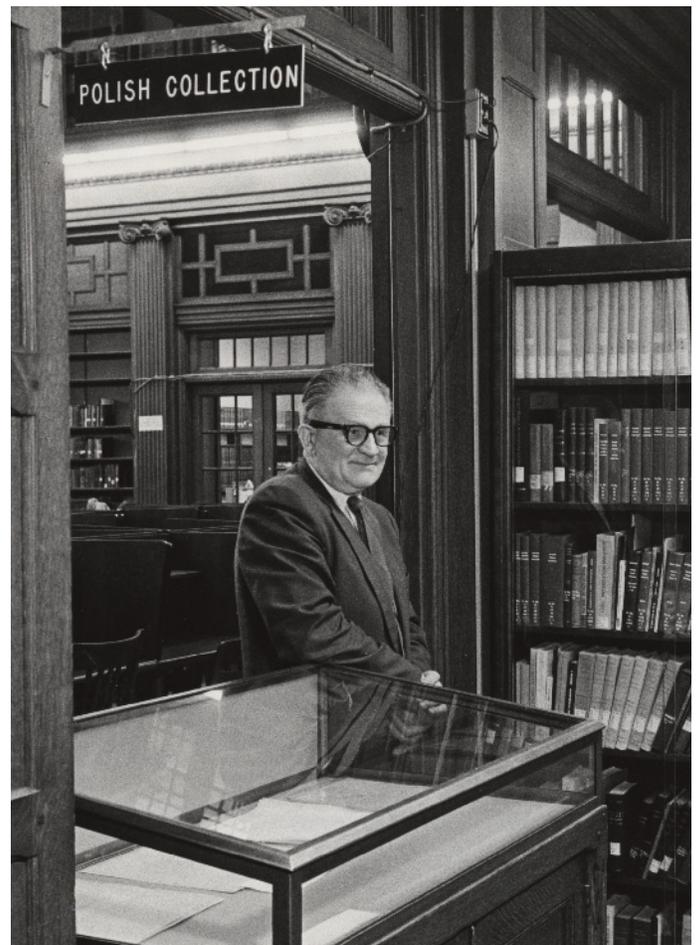
and literature. As part of the dedication of the Polish Room, Chancellor Furnas declared, "The Polish cultural heritage is distinguished, and a Polish Room is a fitting way in which to bring the existence of this heritage to the attention of scholars, educators and the general public."

The Polish Room's rare archival sources include the *Chronicon*, a history of Poland written at the beginning of the twelfth century, which tells of events that took place from the time of the earliest Polish kings, and includes stories about the even more distant mythological figures, the Piast. The historic letters that are part of the Polish Room collection bear ornate signatures and seals of Polish kings from past centuries, including Sigismund August (1548-1572), John Casimir (1648-1668) and Stanislaus August Poniatowski (1774-1795).

As the collection developed over the next quarter-century, its scope became broader, encompassing contemporary aspects of Polish history, literature, art, and scientific and social achievements of Poles worldwide, especially in the United States. On April 22, 1979, the University

Libraries and the Polish Room celebrated the collection's move to its new home on the UB North Campus with a rededication ceremony that included a ribbon-cutting and reception for UB administrators, Libraries' staff and guests from the Western New York Polish community. During the rededication, Dr. Eugenia Fronczak-Bukowski, then chairperson of the Polish Arts Club Library Committee, reflected upon the origins of the Polish Room, reminding those in attendance that "its existence was made possible by the physical effort, dogged determination, and native ability of a number of interested and dedicated supporters of Polish culture."

Under the direction of Dr. William Borodacz, who served as curator of the Polish Room from 1972-1986, the Polish collection grew and expanded measurably. In recognition of his outstanding achievements on behalf of the collection, Dr. Borodacz was named "Citizen of the Year" for 1977 by the *Am-Pol Eagle*, a weekly newspaper that serves Buffalo's Polonia. Dr. Borodacz was also honored by the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo in 1982 for the "quality of (his) contribution to the community in promoting interest in and knowledge of Polish culture."



Dr. William Borodacz, curator of the Polish Collection, 1972-1986

Today, the Polish Room contains more than 11,000 volumes, and serves as a key resource for students and faculty in UB's Polish language classes and Polish Studies program. The Polish Room also supplies geographic, historical and genealogical information to researchers and recreational readers at UB and in the surrounding communities, and provides source materials for many local history projects, including the UB Libraries' large-scale 2001 exhibition, "*Illuminations: Revisiting the Buffalo Pan-American Exposition of 1901.*"

This remarkable collection, with its emphasis on preserving and transmitting the Polish cultural heritage, is particularly strong in the literature, arts and history of Poland. The collection includes important research tools, such as the multi-volume standard geographical dictionary, *Słownik Geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego i Innych Krajów Słowiańskich (Geographical Dictionary of the Kingdom of Poland and Other Slavic Countries)*. In addition to its books and journals, the Polish Room contains letters, manuscripts, diaries, photographs and other primary source materials. There are also signed documents of such notable 20<sup>th</sup>-century Polish literary figures as Stefan Żeromski, Maria Konopnicka and Maria Dąbrowska.

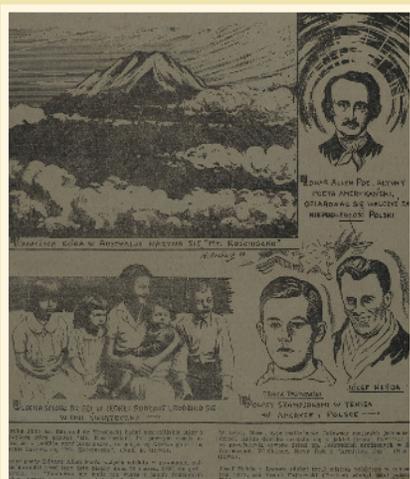
In other formats, the Polish Room has about 125 videos and DVDs, including Polish commercial and art films, and opera and theater productions. There are several *Solidarność* documents, along with more than 100 underground press books on microfiche, part of the *Solidarność* fiche collection assembled at Harvard University. Also on microfiche are the Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty background reports on Poland from 1967 to 1989, and a microfilm collection of immigrant publications that comprise part of the *Immigrant in America* collection.

CURIE MEDALLION



In recent years, the Polish Room has been the fortunate recipient of numerous donations of books and financial assistance from local supporters. Thanks to the efforts of one such supporter, a Polish Room treasure was recovered and returned to the collection in 2007. Jean Dickson, curator of the Polish Room Collection since 1986 and UB Libraries' subject specialist for modern languages and literatures, describes the return of a long-lost stained glass medallion:

"A unique stained glass medallion containing an image of Marie Curie was painted and glazed by the renowned artist, Józef Mazur (1897-1970), for the decoration of the interior of the Polish Room in the original Lockwood Memorial Library in 1955. Mazur crafted four such medallions



Mountain and the children, from the UBdigit Archacki Cartoon Collection

## The Archacki Cartoon Collection

A recent addition to the Polish Room is a gift from Steven Piwowar, of Eden, New York. Mr. Piwowar donated a collection of over 1,000 "factoid" comics by Henryk Archacki, a Polish immigrant, journalist and well-known graphic artist, who drew weekly cartoons for Polish-language newspapers for over 20 years. The comics were clipped from Buffalo's Polish newspaper, *Dziennik dla Wszystkich* ("Everybody's Daily"), in the 1930s and 1940s, and curator Jean Dickson recently spearheaded a project to digitize the cartoons. Agnieszka Chen, a former UB student, assisted with the development of the necessary metadata to accompany the first 200 cartoons in both Polish and English.

The Libraries hope to obtain additional funding to complete this project so that the remaining 800 cartoons can be added to the digital collection. Individuals and groups interested in supporting this project and other initiatives related to the UB Libraries' Polish Collection may contact Jean Dickson at (716) 645-8628 or dickson@buffalo.edu.

The Archacki Cartoon Collection is available online via UBdigit:  
[ubdigit.buffalo.edu/archacki](http://ubdigit.buffalo.edu/archacki)

depicting important Polish cultural and political figures, including Marie Skłodowska Curie, Nicholas Copernicus (Mikołaj Kopernik), Tadeusz Kosciuszko and Kazimierz Pułaski. These beautiful medallions hung in the windows for more than two decades, but all four disappeared in the mid-1970s when the Lockwood Library collections (including the Polish Room Collection) were moved to their new home on the UB North Campus in Amherst.



This elegant bookplate features the national coat of arms of Poland.

“Thanks to UB alumnus Gregory Witul, a fourth generation Polish-American, the Curie medallion has been found and returned to the university. On August 24, 2007, while scanning the eBay internet auction site for Mazur’s artworks, Witul noticed an auction for Mazur’s Curie medallion. He contacted me, and we learned that Greg Lontkowski, whose family

had inherited the medallion along with other collectibles, had put it up for sale. When Mr. Lontkowski learned of the university’s interest in the medallion, he generously returned it to the collection. Monetary contributions from the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo and Kathy Kubala, a former UB staff member, were used to pay for the repair and restoration of the Curie medallion.

“Unfortunately, the three remaining medallions are still missing. They may be held by collectors, unaware of their history and provenance. Of course, we would love to recover them!”

Another treasured item crafted by Józef Mazur and donated to the Polish Room in 1955 by the artist and his wife, Stefa, is the beautiful stained glass lamp depicted on the cover of this issue of *UB Libraries Today*. Sadly, the lamp, with its vibrant images of Chopin, Mickiewicz, Paderewski and Slowacki, has developed several large surface cracks, and is currently in need of repairs. The Libraries appreciate support from donors and friends interested in restoring this unique lamp to its original condition.

The literary and artistic material in the Polish Room collection is open to all who are interested in Polish history and culture. Additional information, including a guide to the collection, is available on the collection’s website: [library.buffalo.edu/libraries/polish-room](http://library.buffalo.edu/libraries/polish-room). Curator Jean Dickson is available to assist with research and answer questions relating to the collection. Contact Ms. Dickson at: [dickson@buffalo.edu](mailto:dickson@buffalo.edu) or by phone at (716) 645-8628.



Photo by: James A. Ulrich

This unique stained glass and wrought iron lamp, crafted by Joseph Mazur, was donated to the Polish Room in 1955 by the artist and his wife.

## SUPPORT THIS COLLECTION

The Polish Room needs your help to ensure the future of its special collection. Monetary gifts support the acquisition, organization, preservation, digitization and exhibition of books, documents and literary archives.

For more information on how to support the UB Libraries or to give a gift, please contact:

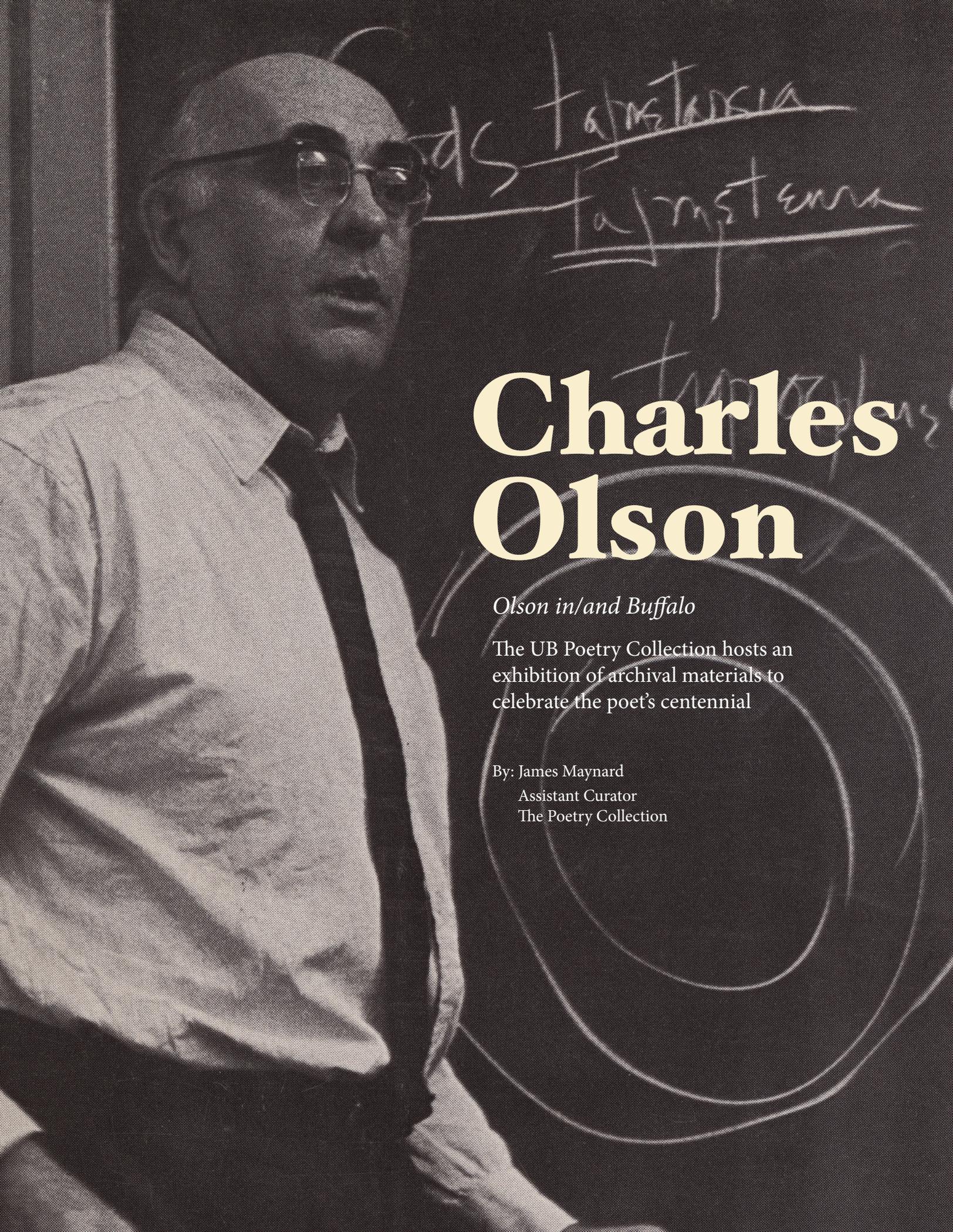
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or visit our website at [library.buffalo.edu/support](http://library.buffalo.edu/support)



# Charles Olson

*Olson in/and Buffalo*

The UB Poetry Collection hosts an exhibition of archival materials to celebrate the poet's centennial

By: James Maynard  
Assistant Curator  
The Poetry Collection

## EXHIBITION PROFILE

For many American poets living at mid-century and after, Charles Olson (1910 – 1970) was a defining poet of the era, and Robert Duncan, for one, often referred to the 1950s and 1960s as “the Age of Olson.” Within the wider circle of innovative poetries, Olson is most closely identified with a group of writers known as the Black Mountain poets, known for their shared appearance in the pages of *The Black Mountain Review*, a literary magazine published by the experimental liberal arts college of the same name.



### OLSON IN/AND BUFFALO

October 15, 2010 - January 31, 2011

The Poetry Collection  
University Libraries  
420 Capen Hall

Olson’s 1950 essay “Projective Verse” is most often recognized as a central statement of the group’s poetics, and he both taught at Black Mountain College and served as its rector leading up to its closing in the fall of 1956. Seven years later, Olson joined the UB English Department where he taught such courses as modern poetry and myth and literature. Although he left the department in the fall of 1965 to return to Gloucester, Massachusetts, Olson made a lasting mark on the history of poetry in Buffalo. His students edited magazines such as *Niagara Frontier Review* and *The Magazine of Further*

*Studies* before having their own careers as poets and teachers. To this day, Olson still exists as a tutelary spirit for UB’s Poetics Program. In addition to “Projective Verse,” Olson is best known for *Call Me Ishmael* (1947), a study of Melville, and especially *The Maximus Poems* (1953-1968), a wide-ranging long poem that investigates the history and geography of Gloucester.

On Friday, October 15, 2010, as part of *Olson at the Century: A Symposium*, a celebration of Olson’s centennial, the UB Poetry Collection hosted a day of panels and presentations organized by Professor Steve McCaffery, David Gray Chair of Poetry and Letters, and the UB Poetics Program. In conjunction with the event, the Collection is presenting *Olson in/and Buffalo*, an exhibition of first editions, little magazine appearances, broadsides, manuscripts, correspondence and ephemera that showcases the history of Olson’s publications as well as the archival traces of his presence across the Poetry Collection’s various manuscript collections.

Curated by Alice Bailey, Michael Basinski, Jeannie Hoag, Simon Horning, Mary E. Kohler, James Maynard and Susan A. Sturm, the exhibition is on display from October 15, 2010, through January 31, 2011 in the Poetry Collection, University Libraries, 420 Capen Hall, UB North Campus.

**Large photo:** Detail of a photograph of Charles Olson from the cover of *Niagara Frontier Review* 1 (Summer 1964). Photograph by Emilio Grossi.

**Inset photo:** Ed Dorn and Charles Olson, c. 1965.

# J. WARREN PERRY

By: Nancy Nuzzo, Director, Music Library and Special Collections



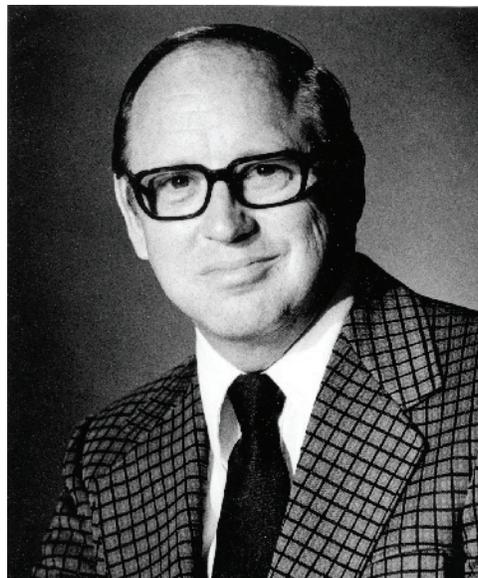
## DONOR PROFILE

**T**he Music Library remembers with gratitude the life of Dr. J. Warren Perry, founding dean of the UB School of Health Related Professions, who died on August 5, 2010, after a brief illness. Dr. Perry's significant professional accomplishments are matched by his impact on Western New York's cultural organizations as a leader and donor. His generosity touched the Music Library and abides in two lasting gifts.

Dr. Perry's life-long passion for opera, kindled when he helped to establish the Lyric Opera of Chicago while a graduate student at Northwestern University, is manifest in the striking collection of opera and ballet photographs and memorabilia he donated to the Music Library in 2000 and 2004. This rich visual record of the most significant opera singers, musicians and dancers of the twentieth century was a source of great pride to Dr. Perry, and many of the 2,200 photographs are inscribed to him. His apartment on Bryant Street was the site for glittering post-performance parties; Sherrill Milnes, Kathleen Battle and Jessye Norman were among the many visiting artists who attended these star-studded events. Dr. Perry frequently used the word "special" to describe his collections and delighted in showing guests each treasure while recalling the stories behind their acquisition.

While photographs of singers predominate, conductors and other musicians are well represented in the collection. Approximately 400 photographs feature views of performance venues, set and costume designs and productions. When the Music Library received the first large collection of photographs in 2000, it was used as a test case to demonstrate the potential for digital presentation.

Now searchable by name, venue, opera role, ballet company and several other criteria, the **J. Warren Perry Collection of Photographs** and the **J. Warren Perry Collection of Ballet Photographs** are described in online finding aids with links to digital images via the University Libraries' *UBdigit* ([ubdigit.buffalo.edu](http://ubdigit.buffalo.edu)).

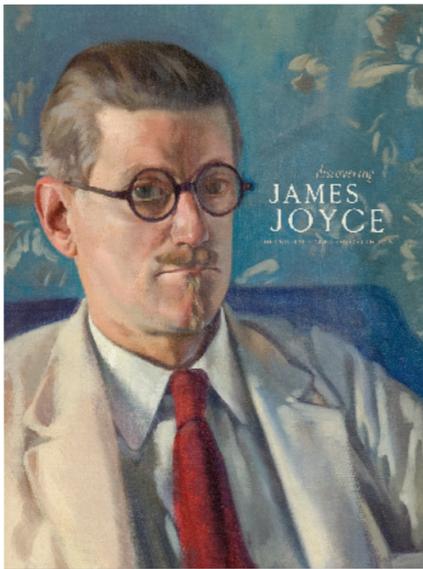


J. WARREN PERRY

They are viewed by scholars, students and opera lovers all around the world. Dr. Perry's gift has been a catalyst for other donors to contribute additional photographs, notably a collection of 383 images documenting the life and career of soprano Eleanor Steber.

Dr. Perry's second gift to the Music Library was to name it as an organization eligible to apply for grants from the J. Warren Perry and Charles Donald Perry Memorial Fund administered by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo. In 2007, an \$11,000 grant from the fund supported the digital reformatting of the Music Library's audio tapes of concerts presented as part of the Evenings for New Music and June in Buffalo concert series that took place between 1964 and 1980. The recordings include dozens of world and U.S. premieres, and the composers and performers represent a virtual "who's who" of contemporary music from the second half of the twentieth century. Many of the performances were done in the presence of the composers and include pre-performance commentary, making them especially valuable for research and educational purposes. The successful completion of this reformatting project provided a model for subsequent audio digitizing projects in the University Libraries.

Dr. Perry's extraordinary generosity to the Music Library will long be remembered, as will this special man who lived a life dedicated to supporting the arts.



Copies of the catalog are for sale online at:  
[library.buffalo.edu/jamesjoyce](http://library.buffalo.edu/jamesjoyce)

## EXHIBITION CATALOG WINS AWARD

The exhibition catalog, *Discovering James Joyce: The University at Buffalo Collection*, has been awarded an honorable mention by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) for the 2010 Katharine Kyes Leab and Daniel J. Leab American Book Prices Current Exhibition Awards. The award was presented during the American Library Association's Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. in June 2010.

Published in conjunction with last summer's James Joyce exhibition at the UB Anderson Gallery, the catalog was edited by James Maynard, Assistant Curator of the Poetry Collection and designed by Kris Miller, UB Libraries Web/Graphic Designer. Michael Basinski, Curator of the Poetry Collection, served as curator of the exhibition, and photographs were contributed by James A. Ulrich.

Here is what Richard Noble, chair of the RBMS Exhibition Awards committee and rare books cataloger at Brown University, had to say: "This catalog is an indispensable guide to and demonstration of the scholarly possibilities of this particular collection. It's also a visual feast, the complexity of its design properly representing the variousness of the many items on view, but with the clarity necessary to the understanding of all that variety: each element of the page has a distinct function, and everything is brought into clear relation. The challenge to the makers of this catalog was the variety and depth of the materials: the Joyce family collection, which includes books by Joyce, as well as his personal library, manuscripts, photographs and memorabilia; together with the collection of Sylvia Beach, publisher of the first edition of *Ulysses*."