

ALSO INSIDE: Video Recording Studios | Eugene Musial Collection | James Maynard, PhD | Annex Expansion | Wayfarers

UB LIBRARIES today

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Polívka

*Engineering the organic with Jaroslav J. Polívka
and Frank Lloyd Wright.*

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

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Jaroslav Josef Polívka circa 1920's, photo courtesy of Polívka family private collection.



Jaroslav Josef Polívka

A Record of the Past

In this edition of *UB Libraries Today*, you will glimpse some of the extraordinary collections available in our libraries, including the *Papers of J.J. Polívka*.

Jaroslav Josef Polívka (1886-1960) was an engineer who made numerous contributions to the visionary architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright. The Polívka collection celebrates Polívka's expertise and the role he played in the dynamic architectural culture of his time.

The *Eugene Musial Collection* is a significant recent addition to UB's Rare and Special Books Collection; the Musial collection contains some of the first books printed and published in Buffalo. Dating from 1812, these rare monographs provide an unparalleled tool for research and education relating to the history of our city.

Additional highlights in this issue include our featured digital collections—the *Welch Ludwig Collection* and the *Polish Peace Posters*. Each of these collections is filled with striking images that reflect our global connections.

For our librarians, building collections is the first step in our missions to provide access to information and to share our cultural resources. Treasures from our *James Joyce Collection* traveled to the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library this summer, for example, making these priceless manuscripts, notebooks, and memorabilia available to a wider audience.

Our collections are not only a record of the past but a pathway to what lies ahead; they expose alternative perspectives on our world, and give us the knowledge and understanding to transform our collective future.

As we celebrate the changing of the seasons, we extend sincere gratitude for your support throughout the year.

Sincerely,

H. Austin Booth, Vice Provost for University Libraries
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Support the UB Libraries

Every gift is important. Your generosity affirms the vital role the UB Libraries plays in learning and discovery. To give to the University Libraries, please visit: library.buffalo.edu/support.

DID YOU KNOW?



Lined up end to end, the University Archives holds over **10,000 feet** of boxed material, equal to the length of **28 football fields** 



One-Button Studios

Libraries make it easy to create video presentations

Traditionally, university libraries have often been vast spaces, overflowing with stacks of books, study carrels tucked away in quiet corners, as the whispers of hushed voices filled the air.

Indeed, the times have changed, and, so too, have the needs of the university community.

Visit Silverman Library any day of the week (we are open 24/7 during the academic year), and you'll find two Video Recording Studios, along with editing stations and a wide variety of audio equipment, including camcorders, point and shoot cameras, tablets, laptops and more for current UB students and staff to reserve or borrow.

In the 21st century, video is an essential way to communicate information. In our new video

suites, any student, professor and staff member can successfully produce videos with little or no technical assistance.

The University Libraries' one-button recording studios make it easy to create a presentation. With the studios' simplified video recording set-up, anyone can produce high-quality videos – no prior experience needed! Simply enter the studio, plug in your flash drive, and the fun begins! Studio lights, camera and microphone instantly turn on. Touch one button, and you're on your way! Each video studio is fully equipped with a Green Screen, a camera that can shoot from multiple angles, and high-tech lighting options.

Finished recording? Your video file loads automatically onto your flash drive. Editing

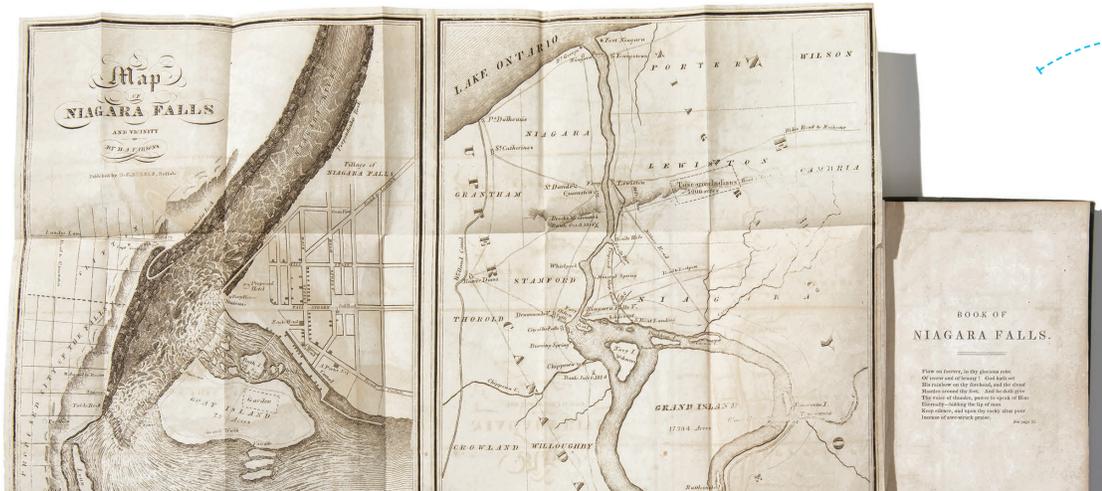
your video is also easy. Reserve one of the editing workstations in Silverman Library and you can edit your video production using a selection of audio and video editing software, including Movie Studio Platinum 13.0, GoPro for Desktop, Blender and more.

Every day, UB students and staff are discovering a variety of uses for our studios. Faculty are recording lectures for online classes, sharing their research findings with colleagues in other places, and creating video introductions for other online courses offered by the University at Buffalo. Students find the studios helpful for practice interviews, and for recording and rehearsing class presentations.

The bottom line: if you're interested in video, Silverman Library is the place to be!



To learn more about the Video Recording Studios, visit: library.buffalo.edu/video-recording-studios



A Niagara Falls guidebook from the Eugene Musial Buffalo Imprint Collection.

Eugene Musial Buffalo Imprint Collection

New Home for Buffalo's First Printed Books

The University Libraries have acquired the *Eugene Musial Buffalo Imprint Collection*, a unique piece of Buffalo publishing history that includes one of the earliest books printed in Buffalo in 1812. These unique materials, purchased by the UB Rare and Special Books Collection, include more than 300 titles printed and published in Buffalo in the 19th century. The works were acquired throughout the lifetime of collector and bookstore owner Eugene Musial.

These materials will add to the UB Libraries' commitment to research and intellectual development and to promote and preserve the history of the Western New York region. "Acquiring the Musial Collection allows the University Libraries to provide our students and faculty access to Buffalo's rich 19th-century history," says Michael Basinski, director emeritus, UB Special Collections.

"This historic Collection affords the UB Libraries Rare and Special Books Collection an opportunity to celebrate Buffalo's renaissance by preserving Buffalo's printing and publishing history."

Musial Collection highlights include, the first directory of the village of Buffalo from 1828, the first Buffalo city directory from 1832, and an assortment of guidebooks of Niagara Falls from the 1830s and 1840s. Other materials include religious hymns, government documents and maps.

The *Eugene Musial Buffalo Imprint Collection* will be digitized and made available online for public viewing. Its acquisition was made possible through the generosity of William S. Hein & Co. Inc., the B.H. Breslauer Foundation, and individual donors.



UB Dinks!

Beanie caps were an iconic mid 20th-century tradition at many American universities and colleges. Wearing a beanie was a traditional rite of passage for many freshmen, and the caps were still worn at UB into the late 1960s. Known as "dinks", the blue and white caps were issued to freshmen during orientation week, which also included dances, football games, and other student activities.



Wayfarers

Over the past three decades, UB Professors Claude Welch and Jeanette Ludwig have travelled together to more than 25 countries on six continents. The couple's extensive travels are documented in the University Libraries' **Welch-Ludwig Digital Collection**, a digital archive which includes more than 1,000 images reflecting people and cultures across the globe.

To highlight the beauty and diversity of these stunning images, selected photographs from the digital collection were the first featured exhibit in the new gallery area of Silverman Library. This exhibit, **Wayfarers**, captured the beauty of everyday life, and the diverse ways we work, worship, interact and celebrate.



Polish Peace Posters Exhibition

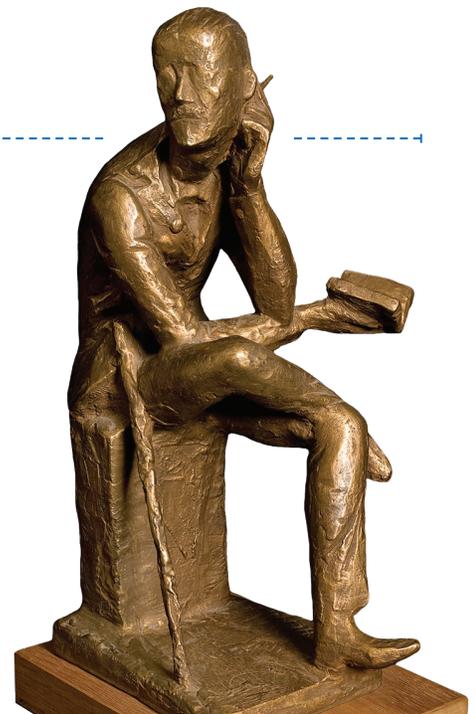
A selection of beautiful, vibrant posters, originally printed for the World Peace Council, an international organization advocating universal disarmament, is on display on the 3rd floor of Silverman Library through Spring 2017. The Polish Peace Posters tell a visual story of the views regarding arms reduction in Poland and Europe during the Cold War.

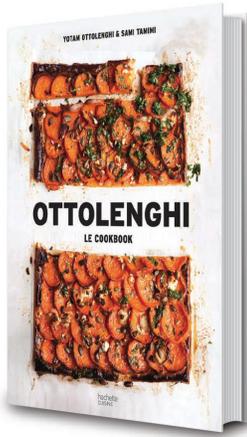
On the Road with James Joyce

To celebrate the 2017 Gaelic Games Continental Youth Championships in Buffalo, the UB Libraries, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library and New York State Assemblyman Michael P. Kearns presented an exhibition at the Central Library in downtown Buffalo.

In July 2017, *James Joyce: The University at Buffalo Collection* offered an opportunity for community members to view rare original materials, including photographs, manuscripts, notes, and first-edition copies from Joyce's personal life and literary career.

The University Libraries' Joyce Collection is the largest Joyce collection in the world, drawing scholars from around the globe to study one of the most influential writers of the 20th century.





What We're Reading

Nancy Schiller
Engineering Librarian

Ottolenghi: The Cookbook
by Yotam Ottolenghi and
Sami Tamimi

"Rather than an anthology of short stories on my bedside table, I have a stack of cookbooks. Their beautiful photographs and mesmerizing lists of ingredients make perfect bedtime reading. I recently read *Ottolenghi: The Cookbook*. The names of the recipes were like music, all lulling me to sleep."

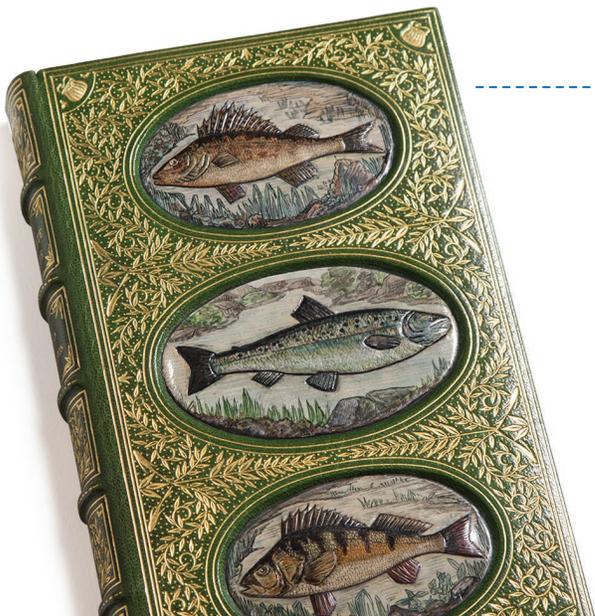


Annex Expansion!

The Annex is at full capacity with 1.3 million print volumes

As we continue our transition from book-centered to user-centered facilities, we are committed to reducing the footprint of our stack shelving in order to provide comfortable and flexible physical spaces that can meet all types of learning needs.

On March 1, 2018, construction of a 5,000 square foot addition to the UB Libraries Annex is set to begin, providing space for an additional 500,000 print volumes. Located directly east of the existing Annex on Rensch Road in Amerst, NY, completion of the addition is set for Fall 2018.



This "reel" catch will lure you in!

The Complete Angler by Izaak Walton was first published in 1653 and is purported to be the most-frequently reprinted book in the English language, directly after the King James version of the Bible. Thanks to a donation from Thomas B. Lockwood in 1935, the University Libraries' Rare & Special Books Collection holds a fifth edition copy, published in 1808. Bound in Moroccan leather, this exquisite instruction guide, cherished by anglers world-wide, is replete with poetry, songs, life lessons and recipes, all connected to the art of fishing.

Meet James Maynard

Seventh curator of UB Poetry Collection

By [Marcene Robinson](#) » The University at Buffalo Libraries has named James Maynard, PhD, the seventh curator of the UB Poetry Collection, home to one of the world's largest collections of 20th- and 21st-century poetry in English.

Maynard was promoted to the position in September 2016 after the retirement of the collection's previous curator, Michael Basinski, who served in the role since 2004.

"As all of us who have worked closely with Jim know, he is an outstanding scholar, a magnanimous colleague, and a superb advocate for the Poetry Collection and the University Libraries," says H. Austin Booth, vice provost for the UB Libraries.

Among Maynard's goals as curator are to expand access to materials through additional digital collections, and to build out new collections, such as the recently implemented collection of visual poetry by female artists.

"It is an incredible honor to be named the seventh curator of the Poetry Collection, and also a great responsibility to continue the collection's 80-year history," says Maynard.

"I can't imagine a more exciting place to be than working here with such remarkable colleagues and a world-renowned collection of poetry publications and literary manuscripts. And with any luck, I'll be fortunate to be part of the Poetry Collection's 100th anniversary in 2037."

Before assuming his role as curator, Maynard held various positions at the university, including assistant to the Robert Duncan Archive and adjunct instructor in the Department of English. After being appointed assistant curator of the Poetry Collection in 2009, he received tenure as associate curator in 2012 and was promoted to full librarian in 2015.

In addition to helping increase the Poetry Collection's endowments, Maynard has been awarded nearly \$400,000 in grants from organizations that include the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Council on Libraries and Information Resources, and the Digital Humanities Initiative at Buffalo.

The main focus of Maynard's research interests are the works of American poet Robert Duncan. Over his nearly 20-year career, Maynard has written or contributed to 13 books, is the author of more than 15 other publications, and has presented his works nationally and internationally.

He has published widely on and edited a number of collections relating to Duncan, including the books *Ground*



"As all of us who have worked closely with Jim know, he is an outstanding scholar, a magnanimous colleague, and a superb advocate for the Poetry Collection and the University Libraries."

H. Austin Booth, Vice Provost for the University Libraries

Work: Before the War/In the Dark, (Re:)Working the Ground: Essays on the Late Writings of Robert Duncan and Such Conjunctions: Robert Duncan, Jess, and Alberto de Lacerda.

His edition of *Robert Duncan: Collected Essays and Other Prose* received the Poetry Foundation's 2014 Pegasus Award for Poetry Criticism.

Maynard's upcoming book, *Robert Duncan and the Pragmatist Sublime*, explores the different stages of Duncan's writing career, and how the poet was influenced by process philosophy and American pragmatism. The book will publish in spring of 2018 from the University of New Mexico Press.

Maynard earned a doctorate in English from UB, a master's degree in English from Temple University, and a bachelor's degree in English from Ursinus College.



To read a student interview with Dr. Maynard, visit:
library.buffalo.edu/news/2017/12/04/james-maynard

Jaroslav Josef Polivka surrounded by UC Berkeley students at his home in Berkeley, California.



ENGINEERING THE ORGANIC

An Investigation into the Collaboration of Jaroslav J. Polívka and Frank Lloyd Wright

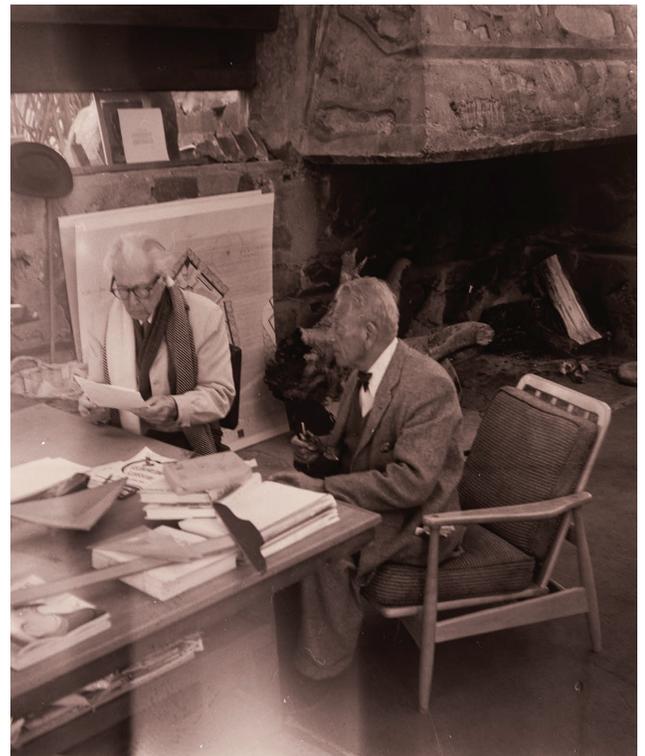
by Barry A. Muskat

Architecture, by its very nature, is a collaborative effort. In any project, an architect seldom steps up to the plate alone. He or she teams with the client, site-planners, engineers, contractors and tradespeople. Like a coach, an architect sets the game plan, designs the plays, and may be involved in selecting the best players to move the effort forward. On the playing field of the built environment, the result can be seen in a victory, a defeat, or simply in the legacy of leaving a great set of game plans.

Frank Lloyd Wright, thought by many to be America's greatest architect, collaborated throughout his career with others who helped realize his daring vision of an organic architecture. However, Wright was seldom generous in acknowledging the value of his collaborators' contributions. In the late 1990's, I set out to explore the relationship between Jaroslav J. Polívka, a celebrated Czech-American engineer, and Frank Lloyd Wright, the consummate American architect. Theirs was a partnership that had apparently escaped the attention of most Wright scholars.

Documentation of this relationship is based on my study of first-hand original materials held by the Getty Research Institute for the History of Art & the Humanities and the unique collection of J.J. Polívka Papers in the University Archives. The UB collection was generously donated to the University in 1982 by the Polívka's children through the courtesies of Katka Houdek Hammond, Jaroslav's granddaughter. As my research continued, I began to uncover strong evidence documenting the significance of Polívka's work to Wright's career. Encouraged by this discovery, I sensed that my research would be substantive enough to give irrefutable credit to Jaroslav Polívka, and to finally give him the attribution he clearly deserves.

Included in the University Archives' collection of Polívka papers is an array of correspondence (letters and telegrams), notes, drawings, calculations, assorted documents, invoices for professional services, original photographs, as well as clippings from popular magazines and professional journals. The papers cover a period from 1945-1959 and illustrate a working relationship between the two men that evolved into a respectful friendship. Most significantly, this substantive evidence provided me with proof of



Jaroslav Josef Polívka at work with Frank Lloyd Wright, February 20, 1957.



Czechoslovakian Pavilion, designed by Polívka, for New York World's Fair, 1938.

a collaboration in which Polívka's input and support to specific Wright projects merits consideration. Although Wright never publicly credited Polívka for his work, this evidence documents Polívka's involvement and confirms that credit is due.

Polívka was born to humble beginnings in Prague. After earning engineering and doctoral degrees, Polívka began his professional career which was interrupted when, at age 31, he was conscripted to serve in World War I. Returning to Prague after the war, he opened an architectural and engineering office where he developed hands-on skills working with new materials, including reinforced concrete and steel, precast forms, and glass as a structural element.

His prolific practice began to flourish in the atmosphere of the European architectural avant-garde. Their new visual language of design tended towards Functionalism, a principle whereby the form of a building is determined by its function, and Rationalism, expressed in simple rectangular volumes with the intentional avoidance of ornament. Two particular projects gave Polívka international exposure. First, he partnered on the design of the daring Czechoslovakian Pavilion for the Paris Exposition of 1937, where a sleek steel skeleton was sheathed in a smooth skin of glass. Another major project, the Czech Pavilion for the New York World's Fair of 1939 gave him the opportunity to emigrate to America.

As a researcher and lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley, Polívka founded the Photo-elastic Laboratory where he continued to refine advances in his stress-analysis specialty. An ardent admirer of Frank Lloyd Wright, Polívka's ability to adapt and his knowledge of latest technologies gave him significant credibility and success.



“Take for example cobwebs of a spider which definitely should be studied by an engineer whose specialty is to build suspension bridges... The average engineer knows only beams, girders, columns, and any deviation from these every day tools is considered as unusual, crazy, or dangerous.”

Excerpt from J. J. Polívka's correspondence with Frank Lloyd Wright.

Then, a simple event changed the course of his career. In 1946, Wright was quoted in *Architectural Forum* as saying that engineers were “complete damn fools!” Although this insult must have been offensive to many engineers, Polívka sent Wright an enthusiastic letter: “I am writing as an old admirer of you and your work.”

Referring to Wright’s comment, Polívka wrote, “You may be right since the engineers in their structural conceptions are very

conceived the project, brought it to Wright, and then assumed multiple roles and the dynamic force towards its fruition. Two examples of the latter are the Guggenheim Museum and The Johnson Wax Tower.

Polívka’s work with Wright remained unrecognized for years because of the very nature of collaborating, or more specifically, the very nature of collaborating with Wright. In addition to his other



Polívka’s Czechoslovakian Pavilion designed and built for Paris Exposition, 1937.

seldom guided by eternal laws of Nature. Take for example cobwebs of a spider which definitely should be studied by an engineer whose specialty is to build suspension bridges, he continued... The average engineer knows only beams, girders, columns, and any deviation from these every day tools is considered as unusual, crazy, or dangerous. For many years I was grappling with this prejudice. Your work confirms and fortifies my ideas and that’s why I am so grateful to you.” The letter resulted in an invitation to Wright’s home at Taliesin, launching a relationship between the two men that continued until Wright’s death, more than thirteen years later.

What, then, was the nature of Polívka’s role in his collaboration with Wright? Wright became celebrated for his use of concrete, a material with which Polívka was very familiar. My research focused on seven specific projects on which both men worked. Those case studies can function as lenses through which to view their larger relationship. Depending on the project, I demonstrated that Polívka’s involvement ranged from playing a minor role and acting as a consultant to Wright, to that of being the catalyst who

talents, Wright was a master of self-promotion, and, no matter how talented, a mortal like Jaroslav Polívka could merely stand in his shadow. While respectfully recognizing Wright’s incomparable status as one of the world’s premier 20th-century architects, it is important to challenge traditional views of history when armed with new evidence. The J.J. Polívka Papers in the University Archives, coupled with the cooperation and accessibility of Archives staff provided me with the tools to accomplish that challenge.

Barry A. Muskat, (M.A. University at Buffalo, B.A. Penn State University), is a business leader in the Buffalo area, architecture critic for *Buffalo Spree*, and a senior docent at the Darwin D. Martin House. Muskat acknowledges UB Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus Jack Quinan for his research guidance and friendship. Muskat and Katka Hammond are collaborating on a book that examines the Wright–Polívka relationship.



Visit the *Jaroslav Polívka Digital Collection*:
library.buffalo.edu/collections/jaroslav-polivka

Thank You.

Your gifts have a tremendous impact on our ability to provide outstanding collections and services to our students and faculty. Thanks to your generous support, the University Libraries are able to acquire new resources, preserve existing materials, and provide cutting-edge technologies that offer expanded access to all information.



H. Austin Booth

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Vice Provost for University Libraries

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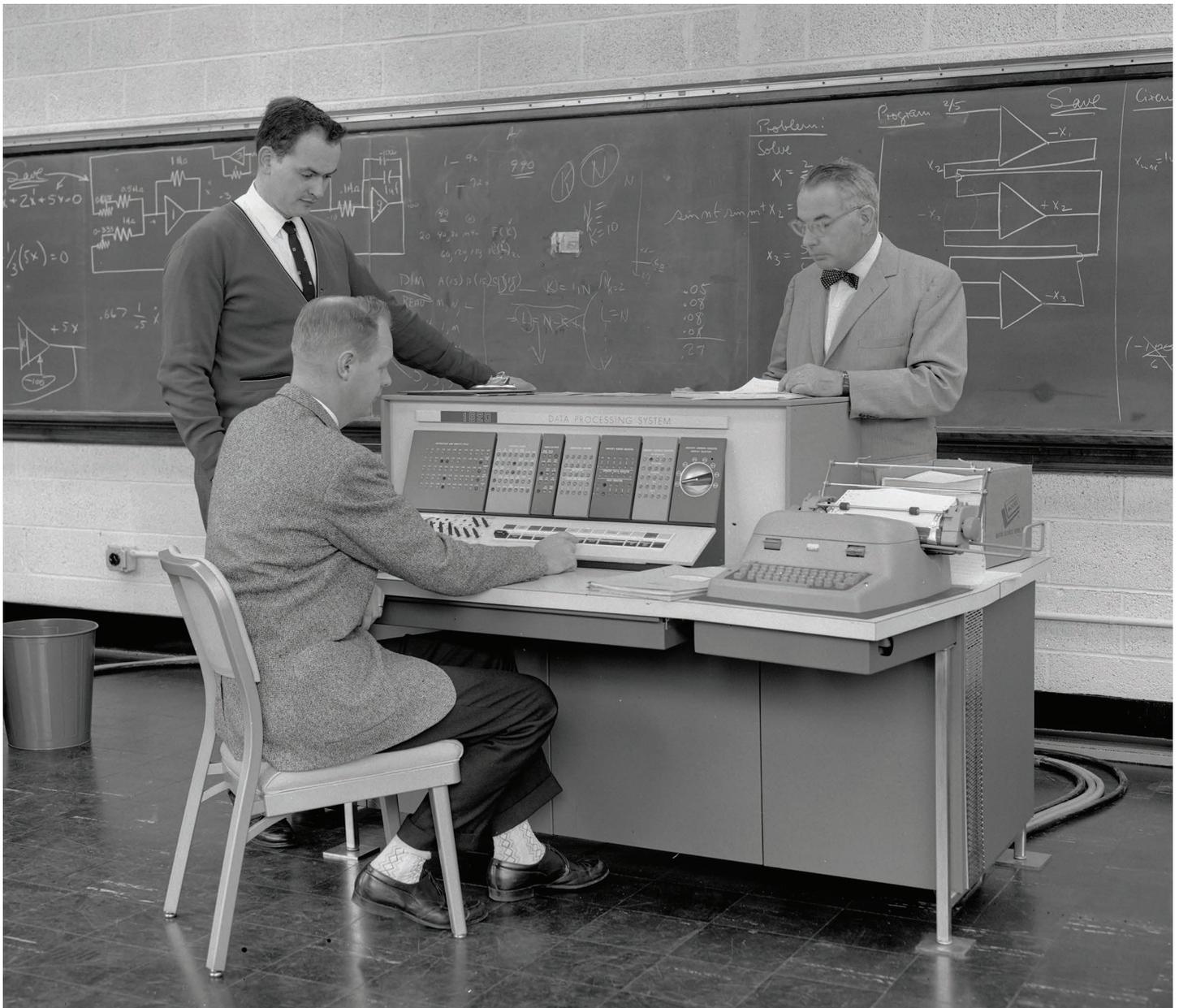
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A Swift-Solving Brain

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A portrait of Barbara Bono, an older woman with short, light-colored hair, wearing black-rimmed glasses, a purple turtleneck, and a purple cardigan over a patterned scarf. She is smiling warmly at the camera. The background is dark and out of focus.

I'M thankful

"I'm Barbara Bono, associate professor in UB's English Department, where I focus on the works of Shakespeare and his contemporaries.

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