The James Joyce Museum
at the University at Buffalo
An International Destination for Research and Discovery
Bringing the World to Buffalo

The University at Buffalo Libraries provide bold resources for students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends across all three campuses. One of our major points of pride is that UB is home to the world’s largest, most comprehensive and most prestigious collection of materials by and related to James Joyce (1882-1941), the acclaimed Irish author widely recognized as perhaps the most influential writer of the twentieth century.

The first installment of the James Joyce Collection came to UB’s Poetry Collection in 1950, thanks in large part to Oscar Silverman and Charles Abbott, and by virtue of a gift from Margaretta F. Wickser, made in memory of her husband, Philip J. Wickser, an arts patron and book collector. The gift consisted of the Librairie La Hune’s 1949 exhibition Exposition en Hommage à James Joyce, a substantial body of manuscripts, family portraits, Patrick Tuohy’s portraits of Joyce and his father, letters, newspaper clippings, and Joyce’s personal library, received as it had been packed for storage after Joyce left Paris to flee the Nazi occupation. It also included some personal effects, such as his canes, glasses and passports. B.W. Huebsch, Joyce’s first American publisher, donated two more installments in 1951 and 1959.

In 1959, hands-on negotiations and a financial commitment from Constance and Walter Stafford secured another major consignment: the purchase of Joyce materials from Sylvia Beach, proprietor of the famous modernist bookstore Shakespeare and Company, and publisher of the first edition of Ulysses. Walter Stafford, MD ’44, taught neurology and served as associate dean of academic affairs in the UB medical school. These items included manuscripts and production materials pertaining to Ulysses, Beach’s business records and her personal Joyce collection. The Staffords, along with Mrs. Spencer Kittinger, helped to fund the purchase of another component after Beach’s death in 1962. A final installment arrived in 1968—the acquisition from Maria Jolas of corrected galley proofs from the serialized publication of Finnegans Wake. Maria and Eugene Jolas edited the magazine transition in Paris, which published Joyce’s writing.

The Best in Letters: The James Joyce Collection at UB

James Joyce’s literary accomplishments are known and loved by millions, particularly his most highly regarded publications, including Dubliners (1914), A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man (1916), Finnegans Wake (1939) and Ulysses (1922), perhaps the single most important English-language novel of the past 100 years.

His experimental prose, syntax and narrative structure, compounded by his prolific use of literary, mythical and religious allusions, make James Joyce one of the most highly researched literary figures of all time.

As a result, UB’s James Joyce Collection has long been a destination for literary scholars far and wide. The collection—thoughtfully and meticulously gathered, curated and cared for since the arrival of the first archive pieces in 1950—offers more than 10,000 pages of Joyce’s working papers, notebooks, manuscripts, photographs, correspondence, portraits, publishing records and personal artifacts, as well as the author’s private library.

Supplementing the archive is a complete set of first editions, including most issues and states of every book published by Joyce, translations, a large number of his magazine appearances and virtually all significant criticism. Together, these materials document practically every aspect of Joyce’s artistic life and provide unmatched glimpses into his writing process and literary relationships.

But what truly distinguishes this Joyce Collection is that it is housed within UB Libraries’ Poetry Collection, which serves as the library of record for 20th- and 21st-century Anglophone poetry. Founded in 1935, the Poetry Collection is comprehensive in its collection of first and other bibliographically significant editions, small-press literary magazines and journals, broadsides, anthologies, criticism and reference.

The Poetry Collection also holds more than 170 archives and manuscript collections from a wide range of poets, presses, magazines and organizations, including literary giants William Carlos Williams, Helen Adam, Robert Duncan, Robert Graves, Dylan Thomas, Jargon and Wyndham Lewis. And it serves as a regional repository for many Western New York publishers and arts organizations. Finally, it includes substantial collections of artwork, audio recordings, ephemera, photographs, visual poetry and zines, making it one of the largest poetry libraries of its kind in the world.
As an active research center for the study of modern and contemporary poetry, the Poetry Collection has endless reach. The collection:

• provides materials to a wide range of scholarly publications;
• welcomes visiting researchers from around the globe;
• supports UB undergraduate and graduate students’ education;
• supplements numerous exhibitions worldwide with loaned materials.

Recognizing that art does not occur in a vacuum, but rather is always historically and culturally situated, the Poetry Collection’s complete holdings offer remarkable insight into Joyce’s significant role in the larger artistic and social milieus of the 20th and 21st centuries, and further differentiate UB’s unmatched James Joyce Collection.

The James Joyce Collection at UB is unparalleled and demands to be shared with a wider world audience as a cornerstone of literary study and discovery. That is why UB now is working to ready its incomparable Joyce Collection for a higher calling, with plans to place it in a new home—a landmark exhibition space—and to attract an eminent James Joyce scholar to serve as its curator. The UB Libraries also is finalizing new strategies for the collection’s preservation, for obtaining future acquisitions to add to its considerable holdings, and for increasing visitor engagement with these valuable materials.

We’ve set our sights high, aiming at academic and scholarly excellence and becoming a model for the best in research, higher education and library studies. We are committed to raising our standards—and securing financial support—to garner the global attention and appreciation this rare resource deserves.

A Bold Vision with Boundless Benefits

“Better pass boldly into that other world, in the full glory of some passion, than fade and wither dismally with age.”
–James Joyce, “The Dead,” from Dubliners

Heeding these words, UB Libraries has a bold vision to secure the James Joyce Collection’s future preservation and growth, while inviting the broader world in to explore the literary life and works of Ireland’s native son and one of literature’s most influential and celebrated figures.

Making this vision a reality will have a tremendous impact on the University at Buffalo, on Western New York and the world.

For the University at Buffalo, the Joyce exhibition area presents an opportunity to build a bridge among communities–local, regional, and international. By offering a dedicated space for a new museum, open to the public, UB stands to welcome constituencies that would not otherwise come to campus. The museum also will enhance UB’s international reputation as a leading scholarly enterprise, and strengthen scholarly activities in the humanities at the university.

For Buffalo and Western New York, this visionary endeavor will intensify the region’s already vibrant and storied reputation for arts, culture and history. Citizens of the world come here to see Niagara Falls, our renowned Albright-Knox Art Gallery and many architectural treasures. Adding the Poetry Collection’s Joyce Museum to the list of these prominent destinations would strengthen the region economically and embolden its vibrant Irish-American community.

For Ireland, our Joyce plans directly align with the nation’s recently launched initiative “Global Ireland–Ireland’s Global Footprint to 2025.” Ireland aims to double the scope and impact of its global footprint in the period to 2025. This program is the most ambitious renewal and expansion of Ireland’s international presence ever undertaken in terms of diplomacy, culture, business, overseas aid, tourism and trade. A public exhibition area for the UB James Joyce Collection will advance Ireland’s goal to “promote Irish arts, heritage and culture to new generations and new audiences” while increasing its engagement with its 70 million-strong diaspora, especially in the United States and Canada.
The UB James Joyce Museum

Proposed for Abbott Hall, the historic library designed by renowned architect E.B. Green that opened in 1935 on UB’s South Campus
LANDMARK SPACE FOR THE JAMES JOYCE COLLECTION AT UB $10 MILLION

Despite having the world’s largest and most comprehensive Joyce Collection since 1950, the Poetry Collection has never had a dedicated museum area in which to share its Joyce materials with the general public. This unique and vast literary collection deserves its own professional exhibition space. Creating a new landmark visitor attraction in the heart of Buffalo will ensure that UB continues as a cultural destination for academic researchers and literary scholars, and enhance the already robust cultural-tourism of the Buffalo–Niagara region. An investment of $10 million would enable the university to construct—and maintain—this new museum.

The new space with a permanent James Joyce display in a historically prominent location on the South Campus in the City of Buffalo will increase public awareness of and access to Special Collections; communicate UB’s longstanding role in the acquisition, development and preservation of these world-renowned materials; and raise the cultural profile of UB, its libraries, Buffalo and Western New York.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The University at Buffalo Libraries touch our world in many ways, directly engaging with education, research and scholarship challenges and opportunities of our time. The work accomplished here is an integral part of a larger movement to broaden the relevance of the UB Libraries as we serve students, faculty, staff and alumni, and our local, regional and global communities. Here is how you can support your passion and make a world of difference. The following are the primary funding priorities for the James Joyce Museum at UB.
PRESERVATION AND ACQUISITIONS ENDOWMENT
$1.5 MILLION
To raise the stature of the UB James Joyce Collection and ensure its continuation as an international destination for James Joyce research and discovery, the collection will need a significantly enhanced endowment to further strategic priorities beyond what UB can support.

The endowment will provide a perpetual source of funding for preservation of collection materials and acquisition of additional research materials related to Joyce.

Joyce’s manuscripts and other relevant materials are infamously expensive. In November 2017, a single leaf from the printer’s typescript manuscript for chapter 12 of Ulysses sold at auction for $50,000. Earlier that year, Joyce’s personal copies of Gustave Flaubert’s Madame Bovary and L’Éducation Sentimentale went on the market for a combined total of $40,000. The majority of manuscripts in the James Joyce Collection require professional conservation, which can range from simple rehousing in custom enclosures to more complicated and expensive treatments and repairs.

This endowment also will be used to support the purchase of research materials (books, magazines, manuscripts and other items) relating to other Irish and Irish-American poets, and artists who credit Joyce as a major source for inspiration.

THE JAMES JOYCE CURATOR
$1 MILLION
This newly created position will be primarily responsible for administering the UB James Joyce Collection. Duties will include collection development; supporting the research of visiting scholars and graduate students; delivering lectures to visiting classes; assisting with development activities; providing tours and presentations to individuals and groups; training and working with docents; conducting community engagement; developing local, national and international partnerships; and research requests.

The James Joyce Curator also will be responsible for conceiving compelling physical and digital installations from the collection for the new Joyce exhibition area and for organizing a new annual James Joyce lecture. Recognizing the numerous organizations worldwide dedicated to the study and promotion of James Joyce and his works, a priority of the James Joyce Curator will be to build collaborative partnerships with other flagship Joyce institutions and collections. An endowment fund will provide the resources to recruit, hire and retain a Joyce scholar for this important role.

PROGRAMMING AND EXHIBITIONS ENDOWMENT
$500,000
Once the vision for a public exhibition center and a curator for the UB James Joyce Collection is realized, it will be dynamic programming and exhibitions that will draw in the broader world to discover James Joyce and the literary treasures of the Poetry Collection. The James Joyce Curator will be responsible for planning and executing these exhibitions and endeavors; potential programs could include lectures, literary events (an annual Bloomsday celebration), docent-led tours and school trips.

Certainly, digital scholarship and UB’s emerging digital humanities program offer the opportunity to build programming and exhibitions that will allow the exploration of James Joyce’s work in new, cutting-edge ways. An endowment will provide the necessary resources to fund these expenses and other robust programmatic efforts.
Here is how you can help.

Giving museum status to UB’s James Joyce Collection, dedicating a curator to its care and supporting it in perpetuity by building an endowment: all of these efforts will ensure the collection shines in its many presentations on campus, throughout the nation and around the globe. Our vision to grant wider access and engagement to this unprecedented archive, combined with your passionate interest and philanthropic investment, is an unbeatable combination that will literally transform our world.

We know this is a bold assertion—yet we make it with the confidence of clear-eyed commitment, a proven track record and world-class research resources. Your financial support will make this vision a reality. An investment in literature, scholarship and higher education is always an investment in our collective future—a future that will be brighter, stronger and bolder, thanks to you.

**BOLDLY BUFFALO**

**THE CAMPAIGN FOR UB**

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