

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. The 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, 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.

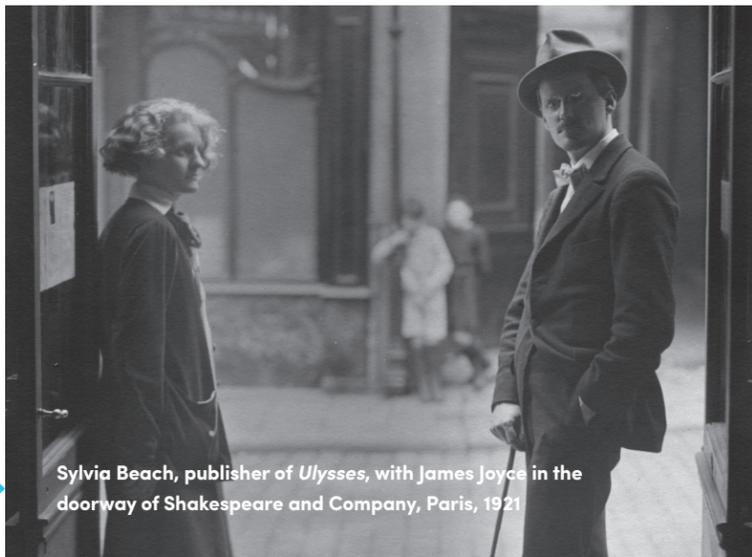
His experimental prose, syntax and narrative structure, compounded by his prolific use of literary, mythical and religious allusions, make James Joyce one of the most highly researched literary figures of all time.

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 acquisition 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 Paris 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 175 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 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.



Sylvia Beach, publisher of *Ulysses*, with James Joyce in the doorway of Shakespeare and Company, Paris, 1921

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.

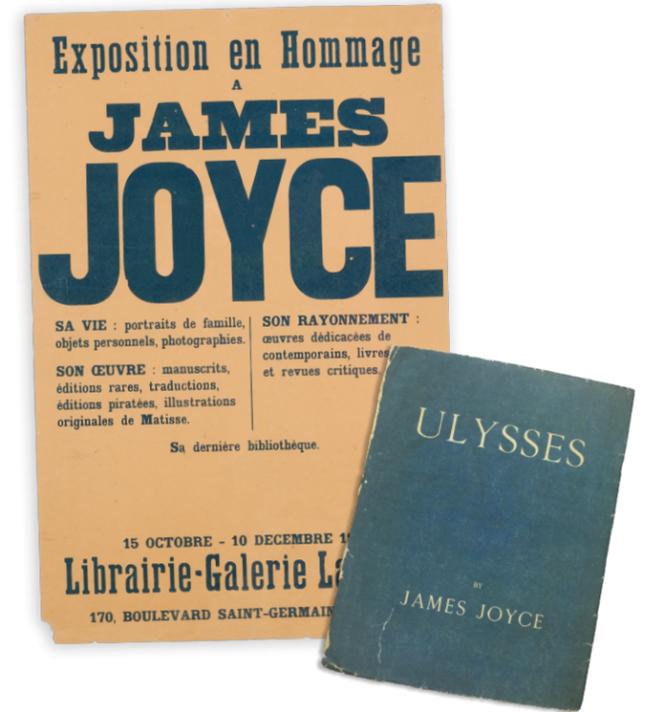
The James Joyce Collection at UB is unparalleled and demands to be shared with a wider world audience as a cornerstone of literary study and discovery. That is why UB now is working to ready its incomparable Joyce Collection for a higher calling, a landmark exhibition space. With a historic investment of \$10 million from New York State, plans for the construction of the James Joyce Museum are moving forward. 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. Most urgently, UB seeks support for a new James Joyce Curator position whose primary responsibilities will center around the UB James Joyce Collection.

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 dimly 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 on 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 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 Buffalo AKG Art Museum and many architectural treasures. Adding the Joyce Museum to the list of these prominent destinations would contribute to the region economically and bolster its vibrant Irish-American community.

For the world, as a cultural landmark and international destination, the James Joyce Museum will entice thousands of visitors annually. Joyce enthusiasts from all over will be able to discover and engage with the remarkable resources of the UB James Joyce Collection. It will give the University at Buffalo the opportunity to extend a global invitation to experience the life and works of James Joyce and strengthen relationships between the U.S. and Ireland.

UB receives \$10 million in New York State funding for construction of a James Joyce Museum



New York State Sen. Tim Kennedy speaks during the press conference announcing state funding for the UB James Joyce Museum. At Kennedy's right are Bonnie Kane Lockwood, WNY regional director for Gov. Kathy Hochul, and UB President Satish K. Tripathi. At Kennedy's left are Dermot Fitzpatrick, vice consul general of Ireland in New York, Evviva Weinraub Lajoie, vice provost for UB Libraries, and James Maynard, UB Libraries Poetry Collection curator. Photo: Meredith Forrest Kulwicki

PUBLISHED JUNE 2023

On Bloomsday 2023, the University at Buffalo announced \$10 million in funding from New York State for the construction of the UB James Joyce Museum. The funding was secured through the advocacy of New York State Senator Tim Kennedy and with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul.

"Moving our magnificent James Joyce Collection to a home worthy of its renown has been a key goal for our scholarly environment, and doing so reaffirms the significance of this distinctive scholarly gem to our university, our broader community in Buffalo and Western New York, and our friends and colleagues around the world," said President Satish K. Tripathi

The state funding will enable the museum to break ground on a roughly 5,000 square feet dedicated space in the atrium of Abbott Hall, the historic library designed by renowned architect E.B. Green that opened in 1935.

"We're thrilled that we can move forward with a permanent exhibition space for the UB James Joyce Collection," said Evviva Weinraub Lajoie, vice provost for UB Libraries. "This funding will enable us to present these resources in ways that have an even greater impact on local, national and international communities curious about the literary arts and the work of James Joyce."



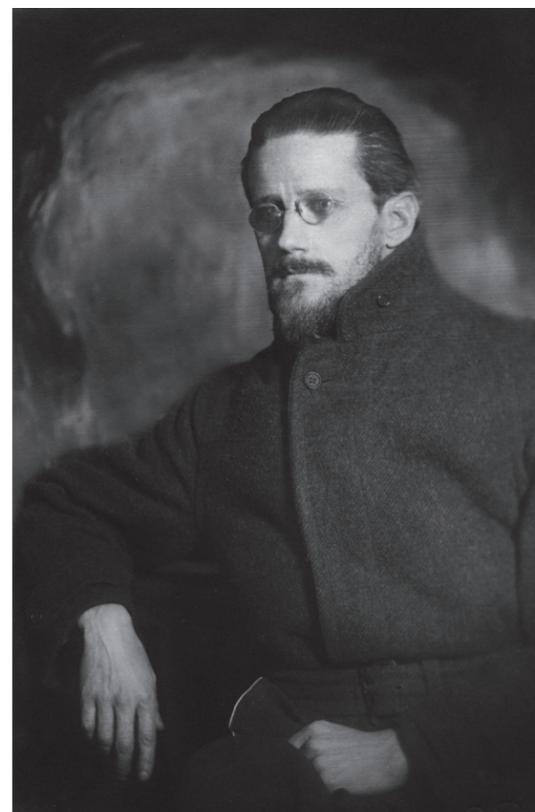
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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.

THE JAMES JOYCE CURATOR \$1.5 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.



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.

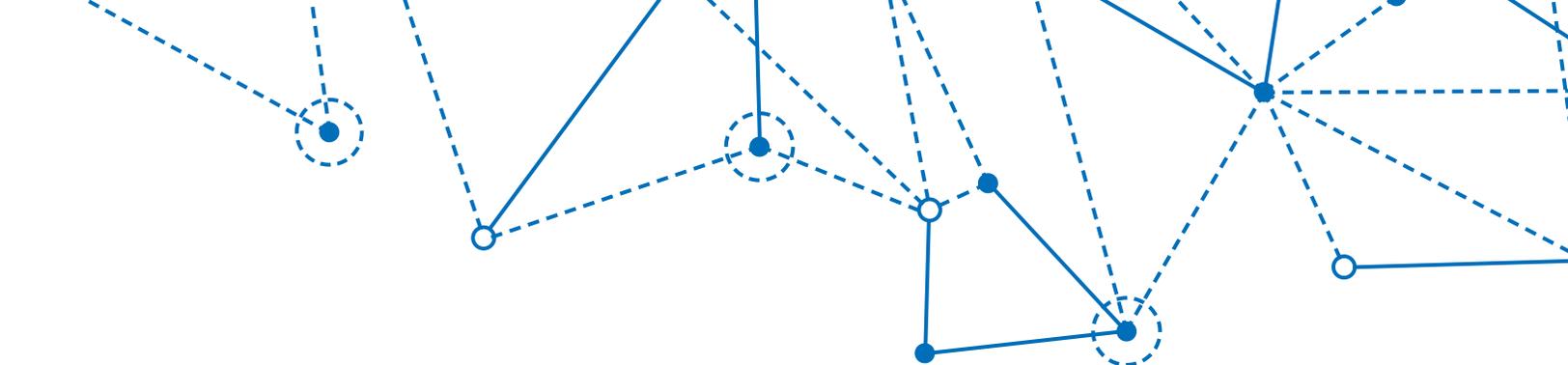
PROGRAMMING AND EXHIBITIONS ENDOWMENT \$500,000

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.

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION ENDOWMENT \$250,000

This fund would act as a sustainable trust after construction to ensure that the museum is maintained properly. As time wears on and visitors file in, renovations are an inevitable budget line item. It is our duty to preserve the unique history of James Joyce, and to do so by respectfully caring for the museum. We hope that our collection will continue to grow and be showcased in an educational and appropriate manner. In selecting this fund, you are protecting the artifacts of yesterday for tomorrow and providing space for future procurements.



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

Shana DiCamillo | Director of Advancement, University Libraries
shanadic@buffalo.edu | 716-881-7485



Learn more
about the **UB**
James Joyce
Collection

