





2017

**Annual Report | Special Collections &
University Archives**

UMass Amherst Libraries



Amherst, Mass.
2018

A new year and an annual report both present a time for reflection, and in 2018, reflection is peculiarly appropriate. This year brings the 150th anniversary of the birth of W. E. B. Du Bois, the 55th anniversary of his death, and the 50th anniversary of the year of great change, 1968.

As we look back on the year just ending, let us celebrate Du Bois with gratitude for the struggle he waged and for his faith in a brighter day.





Nancy Palmieri Collection

A superb visual chronicler of people and places, Nancy Palmieri enjoyed a career of three decades as a photojournalist with the *Springfield Republican*, *Providence Journal*, and other newspapers.



Flemish Book of Hours

Book history in Special Collections (SCUA) was given a boost this year with the arrival of a nearly complete book of hours, produced near Bruges around 1465. Having worked closely with faculty colleagues to develop a facsimile collection to support teaching in Medieval manuscripts, we thought it might be nice to balance the new with a beautiful case of the old.



Raymond Luc Levasseur Papers

Going underground with a revolutionary organization in 1974, Raymond Luc Levasseur spent nearly a decade fighting racial oppression in the US and imperialism abroad, carrying out a string of bombings against symbolic targets. After he and the other members of the United Freedom Front were arrested in 1984, Levasseur was sentenced to 45 years, serving 30 before winning parole. He remains active, writing and speaking out for prisoners' rights.

Wayne Jaquith Collection

An environmentalist, attorney, and effective organizer, Wayne Jaquith has been active in the cause against nuclear weapons since the 1970s. Jaquith has led and worked with a number of organizations over the years, including the Nantucket Land Council, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Lawyers Alliance for Nuclear Arms Control, and the Ploughshares Fund.



Harvey Wasserman Papers

Harvey Wasserman is a writer, historian, and organizer with a pedigree that includes the *Michigan Daily*, the Liberation News Service, and the Montague Farm commune. A key member of the antinuclear movement in the 1970s, he is a political commentator and is widely known as an evangelist for solar power and alternative energy.



Mark Sommer Papers

A veteran of the Liberation News Service and the Institute for Policy Studies, Mark Sommer is an award-winning public radio and print journalist focused on advocacy and on narratives of social, political, and environmental change, and positive action.



Clif Garboden Collection

Clif Garboden was part of a remarkable group of photographers, writers, and editors who made Boston home in the 1960s and 1970s. A stalwart of the alternative press, and for many years an editor of the *Boston Phoenix*, Garboden will be reunited in SCUA with papers of his colleagues Raymond Mungo, Peter Simon, and Jeff Albertson.



Obadiah Brown's Benevolent Fund

Established with a bequest from Obadiah Brown in 1822, the Benevolent Fund supports causes “principally for the benefit of our religious society,” the Society of Friends, and it assists in spreading “our Religious Principles where they are little known.” The collection is part of our growing collections on New England Quakerism.



Paul Engels Collection

An activist in the psychiatric survivors' movement, Paul Engels recognized the value of video technologies as a tool to record the voices and experiences of psychiatric survivors in their own terms. In 1974, he established a studio in the Vermont State Hospital, enabling patients to create and produce their own shows.

White Light Communications

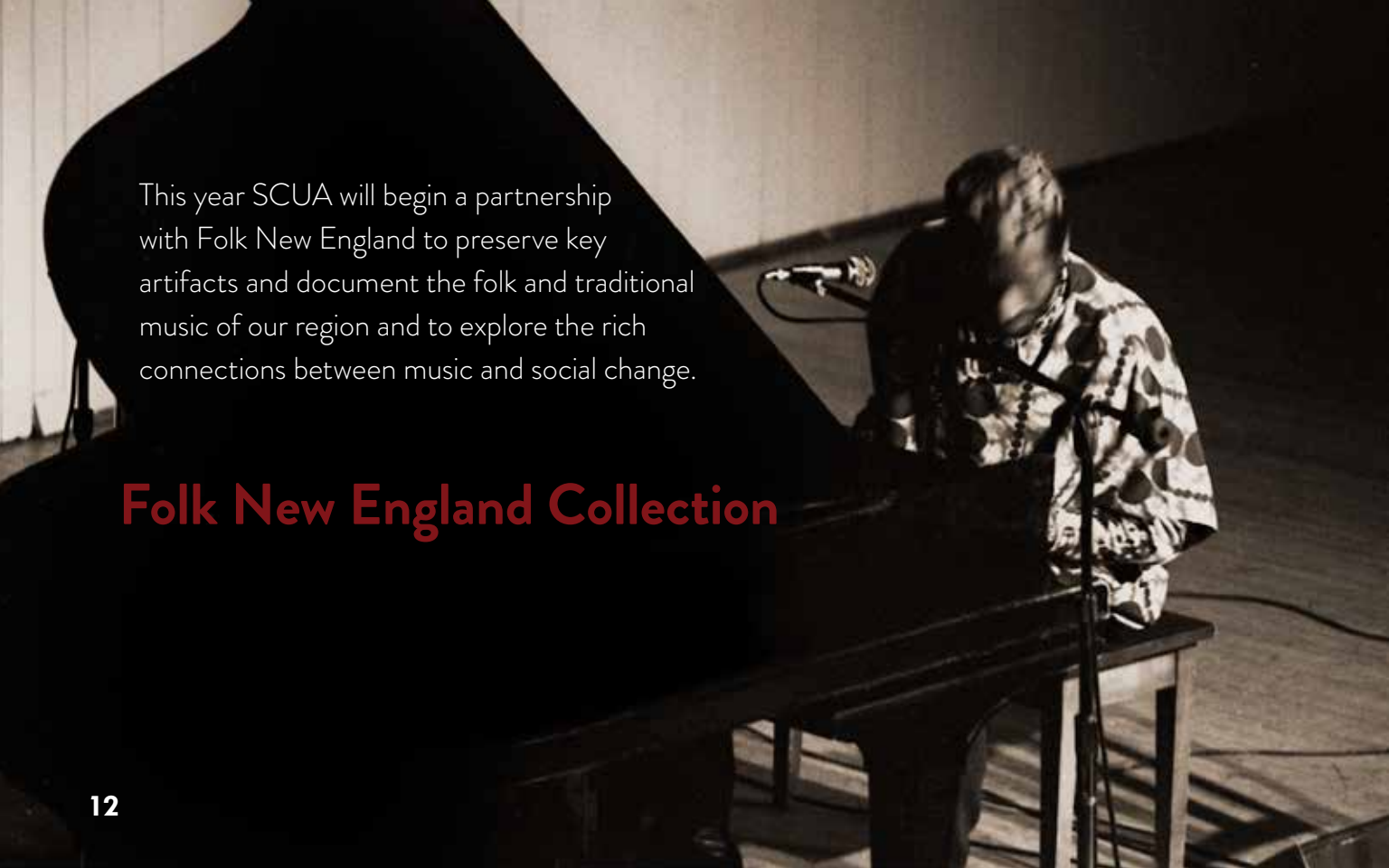
A media production and distribution company in Burlington, Vermont, White Light Communications recorded dozens of videos during the late 1980s and early 1990s reflecting the voices and experiences of ex-patients and leaders in the anti-psychiatry movement.

National Association for Rights Protection & Advocacy

With a membership comprised of people who have experienced psychiatric intervention along with advocates, civil rights activists, mental health workers, and lawyers, NARPA promotes social justice for people who experience the world in ways that society often calls “mental illness.”

Pat Risser Papers

A major figure in the peer self-help movement and in the cause of civil rights for people with psychiatric disabilities, Pat Risser was an influential mental health advocate, an important voice on the impact of trauma, and a persistent critic of the psychiatric system.

A person with long hair, wearing a patterned shirt, is seated at a grand piano in a dimly lit room. The piano is dark, and the person is illuminated by a soft light. The background is dark and out of focus.

This year SCUA will begin a partnership with Folk New England to preserve key artifacts and document the folk and traditional music of our region and to explore the rich connections between music and social change.

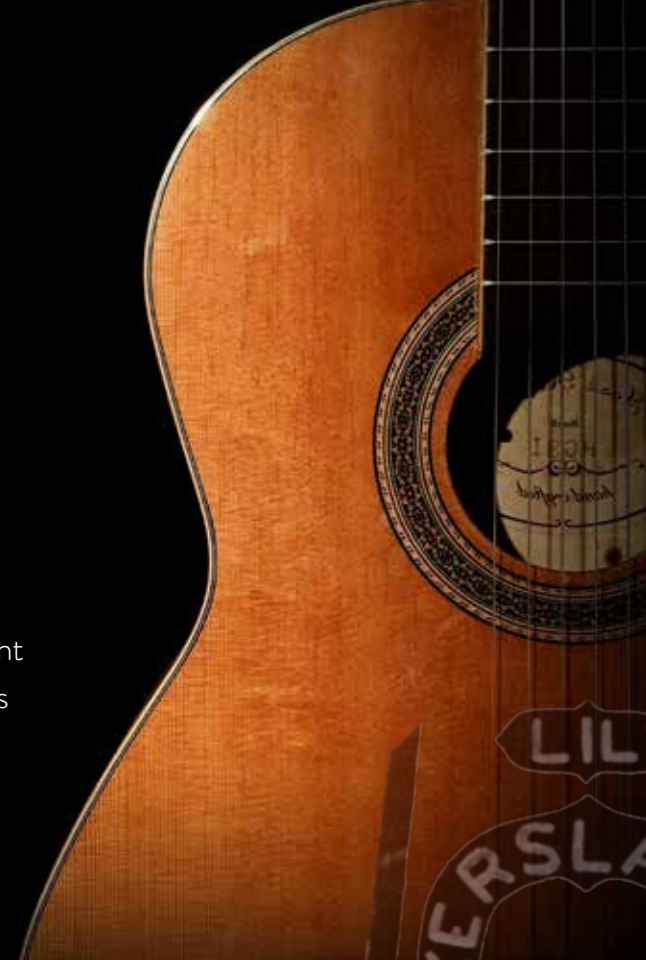
Folk New England Collection

Roy Berkeley Papers

A self-taught guitarist, Roy Berkeley was part of the folk scene in Greenwich Village, performing at the Gaslight regularly and at the first Newport Folk Festival in 1959, and eventually recording three albums.

Rounder Records Collection

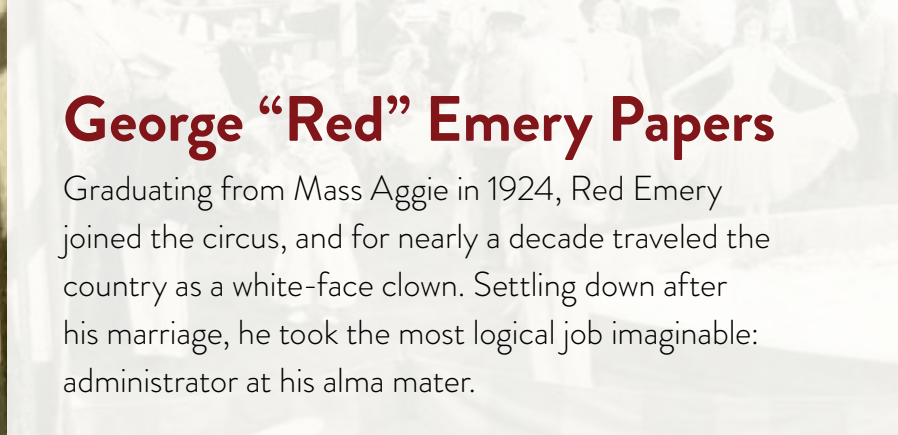
Founded in Boston, Rounder is one of the most important folk labels in the nation. The Rounder Collection contains copies of nearly every album released by the company from its founding in 1970 through 2012.





George “Red” Emery Papers

Graduating from Mass Aggie in 1924, Red Emery joined the circus, and for nearly a decade traveled the country as a white-face clown. Settling down after his marriage, he took the most logical job imaginable: administrator at his alma mater.



Susan Zusman Papers

A *Drosophila* geneticist and the first graduate student of Nobel Laureate Eric Wieschaus, Susan Zusman left academia for a career with Novartis and then as CEO of Genetic Services, Inc. Her papers offer an interesting view on the technologies of genetics and the life of a woman in science.



Fred & Mary Kerslake Scrapbooks

From 1888 to the late 1930s, Fred and Mary Kerslake operated one of America's premier animal acts, a passel of porcine performers who did "everything but talk." The four scrapbooks kept by the Kerslakes document their peregrinations from the barnyard to circus tents and the vaudeville stage.



John Nopper Collection

An organic farmer for over thirty years along the Connecticut River in Vermont, John Nopper took up photography later in life, drawn to capturing his local community and landscape. His collection includes 25 exhibition prints in a series on Vermont's Organic Pioneers, taken in collaboration with the oral historian and writer Susan J. Harlow.



Carlos Heiligmann Collection



In word and image, Carlos Heiligmann and his wife, Kathy, have documented the town libraries of western Massachusetts, Carlos's photography building on Kathy's writing. The photographs in this collection include interior and exterior shots of public libraries in nearly every town in Franklin and Hampshire counties.

Ozer Family Collection



Abe and Ruth Ozer met in a Workmen's Circle teen group and married shortly after the Second World War. Although they lived most of their lives in cooperative housing in the Bronx, they traveled. Widely. Their collection contains fascinating photographs of trips to the Soviet Union in the 1970s and to many other countries.

Fred Hayward Papers

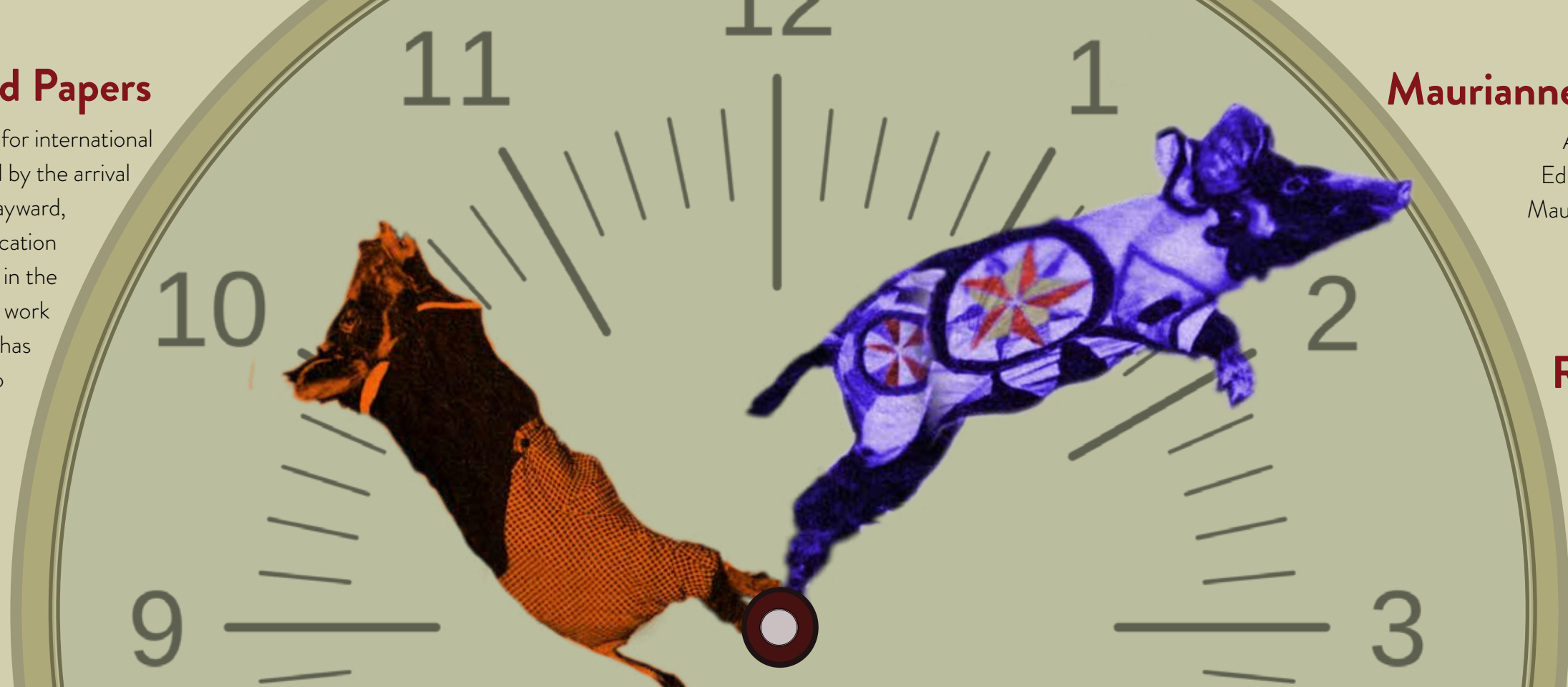
Our growing collections for international education were enriched by the arrival of the papers of Fred Hayward, a specialist in higher education and comparative politics in the developing world, whose work over the past fifty years has taken him from Africa to Afghanistan.

Maurianne Adams Papers

A professor in the School of Education at UMass Amherst, Maurianne Adams specialized in social justice education.

Residential Life Collection

Decades of photos and publications document UMass student life and housing.



Jonathan Stack Collection

A noted independent filmmaker, Jonathan Stack '79 has written and produced dozens of documentary films and television programs, earning a reputation for working under difficult and often under dangerous conditions, from crack dens in Harlem to war-torn Liberia and Louisiana prisons.

Society for the Anthropology of Europe

Founded in 1986 as a section of the American Anthropological Association, the SAE promotes research and connection among scholars working in Europe.

European Field Studies Program

The European Field Studies Program in the UMass Amherst Department of Anthropology gives graduate and undergraduate students an opportunity to turn a research idea into a concrete plan of action and gain hands-on field experience.

Carolyn Martin Shaw

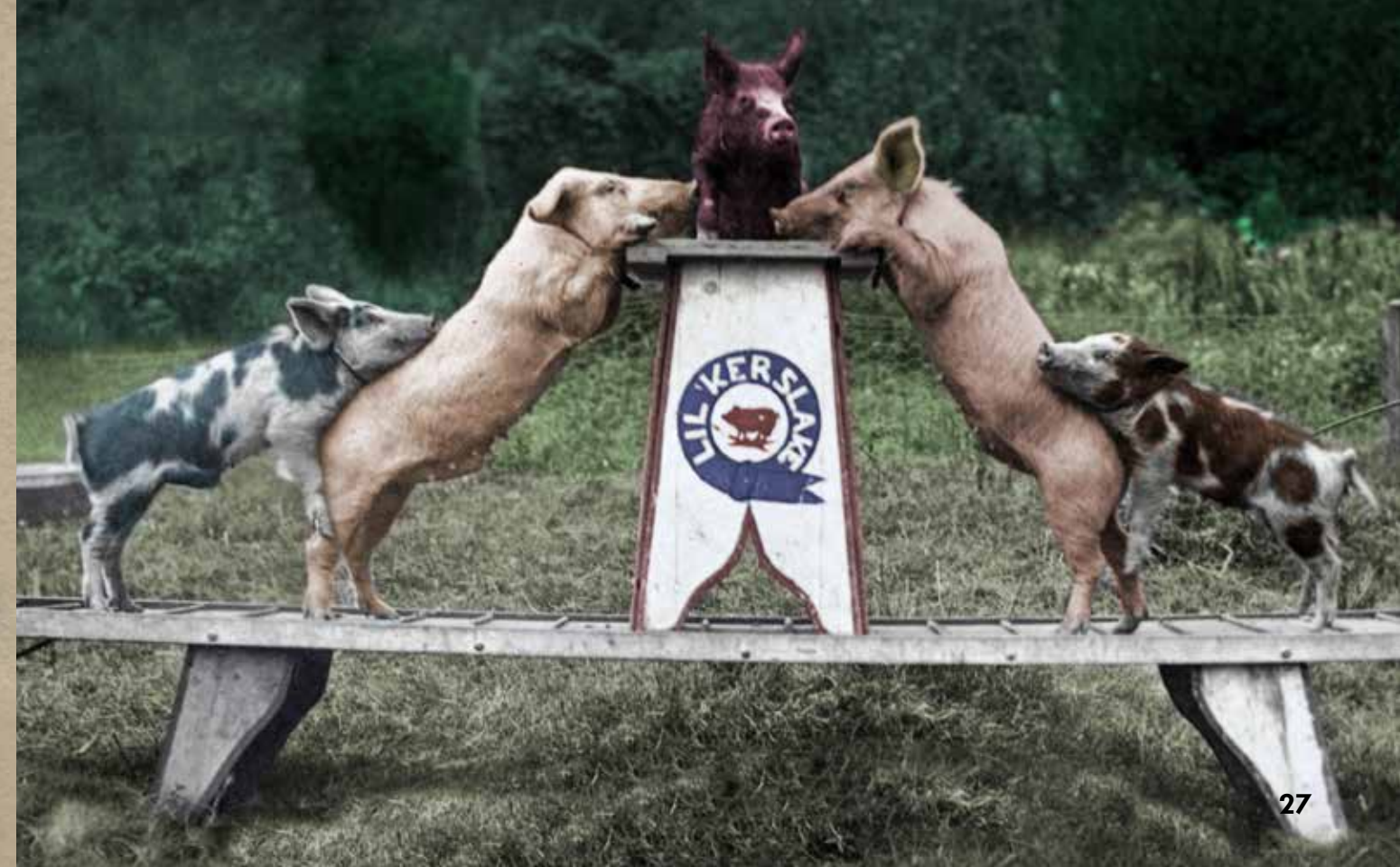
A pioneer in Black Feminist Anthropology, Carolyn Martin Shaw received her doctorate at Michigan State University for a study of Kukuyu kinship morality. On faculty at University of California Santa Barbara, she has written extensively on Kenya and Zimbabwe.





Thacher-Channing Family Papers

Boston Brahmin is a natural term to apply to any family that included William Ellery Channing, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, and Margaret Fuller. This Brahmin collection includes nearly 150 letters from Stephen Thacher and family, written between the 1750s and 1850s, along with a beautiful assortment of daguerreotypes, paper prints, silhouettes, and a magnificent watercolor miniature.



Americans for the Arts Records

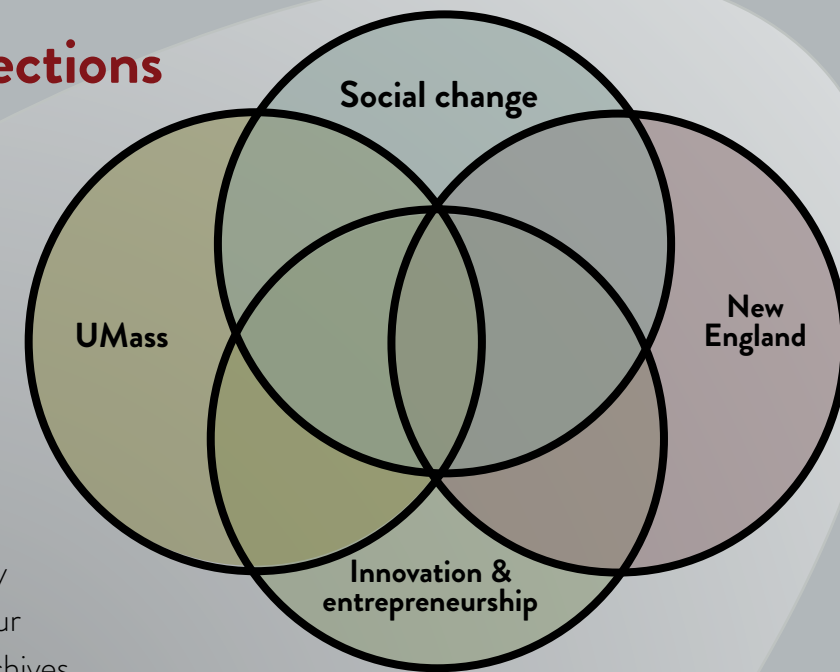
One of the most important organizations advancing the arts in American life, AFTA has worked since 1960 with local, state, and national arts organizations; government agencies; and business leaders and educators across the country. AFTA has begun the process of archiving its records with SCUA.

New England Association of Teachers of English

NEATE was founded in 1901 to connect the region's teachers, share issues and ideas, and make the case for concrete resources for education.

Light on SCUA Collections

Growing organically over the years, SCUA's collections now form a tightly integrated body of materials for primary research in history and culture. Our centers of collecting interest include the people and cultures of New England, innovation and entrepreneurship, and especially the history and experience of social change; and we are the official memory of the University of Massachusetts. Our collections include manuscripts and archives, rare books, photographs, maps, audio and video, and a burgeoning mass of digital content.



Whitcomb Family Collection

A fascinating assemblage of “seditionist” literature, primarily from the 20th century, the Whitcomb Collection contains hundreds of volumes, including scarce works on American and English Socialism and Communism, Russia and the international Communist movement, left politics, sociology, and culture.

Louis Wilson Collection

A great supporter of SCUA, Louis Wilson donated a fine collection of books by William Dean Howells and a selection of antiquarian works on Africa.

Jay Rosellini Collection

A scholar of East German literature and culture, Rosellini donated his library of novels, poetry, and drama from East German writers, primarily from the 1960s to 1989.

Happenings 2017

The **State Historic Records Advisory Board** awarded SCUA a Preservation Grant for Veterans' Collections, Sites, and Memorials, in support of our project "Digitizing the War Experience." The SHRAB also generously provided a **regrant** of funds to purchase preservation supplies.

The **UMass Amherst Class of 1967** donated funds to support a digital history project to map the plaques, markers, and memorials erected on campus by alumni.



Lyman Family Collections. The superabundance of Lymans in the Pioneer Valley is fact for all to see, and the Lymans have been very good to SCUA. Using funds from an endowment to support the papers of the geologist and traveler to Japan Benjamin Smith Lyman, SCUA has digitized three Lyman family collections spanning 150 years of history.

McCormack Papers. Funded by the McCormack family, SCUA has been digitizing a large section of the papers of Mark H. McCormack, an innovator in sport and entertainment marketing. As the year ended, we have added more than 31,000 digitized items to Credo, SCUA's digital repository.

Ward Morehouse Papers. The generosity of an anonymous donor enabled SCUA to tackle processing the papers of Ward Morehouse, an important critic of corporate power and an activist for human rights and social justice.

The **Esperantic Society of America** granted SCUA \$5,000 to begin work on its collections related to Esperanto, a constructed language intended to facilitate communication among the people and cultures of the world.

Labor activist and historian **John William Bennett** '52 left us in 2017, but his bequest enabled us to hire graduate students to enhance access to our labor holdings.

Clarke School for the Deaf. After hosting a reception for Clarke School alumni, SCUA began a concerted project to process the school's massive archives, which reach back to 1863. Support has been provided by Lorrey '69 and Kathy Bianchi.

With our colleagues in the Libraries' Systems Department, SCUA undertook a major redesign of its digital repository, **Credo**, to introduce new functionality and improve accessibility for people with disabilities. SCUA is the largest single contributor to the statewide digital aggregator Digital Commonwealth and in the top tier of contributors to the Digital Public Library of America.





Events:

SCUA joined the W. E. B. Du Bois Center and the University Museum of Contemporary Art in supporting the 23rd annual Du Bois Day lecture, featuring a panel discussion on the work of artist Kara Walker.

For Alumni Weekend, SCUA delivered a pair of talks on University history.

In collaboration with our friends at the Network for Grateful Living, the annual Friends of the Libraries Fall Reception commemorated the life of **Brother David Steindl-Rast**.

With our partners in the McCormack Department of Sport Management, SCUA

supported talks by two Executives in Residence: Harry Edwards, who spoke on Black athlete activism, and Jon Spoelstra, who spoke on marketing and innovation.

Exhibits

SCUA's major exhibits this year included "Locus solus: the life of Brother David Steindl-Rast" and "All that dwell in the light: 350 years of the New England Yearly Meeting."

Online, SCUA hosted "Through the Photographer's Eyes: the Diana Mara Henry Collection, 20th Century Photographer."

Spaces

Responding to long-standing selection pressure, SCUA evolved this year by carving out a new space for seminars and instruction sessions adjacent to our reading room. Lined with glass-fronted bookcases and equipped with technology for teaching, the room has already seen heavy use, freeing up the reading room for quiet, intensive research.

Along with the seminar room, SCUA also created a space for our new conservator, for rough processing work, and for additional scanning.



Staff 2017



London traveling **Kirstin Kay** attained office, joining the board at Wistariahurst and chairing the academics subcommittee of the UMass Athletic Council and the Librarians Council.

Danielle ‘Cowgirl’ Kovacs rode herd on a bevy of interns and student worker projects, driving them to fresh grazing lands on the archival prairie.

Despite leaving a trail of three dozen talks around New England, two courses, and two exhibits, **Rob Cox** evaded the Kovacs posse.

Writing, scheduling, overseeing students, and instructing and instructing: **Anne Moore’s** 2017.

Sisyphus **Steve Robinson’s** lot this year involved packing, marking, and moving books. Again and again.

Aaron Rubinstein ’01 sacrificed common sense to national and international archival standards, taught digital libraries, helped run a journal, and started learning Japanese (with minimal success).

For much of the year, **Blake Spitz** was trapped in the instruction room, teaching the hordes of students she drummed up.

A pied piper for high school researchers and Round the World Women, **Caroline White** was active on the Libraries’ Accessibility Task Force and Senior Management Group.

We welcomed a new lamb into the fold, **Lorraine James** ’90, who will be responsible for collection conservation and preservation.

Coworkers 2017

Jessica Adamites
Sam Arthur
Ethan Bakuli
Kyle Boyd
Sharlie Chan
Karizel Chapman Sanchez
Coco Chen
Reba Cohen
Susan Creighton
Daniel Cronin
Eleanor Dashwood
Sylvie Gallagher
Nathan Giacalone

Emma Gronbeck
Alexis Handelman
Cheryl Harned
Jason Higgins
Elizabeth Huang
Devon King
Joe Liporace
John McDonald
Bridget McKelvey
Jack Mulvaney
Nicholas Neu
Joanna Nevins
Megan O'Loughlin

Victoria Palmatier
Nina Pham
Kim Phan
Nujhat Purnata
Rachel Purrington
Jessica Ryan
Kyrán Schnur
Michelle Sigiel
Amanda Strukus
Nicole Tsatsarones
Libby Wassman
Kara Westhoven
Jackie Yu

Du Bois Fellows

Since 2011, the Du Bois fellowships have helped fulfill our mission to foster scholarship. The program grew mightily, energized by Du Bois Center Director Whitney Battle-Baptiste and by funds from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Nadia Alahmed (UMass Amherst), Palestinian and Afro-American radicalism and poetry

E. Howard Ashford (UMass Amherst), Du Bois and the southern experience

Charisse Burden-Stelly (Illinois), Radicalism and a theory of Antiradical/Antiblack Subjacency

Gaidi Faraj (UC Berkeley), Radical activism in the Black Panther Party and Black Liberation Army

Brittany Frederick (UMass Amherst), Du Bois and the educational evolution of UMass Amherst

Andrew Grim (UMass Amherst), Prison abolition and criminal justice reform in the era of mass incarceration

Trent Masiki (UMass Amherst), Afro-American travel to Cuba

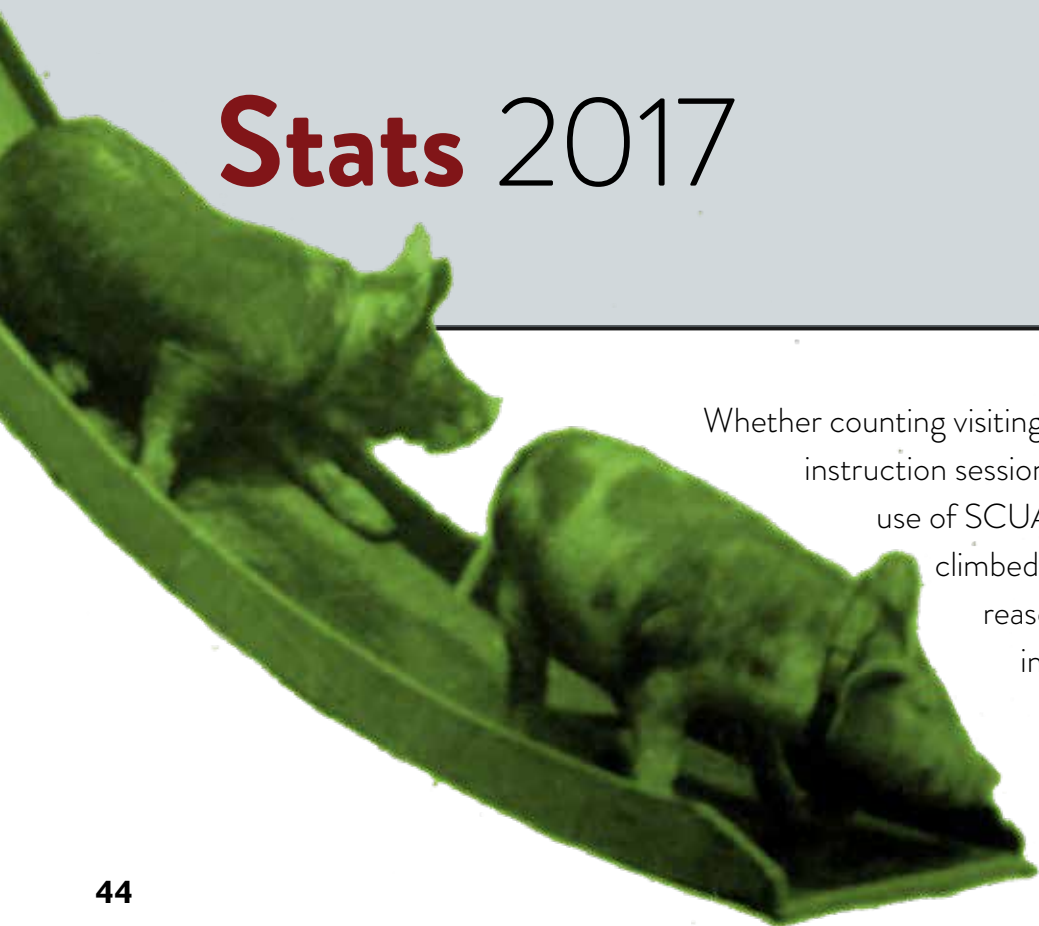
Michael Saman (Mississippi), German thought and the ethics of progress in *The Souls of Black Folk*

James M. Thomas (Mississippi), Du Bois and the Jewish question

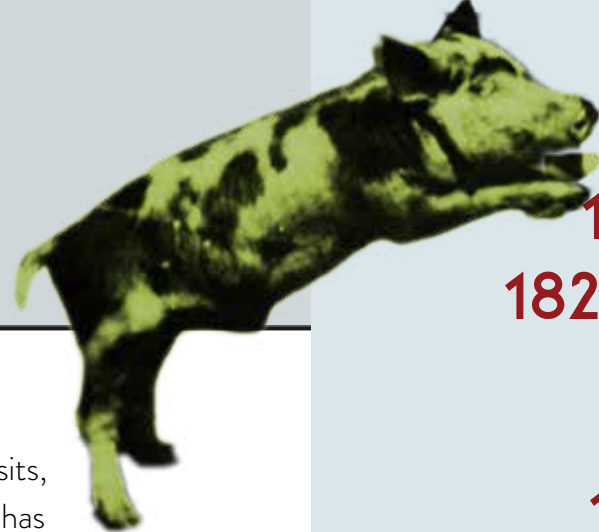
Erika Williams (Emerson), The poetics and politics of cross-caste romance

Jennifer Williams (Temple), Du Bois and his critical theory of female sexual activity

Stats 2017



Whether counting visiting researchers, instruction sessions, or online visits, use of SCUA's collections has climbed steadily for a decade. Our reason for being is to spark imagination, foster joy in learning, and promote use of the collections under our care.



1,250
182,000
95
217
1,925
115
1,200
4
6
0

collections in the
UMarmot catalog

digital items in Credo
(up from 170,000 in 2016)

new collections in UMarmot
(up from 72)

new accessions (up from 212)

visits by researchers (up from 1,316)

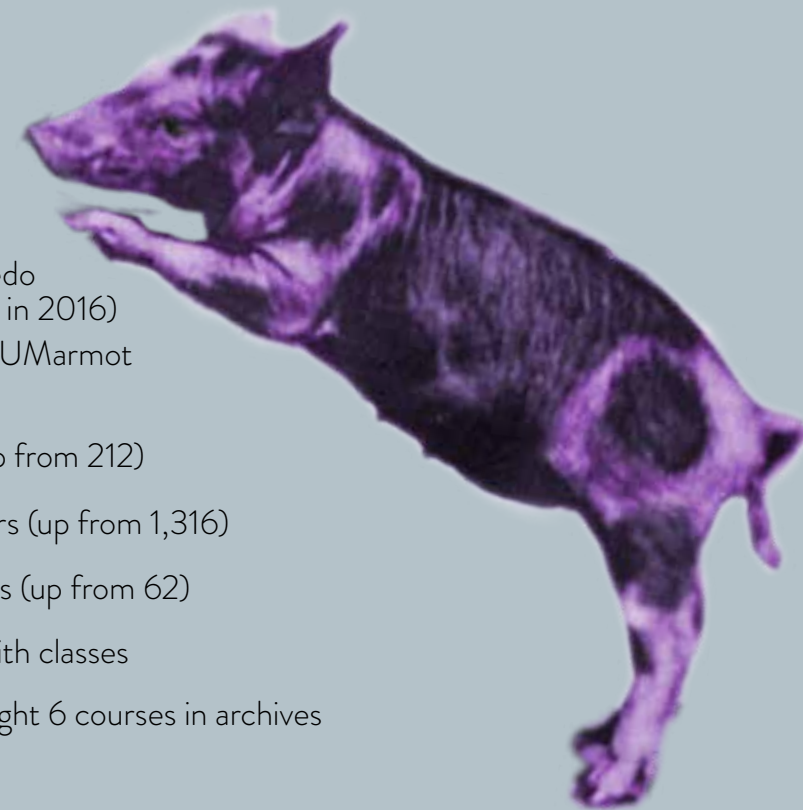
instruction sessions (up from 62)

students visiting with classes

staff members taught 6 courses in archives

interns interned

service dogs trained (down from 2)





2017

Every year, we are surprised anew by the generosity of friends and colleagues who help us preserve and share our common history. We are grateful for your kindness and thankful for your company.

Credits

The pigs who inhabit this report were selected from the Kerslake Pig Circus scrapbooks. Some have been colorized and the trotters have been changed to protect the innocent.

1. W. E. B. Bois, 1907 (W. E. B. Du Bois Papers)
2. Asparagus, May 15, 2003 (Palmieri Collection)
3. Flemish book of hours, ca.1465.
- 4-5. Jennifer Thomas wrapped in a flag, March 1970 (Peter Simon Collection)
6. Harvey Wasserman with Bill Moyers at MUSE concert, 1979 (Peter Simon Collection)
7. Mark Sommer reading, 1968 (Sommer Papers)
8. Clif Garboden with instruments, ca.1970 (Garboden Collection)
- 10-11. Locally grown grain, Hungry Ghost Bakery, Northampton, Mass., 2008 (Palmieri Collection)
12. Taj Mahal at the piano, Northfield, Mass., 1972 (James Baker Collection)
- 14-15. Hunt Bros. Circus, June 14, 1933 (Emery Papers)
19. Joey Klein, Plainfield, Vt., 2012 (Nopper Collection)

20. Turnbull Library, Ashfield, Mass., 2011 (Heiligmann Collection)
21. Fishing on the Neva River, Leningrad, 1975 (Ozer Collection)
24. Chapin's Grocery, North Leverett, Mass., 1975 (Kramer-Mathews-Gyorgy Collection)
25. Carolyn Martin Shaw in the field, ca.1974 (Shaw Papers)
26. Silhouette of Mary Storer Godard, 1805 (Thacher-Channing Papers)
28. Hatfield, Mass., barns, July 18, 2011 (Palmieri Collection)
- 30-31. Whitcomb Family Collection (photo by I. Eliot Wentworth)
- 32-33. Mary Thacher Smith, miniature portrait, 1837 (Thacher-Channing Papers)
35. SCUA staff learning new tricks, ca.1910 (Tenney Collection)
36. Jake Guest, Norwich, Vt., June 2012 (Nopper Collection)
39. The new seminar room (photo by I. Eliot Wentworth)



Design by DDH/W, Easthampton, Mass.

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