

Books and Bytes

April 2013

A Newsletter of the Hiram College Library

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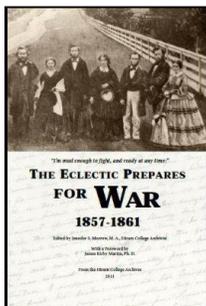
Jeff Wanser Presents Poster Session at National Library Conference

Jeff Wanser, Government Documents and Collection Development Librarian, presented a poster session at the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Conference, held April 10-13 at Indianapolis, Indiana. Wanser's poster, "Linking Collections, Collaboration, and Community: Building a Local Music Collection at a Small Liberal Arts College, and Getting People to Pay Attention," focuses on the library's Northeast Ohio Music Initiative (NEOMI) and how the library has altered its focus from collection to program, thus providing new opportunities for enriching the campus culture.

Wanser looks at building the initial collection, as well as at the launch of a related blog (*Buzzard Tracks: Northeast Ohio Music News and Reviews*, at <http://buzzardtracks.blogspot.com/>), which gives students, as well as faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the College, an opportunity to write music reviews. Those reviews may look at recorded music, books, or concerts.

Second Chapbook of Civil War Letters to be Published This Summer

Jennifer Morrow, College Archivist, has announced the second book of Civil Letters from the College Archives is scheduled to be published later this summer. The book, as yet untitled, will feature letters from 1861 through 1863. The letters come from soldiers on the front line or in camp, families back home, and a student still attending the Western Reserve Eclectic Institute.



The first volume of the proposed three-volume series, "I'm mad enough to fight, and ready at any time." The Eclectic Prepares for War, 1857 – 1861 may be purchased from the Hiram College Book Store for \$7.00. Just go to <http://www.bkstr.com/ProductDisplay/10001-10003-13103-400000000001711381-1> to order your copy of volume 1.

Library Hours for Commencement Weekend

Wednesday, May 8	7:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 9	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday, May 10	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 11	CLOSED
Sunday, May 12	CLOSED

Summer hours begin on Monday, May 13. Those hours are listed on page 2.

Library to Begin Withdrawing Old VHS Tapes

During the summer, the library will begin to remove some of the VHS Tapes from its video collection. These tapes are ones shelved at the beginning, have call numbers that start with Main, and have never been fully cataloged. The vast majority are more than 15 years old and it is questionable as to how well they will play.

If there is something in this group of videos that is important for your teaching or research, please let us know. You can come by and take a look or go to <http://hiraml.hiram.edu/search/a?searchtype=c&searcharg=vmain&SORT=D&searchscope=10&submit.x=20&submit.y=18> to see most of the titles (or do a call number search in the library's catalog for vmain). For titles that need to be kept, the library will look to replace the old tapes with either DVD or streaming video, at least as much as funding will allow.



While saying goodbye to some VHS tapes, the library will not be moving into Blu-Ray (although we do have a few that were gifts). While that format provides the potential for better pictures, it is unclear if either DVD or Blu-Ray will be able to compete with streaming video. This is particularly true with documentary films, which are the bulk of the collection given the collection's goal of supporting teaching and research.

Hidden Treasures

Jesuit Relations & Allied Documents

“Let us begin with the feasts of the Savages. They have one for war. At this, they sing and dance in turn, according to age; if the younger ones begin, the old men pity them for exposing themselves to the ridicule of the others. Each has his own song, that another dare not sing lest he give offense. For this very reason, they sometimes strike up a tune that belongs to their enemies, in order to aggravate them. An unusual exhibition of nakedness sometimes slips in, not through lewdness, but to propitiate the Manitou, who, they say, is pleased with this.”

-- Father Paul LeJeune's Relation, 1636, describing Huron customs.

The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents: Travels and Explorations of the Jesuit Missionaries in New France, 1610-1791 (French title: *Relations des Jésuites de la Nouvelle-France*), is a fascinating glimpse into early North American history through the eyes of missionaries in areas of North America missionized and controlled by France in the 17th and 18th centuries. While the original documents are in French, Latin, or Italian, historian Reuben Gold Thwaites went about the task of translating these materials, and they were published in English from 1896 to 1901, with added notes and index. The library's edition is a 1959 reprint from Pageant Books (the original 73 volumes condensed into 36), but there are several other editions out there, in both print and electronic formats.

The Society of Jesus was intent on documenting the lifeways of the native peoples they encountered, while simultaneously attempting to convert them to Christianity. Periodically, the missionaries sent accounts of their observations back to Europe, both to report on their work and to raise funds for the missions of New France. These were collected and initially published in France. The result is remarkable set of documents of the lifeways of native peoples such as the Abenaki, Montagnais, and Huron, who were in the throes of rapid social and demographic change with the arrival of Europeans. The missionaries provided detailed descriptions of everyday life, economy, religious activities, warfare, and the effects of disease on these groups.

They also documented their successes and failures in conversion, the growth and decline of missions in various parts of New France, and prospects for settlement. Some scholars have been critical of the *Jesuit Relations* on two counts. First, they were compiled with public relations and fundraising in mind, and second, the observations of the priests may not have been accurate or sympathetic. However, in many cases, few, if any other documents survive, and these are what we have to understand the dynamics of the region during that period. As with any historical documents, they must be weighed against others, and interpreted in light of the authors and their purposes.

The *Relations* are filled with information that tells us much about the missionaries and the European powers as it does the

native peoples:

“The letters from Messieurs de Ramezay and Begon show that the english do everything in their power to win over the Abenakis savages. Three villages of these savages are situated in Acadia, very near the English, who carry on the fur trade with them as far as they can. The *cheapness* with which the english sell their goods is a powerful attraction for them.”

-- From the Decrees of Council of Marine respecting the Christian Savages in Canada, 1716

For those with an interest in colonial history, the *Jesuit Relations* is a treasure trove of information about Native Americans, New France, the fur trade, French-English relations, and many other topics. There are several online versions available. Among the best organized is one from *Early Canadiana Online*. The link is:
<http://eco.canadiana.ca/search?q=jesuit+relations&field=ti&collection=&df=&dt>

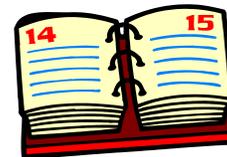
By Jeff Wanser, Government Documents and Collection Development Librarian

Library Hours for Summer 2013

The library is pleased to announce its hours for the coming summer. Please note that the hours below are subject to change. Please check the library's Web site, <http://library.hiram.edu>, for the latest information on hours.

Monday	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday	8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	CLOSED

The library will be closed on Monday, May 27, (Memorial Day) and Thursday, July 4.



Extended library hours resume with Fall 2013 classes on Monday, August 26, 2013.

Hiram College Library: Learning Unshelved