

Special Collections at Yale

Are you looking for original primary sources for your senior essay? Take advantage of Yale's incredible holdings in the various special collections on campus.

- **Browse these resources to get a sense of what is available:**
 - Descriptions of Yale repositories: http://www.library.yale.edu/special_collections
 - Database of archival collections and manuscripts: <http://webtext.library.yale.edu/>
 - Orbis, the online catalog, which contains brief records describing collections at Yale (Use "More Limits" function and limit by "Item Type" to "Archives and Manuscripts"): <http://orbis.library.yale.edu>
- **Feel free to contact the reference staff at the libraries that hold materials relevant to your subject area (see reverse of this handout for contact info.) Tell them what you are interested in pursuing and they will alert you to relevant collections.**
- **See below for some examples of essays that have been written over the past few years based on special collections materials held at Yale.**
- **See the reverse for some examples of collections that would be good candidates for senior essay research in your topic area.**

BEINECKE RARE BOOK AND MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY:

"Schooling the Indian: Richard Henry Pratt and His Students at Carlisle"

"Mapping the West: Washington Hood and the Corps of Topographic Engineers"

"Mirabeau B. Lamar and the Republic of Texas"

"Creating Tacoma: The Northern Pacific Rail Road Selects a Western Terminus"

DIVINITY LIBRARY

"From Practical Philanthropy to Social Ethics: Jerome Davis, Liston Pope, and the Evolution of the Social Gospel"

"Ginling College: the Implicit Feminism of Women's Mission Work in China"

"To Save China: Wu Yi-fang and Christian Chinese Nationalism, 1927-1937"

"From Healer to Physician: The Hackett Medical College & Educating Chinese Women Doctors"

MEDICAL HISTORICAL LIBRARY

"Their Own Civil War : the Struggle of Homeopathic Physicians in the United States Army to Achieve Medical Pluralism, 1861-1865 ."

"Yellow Fever in New Haven, 1794"

YALE ART GALLERY

"Printmaking and Artistic Theory in the Venetian Renaissance"

MANUSCRIPTS & ARCHIVES

"From the 'Bland Leading the Bland' to the Mississippi Freedom Vote"

"Walking the Line of Diplomacy: The Mutual Failures of Chester Bowles and the United States in India, 1951-1969"

"What's in a Name: the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, 1965-1972"

"Disclosure of Holocaust Experiences: Reasons, Attributions, and Health Implications"

"Hiram Bingham and the Lost Treasures of Machu Pichu: Popular Archaeology, Imagined Imperialism and National Press in the Yale Peruvian Expeditions"

Use these email addresses to contact the reference staff at the various Yale repositories:

ARTS LIBRARY

jae.rossman@yale.edu

BEI NECKE RARE BOOK & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY:

beinecke.library@yale.edu

CENTER FOR BRITISH ART:

elisabeth.fairman@yale.edu

DIVINITY LIBRARY:

divinity.library@yale.edu

LEWIS WALPOLE LIBRARY:

walpole@yale.edu

MANUSCRIPTS & ARCHIVES
At Sterling Memorial Library

mssa.assist@yale.edu

MEDICAL HISTORICAL
LIBRARY:

toby.appel@yale.edu

MUSIC LIBRARY:

musiclibrary@yale.edu

ORAL HISTORY, AMERICAN
MUSIC:

deborah.bellmore@yale.edu

YALE ART GALLERY:

susan.matheson@yale.edu

BABYLONIAN COLLECTION

ulla.kasten@yale.edu

Some examples of collections relevant to:

US HISTORY: 20th CENTURY SOCIETY & CULTURE

See also: http://www.library.yale.edu/special_collections/essays.html

ARTS LIBRARY- Arts of the Book Collection:

Fine press and artists' books: The Arts of the Book Collection, part of the Arts Library, houses a substantial number of fine press and artists' books. These works of art in book form often contain intriguing illustrations, typographically interesting layouts of poetry and prose, or unusual formats and media. The works show that the message can be enhanced by the way the words are put on the page, not just the words themselves.

MANUSCRIPTS AND ARCHIVES, STERLING MEMORIAL LIBRARY:

William Sloane Coffin, Jr. Papers: William Sloane Coffin, Jr. was born June 1, 1924, in New York City. After attending Yale for one year, Coffin joined the U.S. Army, in which he served until 1947, when he returned to Yale, graduating with a B.A. in 1949. In 1953, Coffin began studies at the Yale Divinity School, which he completed in 1956, when he was ordained into the Presbyterian ministry. While chaplain at Yale (1957 to 1975) Coffin became a public figure active in the civil rights movement and protests of U.S. military actions in Vietnam. The papers include correspondence, subject files, writings, clippings, audio and video recordings, and other materials that document the career of William Sloane Coffin, Jr. The collection includes documentation relating to the civil rights movement, Vietnam War protests, amnesty for war resisters, the Peace Corps, Operation Crossroads Africa, and Yale University during the time when Coffin served as chaplain of Yale University.

DIVINITY LIBRARY:

Archives of the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions: The Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions was an organization that sought to recruit college and university students in the United States for missionary service abroad. It also publicized and encouraged the missionary enterprise in general. These archives provide valuable information on various aspects of American religious life during the period 1886-1964. Religious conditions on American college and university campuses are documented. Vast files of student volunteer applications, information and health examination blanks provide personal data on thousands of prospective missionaries. The financial records and correspondence provide documentation related to philanthropic support of religious causes.

MUSIC LIBRARY:

Charles Ives Papers: Ives (1874-1954) is regarded by many as the most important American composer. The Charles Ives Papers contain the manuscript scores and sketches of Ives's musical works, including 4 symphonies, 3 violin sonatas, string quartets, piano sonatas, and other major compositions and smaller pieces. The Papers also hold Ives's collection of music by other composers and his writings on musical and political subjects. The correspondence contains letters to and from Ives and his family, business associates, and other musicians. Ives's life and work are further documented by: scrapbooks and diaries; photographs; programs; and articles and reviews.

YALE ART GALLERY:

Lydia Winston Malbin Archive on Collecting Futurist Art in America: charts the formation of her important collection, dispersed in 1990; contains correspondence between Malbin and major art world figures, including Alfred Barr.

ORAL HISTORY, AMERICAN MUSIC:

Interviews with Aaron Copland: The Oral History, American Music archive (OHAM) holds hundreds of interviews with leading figures in American music. Aaron Copland (1900-1990), composer of such well known works as *Fanfare for the Common Man*, *Appalachian Spring*, and *Lincoln Portrait*, was interviewed numerous times by OHAM's director, Vivian Perlis. OHAM holds audio tapes, transcripts, and video tapes of Copland's interviews as well as numerous interviews with those who knew and worked with Copland. Students and scholars point out that hearing the sound of the subject's voice brings a human dimension to their study.

BEINECKE RARE BOOK AND MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY:

Rachel Carson Papers: The Carson Papers consist of manuscripts, notebooks, letters, newspaper clippings, photos, and printed material relating to the life, research, and publications of biologist and environmental activist Rachel Carson. The collection spans the years 1921 to 1981, with the bulk of the material covering the period from 1950 to 1964. The collection is especially rich in material relating to the writing, publication, and reception of *Silent Spring*, Carson's final and most controversial work.