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A Note from the Director

This annual report for 2015–2016 offers an impressive record of service to the communities we serve. While the Ransom Center’s support for original scholarship remains unparalleled, the Center also excels in interpreting the University’s most valuable cultural assets for broad and diverse audiences. Nowhere, however, has the growth in programs been more dramatic than in our service to the University’s undergraduate and graduate students.

While the Ransom Center collections stimulate and inspire, our aim is also to advance greater visual literacy and to teach critical research skills that will prepare our students well for a lifetime of learning.

As strong as these initiatives are, the Ransom Center’s largest audience will always be the future one. With an eye to that future we have spent the past year developing a building master plan to identify our needs and plan for the next 20 years of growth in both programs and collections. Just what will the Ransom Center look like in 2036 and beyond, and what modifications to our physical spaces will be required to realize that future?

We’ve been aided in this work by the architectural firm Cooper Robertson, by colleagues from the University’s Office of Campus Planning, and by committed members of the Ransom Center’s Advisory Council.

In the coming years we will work to advance this building master plan to create spaces to accommodate our growing teaching initiatives and to enable new forms of digital innovation. We will create a state-of-the-art conservation laboratory and improved preservation environments that will protect the University’s investment and significantly extend the life of the rare and fragile materials in our care.

My colleagues and I are proud of the work that has been accomplished, and we look forward to advancing the University’s teaching, research, and public service mission for many years to come.

STEPHEN ENNISS, DIRECTOR
enniss@austin.utexas.edu
AT A GLANCE 2015–2016

VISITORS

68,498
Total visitors

50,252
Exhibition attendance

8,238
Students visiting with classes

5,990
Researcher visits

4,018
Program attendance

RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION

49 states and 24 countries
Researchers’ geographic origins

70
Research fellowships awarded

1,181
Collection items conserved

ONLINE PRESENCE

47,662
Online digital collection items

ONE MILLION, ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-THREE THOUSAND, AND THREE HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE
Unique website visitors

147,684
Social media followers

FUNDRAISING AND MEMBERSHIP

$1,365,467 Funds raised

1,190 Members
Fostering Research and Learning

2015–2016 was a vibrant year for research and learning at the Harry Ransom Center. The Center enhanced its emphasis on teaching with the collections, providing University of Texas undergraduate and graduate students more opportunities than ever before to engage with unique cultural materials. This year saw a 15% increase in the number of students who studied collection items in classes at the Center. The Reading and Viewing Room was filled with researchers and fellows throughout the year, particularly during January when Austin hosted the Modern Language Association convention, and the Center opened its doors to conference attendees. Research interest in the Center’s collections continues to grow, and staff answered a record number of reference queries this year. To extend the reach of the collections to those unable to travel to Austin, the Center remains dedicated to building its digital collections. The Ransom Center received a highly competitive grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) to digitize more than 24,000 items from the Gabriel García Márquez archive, a project that is currently underway.

The time I spent in the Harry Ransom Center was absolutely pivotal to how I saw T. H. White, and so the whole book. I couldn’t have written it without access to the collections.

— Helen Macdonald, author of *H is for Hawk*
RESEARCH

The Ransom Center serves researchers from The University of Texas at Austin, as well as visiting students, fellows, and scholars from across the country and around the world. Representing 49 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and 24 countries, researchers submitted nearly 18,000 requests this year to study books, manuscripts, works of art, and photographs from the collections. While Austin’s hosting of cultural and music festivals such as South by Southwest and Austin City Limits always brings new visitors to our research spaces, this year Austin also hosted the world’s largest scholarly meeting in the humanities. In January 2016, the Modern Language Association convention brought more activity to our Reading and Viewing Room than we have ever seen between semesters. Of great interest throughout this year was the archive of Nobel Laureate Gabriel García Márquez, which opened for research in the fall of 2015 and is already one of the Center’s five most frequently studied collections.

Researchers’ Geographic Origins:

AUSTRALIA  CANADA  CHINA  COLOMBIA  EGYPT  FRANCE  GERMANY  HONG KONG  INDIA  IRELAND  ISRAEL  ITALY  JAPAN  MALTA  MEXICO  PORTUGAL  RUSSIA  SINGAPORE  SOUTH AFRICA  SPAIN  SWEDEN  UNITED KINGDOM  UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CIRCULATION OF COLLECTIONS

Non-UT Faculty and Independent Scholars 55%
Non-UT Graduate, Undergraduate, and High School Students 20%
UT Faculty and Staff 12%
UT Graduate Students 7%
UT Undergraduate Students 6%
### Reference Queries

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<td>13,053</td>
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### Onsite Researcher Use of Collections

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<td>5,022</td>
<td>4,834</td>
<td>6,025</td>
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<td>Unique Researchers</td>
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<td>1,620</td>
<td>1,716</td>
<td>2,032</td>
<td>2,107</td>
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*Denotes the cumulative number of days all researchers spent in the Reading and Viewing Room.

### Most Frequently Circulated Collections

- **David Foster Wallace** (1,160 requests)
- **Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.** (699 requests)
- **Gabriel García Márquez** (619 requests)
- **J. M. Coetzee** (428 requests)
- **David O. Selznick** (422 requests)
When I arrived at the Center... I had almost completed a first draft of a forthcoming biography of Pamela Hansford Johnson... But there were gaps in my research... My two-month fellowship at the Center has not only filled in those gaps; it has enormously enriched the scope of my biography.

— Deirdre David, Professor Emerita of English, Temple University, and recipient of a 2015–2016 fellowship jointly supported by the British Studies Fellowship and the C. P. Snow Memorial Fund

FELLOWSHIPS

During 2015–2016, the Ransom Center awarded $158,500 in fellowship grants, supporting research visits for 70 scholars. The fellowship recipients, more than half of whom were based outside the U.S., consulted materials across the Center’s collections for such projects as “Global Hollywood and the New Iranian Cinema,” “Photography and the Nineteenth-Century Illustrated Book,” “Spanish Comedias Sueltas of Agustín Moreto,” and “Fashioning the French Camus.” An ongoing partnership with the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) supported six additional AHRC-funded fellows from the U.K.

FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED

POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS: 50
DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS: 20
TOTAL: 70
RESEARCHER PUBLICATIONS

Research within the Ransom Center’s collections inspires an abundance of new publications and scholarly works. During 2015–2016, scholars and writers published 145 books, 40 articles, and 7 dissertations or theses based on their research at the Center. These publications advance scholarship while sharing the Center's collections with broad audiences. Highlights of these publications include:

- **Milton on Film**, by Eric C. Brown* (Duquesne University Press, 2015)
- **David Foster Wallace: Fiction and Form**, by David Hering* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2016)
- **Katherine Mansfield: The Early Years**, by Gerri Kimber* (Edinburgh University Press, 2016)
- **Tom Lea, Life Magazine, and World War II**, edited by Adair Margo and Melissa Renn* (El Paso: Tom Lea Institute, 2016)
- **Habitual Offenders: A True Tale of Nuns, Prostitutes, and Murderers in Seventeenth-Century Italy**, by Craig A. Monson* (University of Chicago Press, 2016)
- **Sounding the Color Line: Music and Race in the Southern Imagination**, by Erich Nunn* (University of Georgia Press, 2015)
- **Law and Sexuality in Tennessee Williams’s America**, by Jacqueline O’Connor* (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2016)
- **The Slow Philosophy of J. M. Coetzee**, by Jan Wilm* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2016)

* Ransom Center fellowship recipient

It was thrilling to be able to spend time poring over these vast raw materials, slowly stitching together a compositional history.

— David Hering, University of Liverpool, recipient of a 2013–2014 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Research Fellowship
I love going to the Ransom Center for class. When we got to see the first edition of Leaves of Grass, one of which is signed by Walt Whitman, it made Whitman seem more real. I felt like I developed a deeper understanding and connection with the author that I wouldn’t have had if we just read the book in a classroom.

— Sarah Stahl, University of Texas at Austin undergraduate student

TEACHING WITH THE COLLECTIONS

This year, the Ransom Center created a new position for an Instructional Services Coordinator to facilitate educational use of the collections by faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates at The University of Texas at Austin. More than 400 classes visited the Center from such departments as American Studies, Art and Art History, Communication, English, Geography, History, Liberal Arts Honors, Music, Natural Sciences, Spanish and Portuguese, and Women’s and Gender Studies. The Center welcomed 11 semester-long classes as they engaged with collection materials each week. Twenty-four faculty members integrated collections into their assignments, encouraging their students to conduct research on their own in the Reading and Viewing Room. More than 8,000 students visited the Ransom Center’s classrooms and made connections between items in the collections and the broader themes of their courses.

A SAMPLING OF COURSES TAUGHT AT THE RANSOM CENTER

- Originality in the Arts and Sciences
- Latina/O Novels, American Dreams
- Patriotism and Human Rights: Oil and Water?
- Finance, Fiction, and Film
- Sexuality, Reproduction, and American Studies
- Fashion, Beauty, and Visual Culture
- Walt Whitman and His World
- The Bible and Its Interpreters
- Music, Identity, and Difference

STUDENT CLASSROOM ATTENDANCE

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<th>Graduate</th>
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<td>4,996</td>
<td>6,494</td>
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<td>2012–2013</td>
<td>3,530</td>
<td>6,662</td>
<td>10,192</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013–2014</td>
<td>2,383</td>
<td>5,913</td>
<td>8,296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014–2015</td>
<td>1,847</td>
<td>3,932</td>
<td>5,783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015–2016</td>
<td>5,46</td>
<td>7,208</td>
<td>12,619</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Seeing original art... is an experience that most students never really have, and it is so refreshing to have this collection on-campus so the students can really enjoy that experience fully!

— Lee Chesney, Associate Professor of Art and Art History
The Ransom Center’s graduate internship program was the highlight of my graduate education. Not only did I get first-hand experience working with unique collections, I connected with world-class researchers and scholars, and learned from the very best professionals in the field. The lessons and memories from this experience have laid the foundation for my career as an academic research librarian.

— Hannah Rainey, North Carolina State University Libraries Fellow and former Ransom Center graduate intern

INTERNSHIPS

The Ransom Center’s internship programs for graduate and undergraduate students offer extraordinary opportunities for students at The University of Texas at Austin to gain hands-on experience working at an internationally renowned cultural institution. Interns obtain valuable work experience while making substantial contributions to the Center. For example, graduate intern Jullianne Ballou assisted archivist Richard Workman this year with the cataloging of the Guy Davenport papers. Reid Echols interviewed Helen Macdonald about how her experience researching the Center’s T. H. White papers informed the writing of her bestselling memoir *H is for Hawk*. Several interns worked with Instructional Services Coordinator Andi Gustavson to prepare and teach classes throughout the year. Interns assisted researchers with reference queries, wrote blog posts, selected items for exhibitions and digital collections, and contributed to many other projects.

In 2015–2016, the Center hosted interns from a variety of academic schools and departments, including Art and Art History, English, French, History, the Liberal Arts Honors Program, the Plan II Honors Program, Radio-Television-Film, and the School of Information.

We are grateful to the Thos. H. Law and Jo Ann Law Undergraduate Internship Endowment and to the University’s Liberal Arts Honors Program, Plan II Honors Program, Graduate School, and School of Information for helping support our internship programs.

UNDERGRADUATE INTERNS:
Kendall DeBoer
Isabel Dunn
Nell McKeown
Kaitlyn Ray
Kathleen Telling
Kenneth Williams

GRADUATE INTERNS:
Jullianne Ballou
Ali Dzienkowski
Reid Echols
Ariel Evans
Maria Fernandez
Cameron D. McCoy
DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

The Ransom Center continues to enhance and grow its digital collections. With the support of a Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), the Center is currently digitizing more than 24,000 pages from the Gabriel García Márquez archive. “Sharing ‘Gabo’ with the World: Building the Gabriel García Márquez Online Archive from His Papers at the Harry Ransom Center,” an 18-month project begun in June 2016, involves scanning manuscripts, notebooks, photographs, and ephemera from the Nobel Laureate’s archive and making them freely accessible online. The project will allow side-by-side comparisons of digitized texts, helping researchers identify successive stages of revision among drafts. The online collection will be published in December 2017. A sampling of items from the archive is already available for viewing on the Center’s website.

In conjunction with the exhibition Frank Reaugh: Landscapes of Texas and the American West, images of the Center’s Frank Reaugh artworks were made available online. In support of the Shakespeare in Print and Performance exhibition, the Center digitized John Wilkes Booth’s promptbook for Richard III, as well as one of the Center’s three copies of Shakespeare’s 1623 First Folio, both of which can be viewed in their entirety online.

MOST FREQUENTLY VIEWED DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

- Lewis Carroll (Charles Lutwidge Dodgson) photography collection
- Gabriel García Márquez collection
- David Foster Wallace’s The Pale King collection

DIGITAL ITEMS AVAILABLE: 47,662
PAGE VIEWS: 159,521
UNIQUE VISITORS: 35,957
Engaging the Public

The Ransom Center invites visitors to engage with our collections through exhibitions, programs, and other initiatives. This year, we presented exhibitions showcasing the work of Texas artist Frank Reaugh, commemorating the legacy of William Shakespeare, and revealing the Center’s most recent photography acquisitions. Author Salman Rushdie, journalist Bob Woodward, and photographer Penelope Umbrico, along with other world-class scholars and cultural figures, participated in thought-provoking programs that were free and open to the public. The Center’s publications and loans to other institutions brought collections to audiences far beyond Austin. Our dedicated and generous members and volunteers gained deeper experience with the Ransom Center while providing critical support for the work that we do.
The Ransom Center has shared more than 50 exhibitions with the community since its galleries opened in 2003. This year, the Center showcased three exhibitions: Frank Reaugh: Landscapes of Texas and The American West, Shakespeare in Print and Performance, and Look Inside: New Photography Acquisitions. Through the Center’s exhibitions, visitors have the opportunity to engage with collection materials, confront new ideas, and think critically about our cultural heritage.

During 2015–2016, the Center supported a number of efforts to enhance our exhibitions program. We continued to raise funds for the Frank W. Calhoun Exhibitions Endowment, which is being supported by a challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. After three years, the endowment total has reached $1,055,508 toward our $2 million goal. We also made several improvements to our galleries, including an upgrade to our gallery lighting system to ensure that we are providing the best experience for our visitors while improving energy efficiency.

**EXHIBITIONS**

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**Frank Reaugh: Landscapes of Texas and The American West**

August 4–November 29, 2015

Curated by Peter Mears, Curator of Art, and Chelsea Weathers, Research Associate

Artist, educator, inventor, and naturalist, Charles Franklin Reaugh (1860–1945) is one of the Southwest’s earliest and most accomplished artists. Working in the vein of American Impressionism, Reaugh devoted his career to visually documenting the vast, unsettled regions of the Southwest before the turn of the twentieth century. Drawing on the 216 artworks in the Ransom Center’s Frank Reaugh collection, as well as select loans, the exhibition examined Reaugh’s mastery of the pastel medium and his sophisticated yet direct approach to the challenges of landscape painting outdoors.

A companion book *Windows on the West: The Art of Frank Reaugh* was published by the Harry Ransom Center and distributed by Tower Books, an imprint of University of Texas Press.
The Center for the Advancement and Study of Early Texas Art honored the Ransom Center with an Exhibition Award for Frank Reaugh: Landscapes of Texas and The American West.

Generous support for this exhibition was provided by Robert C. and Fallon B. Vaughn, Bobbie and John Nau, the Summerlee Foundation, the Center for the Advancement and Study of Early Texas Art, Valley House Gallery at Sculpture Garden, Charles Attal, David Dike Fine Art, Robert Summers, and The Frank Reaugh Art Club.

**TOTAL VISITORS:** 20,745  **TOURS PROVIDED:** 234  **TOUR ATTENDANCE:** 2,181

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**Shakespeare in Print and Performance**

December 21, 2015–May 29, 2016

*Curated by Gerald Cloud, Eric Colleary, Helen Baer, Richard Oram, and Chelsea Weathers*

No writer is more central to the English literary tradition than William Shakespeare. For centuries, his works have intrigued and inspired generations of readers, audiences, and scholars. Four hundred years after his death, the Harry Ransom Center commemorated Shakespeare's legacy by presenting a selection of rare and unique materials, primarily drawn from the Center’s collections, relating to his plays. The exhibition demonstrated how much we can learn about his historical context, sources, texts, and productions of the plays from early printed books and theatrical archives.

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**Look Inside: New Photography Acquisitions**

February 9–May 29, 2016

*Curated by Jessica S. McDonald, the Nancy Inman and Marlene Nathan Meyerson Curator of Photography*

Photography forever transformed the way we see the world when it was introduced over 175 years ago, and its cultural impact has never been more profound. The Ransom Center, home to one of the world’s largest and most comprehensive photography collections, makes study of this visual revolution possible. This exhibition introduced nearly 200 of the Center’s newest acquisitions in ways that created a dialog with other Ransom Center collections and that revealed how and why the Center selects particular photographs.

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**SPRING EXHIBITIONS COMBINED:**

**TOTAL VISITORS:** 29,507  **TOURS PROVIDED:** 340  **TOUR ATTENDANCE:** 3,694
COLLECTION LOANS

The Ransom Center regularly shares collection materials with audiences at other national and international museums and institutions through collection loans. During 2015–2016, the Center loaned 90 items to the 9 institutions listed here. Manuscripts from the Woodward and Bernstein Watergate papers demonstrated the power of investigative journalism at the Newseum. Manuscripts from Tom Stoppard’s papers and rare books owned by Cassandra Austen, Evelyn Waugh, and James Joyce illustrated the reach of Jane Austen’s influence at the Folger Shakespeare Library. Loans of Shakespeare’s First Folio and the King James Bible highlighted the collecting practices of prominent East Texas families at the Stark Museum and the Starr Family Home.

- Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, Texas
- Bullock Texas State History Museum, Austin, Texas
- Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C.
- Harwood Museum of Art, Taos, New Mexico
- John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, Wisconsin
- Muscarelle Museum of Art at The College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia
- The Newseum, Washington, D.C.
- Stark Museum of Art, Orange, Texas
- Starr Family Home, Marshall, Texas
The Ransom Center’s publications are an important component of our mission to share collections with a broad audience.

**Windows on the West: The Art of Frank Reaugh**
Edited by Peter F. Mears
Published by the Harry Ransom Center and distributed by Tower Books, an imprint of University of Texas Press, 2015

Windows on the West: The Art of Frank Reaugh explores Frank Reaugh’s life and work through six essays, accompanying illustrations, and 89 plates. It was published in conjunction with the Center’s exhibition Frank Reaugh: Landscapes of Texas and the American West.

This publication was made possible through the generous support of Robert C. and Fallon B. Vaughn; Texas Art Collectors Organization (TACO); Graham Williford Foundation for American Art; Cynthia and Bill Gayden; Bobbie and John Nau; The Summerlee Foundation; the Center for the Advancement and Study of Early Texas Art; Charles Attal; Kevin and Cheryl Vogel, Valley House Gallery & Sculpture Garden; David Dike Fine Art; Robert Summers; and the Frank Reaugh Club.

The Ransom Center and Peter F. Mears received the Center for the Advancement and Study of Early Texas Art Publication Award for “the most important contribution to the published literature on early Texas art during the previous calendar year.”

**Gabo and I**
By Salman Rushdie
Designed by and with portraits by Gonzalo Garcia Barcha
Published by Harry Ransom Center in a limited edition of 300 copies, 2016

This publication of Salman Rushdie’s keynote address for the 2015 Flair Symposium Gabriel García Márquez: His Life and Legacy commemorated a landmark moment as Rushdie marked the opening of the Gabriel García Márquez papers at the Ransom Center. The volume was printed by Bradley Hutchinson and specially bound by Jace Graf at Cloverleaf Studio in Austin, Texas.
What we have here is something extraordinary: the creation, by a reversal of the expectations of the modern world, of a tone of voice which nobody in the long history of literature had quite found before.

— Salman Rushdie speaking about Gabriel García Márquez

PROGRAMS

The 2015–2016 program calendar provided our audiences with the opportunity to hear from world-class scholars and writers, celebrate the beauty of poetry, and discover the complexities of Shakespeare. Salman Rushdie delivered a thoughtful and entertaining keynote address for the Flair Symposium Gabriel García Márquez: His Life and Legacy. Journalist Bob Woodward spoke with Alexander Butterfield, deputy to Nixon White House Chief of Staff H. R. Haldeman, in front of a capacity crowd. Austin-based theater company, The Hidden Room, brought the Center’s John Wilkes Booth promptbook for Richard III to the stage for the first time since the 1860s. University faculty enhanced the Shakespeare in Print and Performance exhibition with a series of afternoon lectures. Photographer Marco Breuer described his radical approach to the photographic medium using non-traditional techniques. Undergraduates and faculty read their favorites passages from David Foster Wallace’s Infinite Jest to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the novel’s publication. These free programs offered the University and local communities, as well as an international community of online viewers, the opportunity to experience the richness of the Center’s collections and the work they inspire.

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

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<td>4,438</td>
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MEMBERSHIP

This year, the Ransom Center hosted 10 member events that provided an insider’s glimpse into the exhibitions on view and the collections we house. Members received special access at programs, including advance tickets to Salman Rushdie’s keynote address on Gabriel García Márquez and the opportunity to attend curator tours for the Frank Reaugh: Landscapes of the American West and Shakespeare in Print and Performance exhibitions. At the annual Director’s Reception, new members toured the conservation labs and were awed by such original collection materials as Harry Houdini’s ball and chain and Gabriel García Márquez’s computer and manuscripts. Partnerships with the Austin Film Society, Paramount Theatre, and Bullock Texas State History Museum offered additional experiences and discounts to members.

VOLUNTEERS

Seventy-five volunteers generously contributed their time and expertise to the Ransom Center during 2015–2016. They offered thoughtful and knowledgeable exhibition tours, greeted the public in our lobby during the day and at our evening events, and assisted our staff with projects throughout the building. Volunteers spent more than 15,000 hours supporting the Ransom Center this year, helping us achieve our mission and advocating for the Center in communities throughout Austin.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS

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<td>$105,592</td>
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Supporting and Enhancing the Collections

The Ransom Center’s highly trained and deeply dedicated curators, conservators, archivists, and catalogers ensure that the Center’s collections are preserved and accessible for students, scholars, and other visitors for years to come. This year, curators strategically enhanced the Center’s collections by acquiring new archives, manuscripts, books, photographs, and other materials. Conservators and technicians dedicated thousands of hours to conserve collection materials and create specialized custom housings. They also improved workflows to better focus their treatment efforts. Archivists and catalogers created more than 100 new finding aids and thousands of additional cataloging records. Through such careful stewardship efforts, the Ransom Center’s collections are open to a world of new discoveries.
ACQUISITIONS

Through thoughtful and deliberate acquisitions, the Ransom Center builds its collections to ensure that unique cultural materials are preserved and accessible for future generations and to support research and learning across disciplines. During this active year of collecting, the Center acquired new archives and manuscripts, added a number of important photographs and books, and enhanced several areas of the collections. The Center also invested substantially in supplementing its existing archives and collections with additional materials.

ACQUISITION HIGHLIGHTS

Elliott Erwitt Photography Collection

The collection of renowned photographer Elliott Erwitt was generously donated to the Ransom Center by Caryl and Israel Englander, after being on loan to the Center since 2011. Erwitt has worked as a photographer for 70 years and is a member of the prestigious Magnum Photos agency. The collection comprises approximately 47,500 black-and-white photographs—including modern exhibition prints, proof prints, and vintage prints—ranging in date from 1946 to 2010, as well as black-and-white negatives and contact sheets. Containing early photographs that will be unfamiliar to many, the collection offers new insight into Erwitt’s career. It also traces the development of recurrent themes that connect the work Erwitt has made over more than half a century.
Raja Rao Papers
The estate of internationally renowned Indian author Raja Rao donated his archive to the Ransom Center this year. In 1964, The New York Times Book Review called Rao “perhaps the most brilliant—and certainly the most interesting—writer of modern India.” Rao received a number of prestigious literary awards and was considered for the Nobel Prize on several occasions. Rao’s best-known novels include Kanthapura (1938), The Serpent and the Rope (1960), and The Chessmaster and His Moves (1988), among others. His archive is filled with manuscripts of both well-known works and unpublished materials. In 1966 Rao joined the faculty of The University of Texas at Austin, where he taught Indian philosophy until 1980.

Geoffrey Wolff Papers
The archive of novelist, essayist, and memoirist Geoffrey Wolff is rich with manuscripts and correspondence that document the career and influence of this important writer. Wolff is the author of a number of celebrated books, including Bad Debts (1969), Black Sun: The Brief Transit and Violent Eclipse of Harry Crosby (1976), and The Duke of Deception: Memories of My Father (1978), a bestselling memoir and Pulitzer Prize nominee. He corresponds extensively with fellow writers, and his archive contains approximately 12,000 letters, including a 50-year correspondence with his brother, the writer Tobias Wolff, and a decades-long correspondence with novelist Richard Ford.

Early Books from the Collection of Robert S. Pirie
The Ransom Center acquired more than a dozen books from the collection of Robert S. Pirie, who assembled one of the most important collections of early English books and manuscripts of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The highlight of the collection is one of the rarest, early, illustrated editions of Geoffrey Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales, published by English printer Richard Pynson in 1526. Only 12 copies of the edition are known to survive. Also acquired was John Weever’s The Mirror of Martyrs (1601), a rare edition that includes verses believed to be the earliest known allusion to Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar. We also acquired Nicholas Breton’s Wits Trenchmoure (1597), the first edition of the third and scarcest volume of John Donne’s XXVI Sermons (1661), and other important books.

Photography Acquisitions
The Ransom Center acquires works representing major movements in the history of photography. Acquisitions include a major gift from Steve and Joyce Hunt that strengthens the Center’s holdings of photographs by American modernist Ansel Adams. The 18 gelatin silver prints were produced as part of Adams’s Special Edition series of photographs of Yosemite. In its effort to enrich and diversify its holdings of photo-based works made in the 1960s and 1970s, the Center acquired Robert F. Heinecken’s groundbreaking work Periodical No. 5 with funds provided by Jay Moore. Purchases of photographs by Lynne Cohen and Rick McKee Hock further enhance our holdings of conceptual works made in this vibrant period. Important contemporary works added to the collection include a unique photograph from John Chiara’s series Mississippi, and two photographs from LaToya Ruby Frazier’s award-winning series The Notion of Family, one of which was purchased with funds provided by the University’s John L. Warfield Center for African and African American Studies.

Additions to Collections
The Ransom Center also made substantial additions to its collections related to Sebastian Barry, Edmund Blunden, Gabriel García Márquez, Francis King, Norman Mailer, Hilary Masters, Peter Matthiessen, Arnold Wesker, and English PEN, among others.
PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION

During 2015–2016, the Ransom Center’s preservation and conservation division streamlined conservation treatment workflows, allowing conservators in the book, paper, and photograph labs to focus increased time on the Center’s highest collection treatment priorities. The division has scheduled over 2,000 work hours to treat these priority collection items in the coming year.

Since its establishment in 1980, the preservation and conservation division has enjoyed an international reputation for contributing to the education of young conservators who go on to work in institutions around the world. In 2015–2016 the division hosted interns from three graduate conservation programs in the Netherlands, Mexico, and the United Kingdom. Under the guidance of the Center’s seasoned staff, these students completed hundreds of hours of treatment on collection materials.

Thanks to a generous gift from Judy and William Bollinger, the division will employ its first post-graduate conservation fellow. Kimberly Kwan, who recently graduated from Camberwell College of Arts in London with a Master of Arts degree in conservation, will join the division for a two-year fellowship to hone her treatment skills, undertake research projects, and oversee a project to assess the housing needs of discrete collections.

In 2016, Ellen Cunningham-Kruppa, the Ransom Center’s Associate Director and Head of Preservation and Conservation, received the prestigious Paul Banks and Carolyn Harris Preservation Award from the American Library Association for her service as a distinguished educator, her advocacy for library and archives preservation training, and her many years of contributions to the field.

— Ellen Cunningham-Kruppa, Associate Director and Head of Preservation and Conservation

I am very grateful to the Bollingers for making this investment, not only to support the work of the Ransom Center, but to assist institutions around the world who depend on conservators to preserve our cultural materials.

COLLECTION ITEMS TREATED BY CONSERVATORS: 1,181
HOURS DEVOTED TO CONSERVATION TREATMENTS: 1,764
CUSTOM PRESERVATION HOUSINGS CREATED: 2,661
Cataloging

Archivists and librarians provide descriptions of and access to the Center’s varied and extensive holdings. Three cataloging departments—Archival Materials, Printed and Published Media, and Visual Materials—employ specialized processes and professional standards to ensure in-house tracking and world-wide discovery of the Center’s holdings, creating and expanding thousands of accession and catalog records, finding aids, and other guides and resources each year.

In 2015–2016:

Archival Materials Cataloging

- 133 online finding aids created or updated
- 76% of archival collections currently cataloged

Printed and Published Media Cataloging

- 2,254 catalog records created or updated
- 83% of books and serials titles fully cataloged

Visual Materials Cataloging

- 6,482 item-level catalog records created or updated
- 890 collection-level catalog records created or updated
- 54% of collections currently cataloged

Featured Conservation Treatment

Book conservation treatment rarely calls for the full rebinding of a book. Where possible, conservators preserve the material nature of a book by keeping its original components. Yet a fifteenth-century Flemish book of hours from the Ransom Center’s Medieval and Early Modern Manuscripts collection presented a case where rebinding became essential.

Prior to treatment, this book of hours was in a nineteenth-century binding that restricted the opening of its parchment pages because the binding was too tight. To examine the book, researchers had to exert force to open the text block, often with their fingers touching the fragile illuminations and writing. Animal glue, applied hot onto the spine, was also causing damage. As the manuscript is often studied for its illuminations, curators and conservators determined that treatment was necessary to increase the ease with which the manuscript could be studied.

When a decision to re-sew and rebind a text block is made, conservators usually attempt to create a new binding structure that is sympathetic to the period of the text block. This would have meant re-sewing on raised supports, which was not optimal for this small, bulky volume because the supports restrict the openability of the text block. Several binding models were made to determine the best structure. An unsupported link stitch, similar to the sewing used for earlier Byzantine and Coptic bindings, was selected. It greatly improved the book’s openability. The binding was then covered in an alum-tawed skin, a conservationally-sound material.

Highlights of newly cataloged collections:

- Gabriel García Márquez Papers
- Ed Ruscha Papers and Art Collection
- Guy Davenport Papers
- J. Frank Dobie Papers
Staff

Ransom Center staff members demonstrate their expertise and dedication each day as they work to preserve and share the Center’s collections. The Center encourages excellence, collaboration, creativity, and professionalism and supports ongoing professional development. Staff members share their expertise nationally and internationally through publications, exhibitions, lectures, workshops, presentations, and professional service.

STAFF PUBLICATIONS


STAFF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Ransom Center staff participated and held leadership positions in the following professional service organizations:

Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences; American Alliance of Museums; American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works; American Library Association; American Society for Theatre Research; American Theatre Archive Project; APOYOnline Association for Heritage Preservation of the Americas; Art Conservation Department, State University of New York College at Buffalo; Association of Moving Image Archivists; Book and Paper Group Publications Committee; British Women Writers Conference Steering Committee; Center for Fine Art Photography; Conservation Center, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University; Council on Library and Information Resources; International Council of Museums, Conservation Committee; Photographic Materials Working Group; Rare Books & Manuscripts Section of the Association of College & Research Libraries; *RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Cultural Heritage* Editorial Board; Regional Conference on Heritage Preservation and Workshop on Conservation of Photographs; Society of American Archivists; Society for Cinema and Media Studies; Texas Archival Resources Online; Texas Cultural Emergency Response Alliance Steering Committee; Theatre Library Association; Toronto International Film Festival; Visual Resources Association; Western Association for Art Conservation; Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation.

FULL-TIME STAFF: 79

PART-TIME STAFF: 66

TOTAL STAFF: 145
Financials

OPERATING BUDGET: $10,887,215

State allocation: 40%
Transfer from reserves: 28%
Endowment earnings: 16%
Gifts and grants*: 8%
One-time University transfers: 6%
Earned Revenue: 2%

* Does not include capital gifts

EXPENDITURES: $10,887,215

Personnel: 43%
Operating expenses: 16%
Acquisitions: 35%
Other: 6%

ENDOWMENT MARKET VALUE

MARKET VALUE: $33,852,855

PROJECTED ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION
FOR 2016–2017: $1,696,770

ENDOWMENT

GIFTS AND GRANTS: $1,365,467

GIFTS AND GRANTS

Individuals: 48%
Government Grants: 23%
Foundations: 16%
Corporations: 7%
Trusts: 5%
Other: 1%
## Donors

All gifts to the Harry Ransom Center advance the Center’s mission and make invaluable contributions to our organization. We are grateful to every individual, foundation, corporation, and government agency whose generosity has helped us fulfill our mission.

The following donors contributed financial gifts of $1,000 or more between September 1, 2015, and August 31, 2016.

### $100,000 AND ABOVE
- Council on Library and Information Resources
- Hobbitelle Foundation
- Marlene Nathan Meyerson Family Foundation
- Marlene N. Meyerson
- National Endowment for the Humanities

### $50,000–$74,999
- Jay Moore

### $25,000–$49,999
- William and Judy Bollinger
- Tom and Carmel Borders
- Charities Aid Foundation
- Albert and Ethel Herzstein
- Charitable Foundation
- Lucifer Lighting Company
- H. Malcolm Macdonald Charitable Trust
- Gilbert Lang Mathews

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<th>Amount Range</th>
<th>Donor Names</th>
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We would like to extend our thanks to all Ransom Center members and to donors who wish to remain anonymous.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If errors or omissions have occurred, please accept our sincere apologies and notify Director of Development Margie Rine at 512-471-9643.
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