The Harry Ransom Center’s Collections

The Ransom Center's wide-ranging collections reflect its broad commitment to the study of the humanities. The Center is continually building its existing collections, tracking down caches of notebooks, sketches and correspondence from those whose work is already in the Center. The Ransom Center also puts a premium on acquiring the materials of new writers and artists whom it believes will also become the important cultural figures of the future.

Spanning centuries, continents and all creative endeavors, the Center's collections are focused on the following areas:

**Manuscript and Rare Book Collection**
One of the world’s great literary collections of 20th-century materials, including over one million rare books and 36 million manuscripts. The collection also features some remarkable pre 20th-century materials, including a copy of the first book printed in English, the “Historyes of Troye,” as well as a copy of the Gutenberg Bible.

**Art Collection**
More than 100,000 drawings, prints, paintings, sculptures and works of design, including modern portraits by American, British and Mexican masters, fine examples of contemporary prints by pioneering art presses, award-winning book illustration and early 20th-century posters.

**Film Collection**
More than 10,000 scripts for film, television and radio; more than 15,000 posters, lobby cards and other advertising materials; and 1 million photographs, including production stills, portraits, publicity photographs and behind-the-scenes snapshots.

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French Collection
One of the finest collections outside of France of books, manuscripts, music, photographs, artwork and original documents devoted primarily to the modern movement in literature and the arts.

Italian Collection
Covering a period of seven centuries, from 1300 to the present, with early manuscripts, rare books, opera libretti, prints and drawings, costumes and stage designs, marionettes and manuscripts of modern authors.

Music holdings
Manuscript and printed scores, libretti, books on music, musicians’ correspondence, photographs, artwork, recordings, clippings, programs and costume and set designs.

Performing Arts Collection
Documenting the various disciplines of the performing arts, including the history of costume and scenic design, theater, dance and opera, as well as popular entertainment such as vaudeville, the circus, pantomine, magic, puppetry and minstrel shows.

Personal Effects Collection
Awards, china, clothing, crystal, decorative arts, furniture, silver and textiles belonging to various actors, playwrights, photographers, authors and other notables.

Photography Collection
More than 5 million prints and negatives, supplemented by manuscripts, archives and memorabilia of significant photographers of the past two centuries, including the First Photograph.

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