

Collection Description, Goals, and Policies

Quaker & Special Collections

Haverford College Libraries

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Introduction

This document is intended to amplify and expand upon the Haverford College Libraries [Collection Goals, Description, and Policies](#) document. It provides information about specific collecting interests and areas of growth in Quaker & Special Collections, which are informed by larger Libraries and College Priorities.

Goals

Quaker & Special Collections collects, preserves, and makes available materials which serve the mission of Haverford College and the Haverford College Libraries. These materials, which are collected in a variety of formats, support teaching, research, and scholarship by Haverford students, faculty and staff, as well as researchers from around the world. As a major repository of materials by and about the Society of Friends, Quaker & Special Collections serves as a resource for scholars engaged in critical work related to Quakers and Quakerism as well as for members of the Quaker community. Through the collections in the College Archives, Quaker & Special Collections supports the business functions and corporate stewardship of the College, contributes to institutional accountability, and provides historical documentation on the lives and experiences of Haverford students, faculty, and staff. Quaker & Special Collections is committed to collecting materials which document marginalized, undertold, or underrepresented narratives; to making sure the collections it holds tell stories of diverse identities and experiences; and to acquiring materials in an ethical manner.

Collection Areas

Quaker Collection

Haverford's world-renowned Quaker Collection is one of the world's major repositories on Quakers (The Religious Society of Friends). Materials in the collection illuminate Quaker life, faith, and practice from the earliest days of the Society of Friends to the present, with a particular focus on Friends in the Philadelphia region.

Early Quaker printing: "Foundations"

Quaker & Special Collections includes several large collections of early Quaker printing, including broadsides and tracts from the 1640s to 1810s, from authors including Margaret Fell, George Fox, and James Naylor, among others. These materials continue to be collected selectively to fill gaps in current holdings.

Theology

Much foundational Quaker theology was written and published in early Quaker tracts, of which Haverford has an impressive collection. However, journals, diaries, and minutes of Quaker minutes all contribute to the ongoing, continuing revelation of Quaker theology. This is a strong element of the Quaker & Special Collections; materials which provide new information and

document evolving theologies, beliefs, and concerns within the Quaker community are also added.

“Faith in practice”

The Quaker faith focuses largely on the importance of lived practice, and the collections follow suit. Much of this, over the religion’s history, is examining the ways faith has been put into practice around seeking Truth, and in particular around the ideas of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and sustainability. One crucial element of the collection strategy is collecting material that aptly describes the Quaker faith. While collecting for an active faith, Quaker & Special Collections seek to maintain and build upon our current collections by seeking donors who participate in new and emerging trends in Quaker theology.

Meeting history

The large deposits and gifts by Baltimore, Intermountain, and Philadelphia Yearly Meetings (and their constituent meetings) create the bedrock of this area, with meeting records dating from the 17th century through today. The collections also include published meeting histories, which provide information about individual monthly and yearly meetings from around the world. The collection continues to grow through the addition of 21st century meeting materials.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and US history

The history of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania are inextricably intertwined with Quaker history. Materials cover the colonial period to the present and include correspondence, diaries, journals, commonplace books, legal materials (deeds, wills, and marriage certificates), maps and surveys, and both business and personal financial records. Topics covered include travel, business and commerce, health and family, religion and ministry, abolition, missionary work, indigenous Americans, politics, and philanthropy. This collecting area is strong; current collecting is often the result of multiple areas of interest being present in the material.

Family history and genealogy

Family history is broadly represented in the Quaker & Special Collections. This includes manuscript materials that span generations of the same family, published or self-published works on family history, and Quaker meeting records that contain vital records. Manuscripts documenting the lives of Quaker families often are microcosms for the larger social, political, and intellectual questions of the time. Among the largest family collections are those of the Cope, Evans, Rhoads, Taylor, and Vaux families, along with many others. The department actively collects both manuscript and published materials in this area, especially as new materials further illuminate families already represented in the collection.

Women’s and Gender studies

The inclusivity and equality of genders has been an important element of Quaker faith and practice, which has led to an abundance of materials written by women, about the relationship of women and religion, and by and about women as part of social movements. The collection includes Quaker women’s organizations, family papers, individual’s papers, publications, and more. While this area is a strength, an area of opportunity includes materials pertaining to Quaker LGBTQIA+ individuals and women of color.

Abolition

Materials related to abolition are a strength of Quaker & Special Collections. This includes rare books owned and written by abolitionists such as John Woolman, Benjamin Lay, Lucretia Mott, Anthony Benezet, and many others. Quaker meeting records document activities in the Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington DC, and Virginia areas of the Religious Society of Friends, including manumissions of enslaved peoples, while personal and family papers such as diaries, letters, and other writings document Quakers' thoughts, travels, and convincements of abolition. Collecting in this area is both broad and deep; new materials are added to the collection as they become available and resources allow.

Indigenous Peoples and Quakers

There has been a relationship between Quakers and various Indigenous peoples since Quakers arrived in what is now the United States in the mid- to late 17th century. This includes published material, such as books and pamphlets, as well as Quaker meeting records of "Indian" committees in both Philadelphia and Baltimore Yearly Meetings. There is a strong collection of papers from individual Quaker missionaries and important materials about boarding schools run by Quakers for indigenous children. Two areas of particular strength are materials related to Quakers and the Seneca from the 18th through 20th centuries, and Quakers working in the Kansas-Nebraska area just after the Civil War. Current collecting aims to deepen current strengths and to add new perspectives, especially the perspectives of Indigenous people who encountered Quakers.

Missions/ Missionary work

Collections related to missionary work include rare books of 17th century Quakers who traveled word-wide to convert people to Quakerism such as Mary Fisher, George Fox, and others of the "Valiant Sixty." Other materials represent the involvement of Philadelphia-area Quakers in mission work. As well as numerous published materials, there are manuscript materials of organizations and individuals that reflect word-wide mission work, especially in the Middle East (1880s-1910s) and Japan (mid 19th-century through the present). Collections on this topic continue to be an important focus, with a goal of increasing the representation of late-20th and 21st century Quakers who continue to do mission work and related activities.

Relief work

Materials related to relief work cover a wide range of events and geographic locations. Many materials, both published and unpublished, relate to the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and those who worked for the organization. Diaries, letters, and memos found in personal and family papers include materials covering relief work in France, Germany, and Russia during and after World War I; in Spain and Mexico during and after the Spanish Civil War; in Europe and Japan after World War II; and during the Algerian War of Independence. Current collecting continues to build in these areas while broadening the available resources related to late 20th and early 21st century relief.

Public health

The keystone collection on mental health in Quaker & Special Collections is the records of Friends Hospital, which consists of over 100 linear feet of materials relating to the first private mental health organization in the United States. Quaker & Special Collections also has a curated selection of published books on histories of mental health reform, and manuscript and published accounts of both physical and mental health. This is an active focus of current collecting.

Philanthropy

Quakers' deep involvement with philanthropy is thoroughly represented in Quaker & Special Collections through organizational records, meeting records, and individual papers. Such materials are also related to social movements and activism, including funding education for Quakers and underrepresented communities (poor and/or Black), care for various changing social issues, prison reform, and in particular anti-slavery and abolition work. Materials in this area continue to be added to the collection; a growth area is 20th and 21st century materials.

Fiction

Begun with a donation of 250 Quaker fiction books in the 1960s, the collection has grown to almost 2,000 volumes. Criteria for inclusion in the collection includes books with Quaker characters and/or those written by Quaker authors. The earliest books are from the 18th century and the collection continues to be added to as new books which meet the criteria appear. Quaker & Special Collections also selectively collects manuscripts of Quaker writers.

Ephemera

The ephemeral Quaker materials in our collections include Quaker meeting newsletters, newsletters, pamphlets and other "lightly" published materials by Quaker society and organizations, topical files on subjects, biographies, and writings by Quakers, and non-Quakers who write on Quaker topics. These materials are collected in an ad-hoc manner.

Popular press

Quaker & Special Collections contain popular press materials such as published journals, Pendle Hill pamphlets, the Swarthmore lecture, the Michener lecture, the Kindlers' pamphlet series, and the William Penn lecture. These materials are primarily representative of Quakers writing about their faith in a contemporary manner. These also include memoirs and autobiographies. These materials continue to be collected primarily by gift and subscription.

Audio/Visual materials

Quaker & Special Collections primarily collects audio/visual materials in two ways. Representative materials from Quaker artists are actively collected, while family and institutional papers may include audio/visual materials. Such materials are collected as they represent Quaker life, faith, and practice.

Rare Books and Manuscripts

Rare books and manuscripts have a variety of strengths based on historical and modern donations to Quaker & Special Collections. Literature, history, and science are major focuses of

the collections. Current collecting deepens these areas of strength and supports the College curriculum in any area or subject.

Literature, mainly British and American

The core of the materials in this area represent Renaissance literature, including early Shakespeare editions, found in the Philips collection. Other British authors represented include John Milton, John Ford, John Dryden, Samuel Johnson, William Cowper, Charles Dickens, William Makepeace Thackeray, Lewis Carroll, Robert Lewis Stevenson, and John Davidson. American literature holdings are particularly strong in the nineteenth century, including authors such as John Greenleaf Whittier, Mark Twain, James Fenimore Cooper, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Henry James, Herman Melville, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Walt Whitman, Bret Harte, and Phillis Wheatley. Literary materials beyond those in English include early editions of *Don Quixote*, Dante, and Montaigne. The Charles Roberts Autograph Collection includes numerous letters and other documents by novelists, poets, dramatists, and essayists. Collecting in this area supports teaching and the curriculum.

History of the Book

This small but broad collection documents the history of printing, illustration processes, and book design and includes both fine and mass-produced books. Manuscript materials include a 13th century Bible from Northern France as well as manuscripts in Arabic, Hebrew, and Latin from both the Middle East and Medieval Europe. Examples of early printing include a page from the Gutenberg Bible, several books published by Aldus Manutius, and the first printed edition of Dante's *Divine Comedy* (1472). Later holdings illustrate the transition to machine printing, the popular press, and contemporary artist's books. Collecting in this area supports teaching and curricular needs; the aim is to be able to show major developments in printing and book production throughout history.

Incunabula

Quaker & Special Collections holds 65 incunabula (European books printed between 1450 and 1500) including the David Wertheimer collection, many in interesting or early bindings or with annotations. In addition to their interest for book history, these materials are valued for the topics covered and relationship to other collecting areas. Additions are made as funding and interest allow.

Archives of Africana Philosophy

Includes materials by leading scholars in the field of Africana philosophy. The goal of this collection is to bring together many voices from this important discipline so that scholars can trace its evolution, conversations, and disagreements as well as the development of the field. Additionally, materials in the collections document the work of individual scholars as well as the growth and diversity of work and opinions of this field of study. Many scholars who have done foundational work on Africana and Black thought are not necessarily housed within philosophy departments; papers of those held in the Archive of Africana Philosophy do not need to self-identify as philosophers, to have published primarily in philosophical venues, or have appointments in departments of philosophy.

The scope of Africana philosophy is global. While the Archive of Africana Philosophy is willing to include materials from beyond the United States, we are also sensitive to issues of post-colonial archiving and collecting, and recognize that future scholarship in the Global South may be best served by collections remaining there. We will consider building partnerships with archives and libraries in these areas to digitally connect our materials. The field of Africana philosophy arose mainly in the second half of the 20th century. Therefore, collections within the Archive of Africana Philosophy will mostly date from this point forward.

United States and Pennsylvania History

Materials in this area amplify our collections of Pennsylvania and New Jersey Quaker families and organizations. Materials include correspondence, diaries, journals, commonplace books, legal materials (deeds, wills, and marriage certificates), maps and surveys, and both business and personal financial records. Topics covered include travel, business and commerce, health and family, religion and ministry, abolition, missionary work, Native Americans, politics, and philanthropy. Collecting in this area supports curricular and exhibition development.

History of Science and Environmental History

Highlights in this area include first editions of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, Einstein's *Die Grundlageder allgemeinen Relativitätstheorie*, Copernicus's *De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium*, Newton's *Principia Mathematica*, and the works of Robert Boyle, as well as works of natural history such as Audubon's *The Quadrapeds of North America*. The collection also includes almanacs, works on natural history, gardening, and farming. Some manuscript holdings also describe farming in the eighteenth and nineteenth century mid-Atlantic, while the Edward Drinker Cope papers document the work of this important scientist in a variety of fields. Haverford College history materials include much on the history of the arboretum campus. The Charles Roberts Autograph Letters Collection holds numerous letters from important scientists in a variety of fields. Collecting in this area today supports teaching, the curriculum, and the College's program in environmental studies.

Public Health

Collecting in mental health supports the collections of Friends Hospital, documenting 19th century concepts of mental health, and reform movements, beyond Quaker Philadelphia. Other strong holdings include epidemics, particularly print and manuscript materials related to yellow fever epidemics in Philadelphia in the late 18th century. Materials related to aging include those which document the entire lives of their writers, such as diaries kept over many years. Collecting in this area supports these three broad areas as well as curricular interest; many materials contain information beyond that of public health.

Maps

Maps in the collection include both printed and manuscript examples and cover a wide range of the world, with a particular focus on Pennsylvania and Philadelphia. Materials date from the 16th century to the present. Collecting in this area supports curricular and exhibition development.

Exhibition and Curricular Support

In addition to collecting in specific subject areas, Quaker & Special Collections collects on a more granular level in support of exhibitions, specific classes, and areas of focus in the curriculum. Such collecting is done in consultation with classroom faculty and exhibition curators.

College Archives

The College Archives serves as the repository of college records of enduring value. In addition to collecting institutional records of Haverford College, the Archives also collects materials that document the life of the College community, including student activities, alumni organizations, organizations of faculty and staff, as well as other College-related groups. One of our goals in collecting is for the Archives to reflect the identities, experiences, and stories of everyone at Haverford.

Business Functions of the College

In accordance with the College's records management policy, the College Archives collects materials relating to the functions of the College. These include documents representing the business and academic affairs of the College, including offices and bodies such as: Office of the President, Academic Affairs, Office of the Provost, Faculty Meeting, Institutional Advancement, and programs such as the Center for Peace and Global Citizenship, Marian K. Koshland Integrated Natural Science Center, John B. Hurford '60 Center for the Arts and Humanities, and Center for Nonviolent Conflict Resolution. Types of records including minutes, correspondence, financial records, and course materials, and continue to be collected in accordance with the records management policy.

Governance

Governance of the college includes materials related to the Board of Managers and the Corporation of the College. It also includes pre-college materials, charters, by-laws, rules, and related documents, as well as materials from the Quaker Affairs Office. These materials are collected in accordance with records management policies.

Student Activities

Materials documenting student activities include records of Haverford clubs and organizations, as well as scrapbooks, photo albums, letters, and diaries of individual students. These materials date from the founding of the College in the 1830s through the present. Materials include early literary societies, athletics, cultural organizations, identity groups, and art, music, and theater groups; the makeup of groups on campus changes greatly over the history of the College. The College Archives continues to actively collect materials which document the student experience at Haverford in all formats, and from as many different types of students and groups as possible; current collecting has a particular focus on identity groups and their experiences at Haverford.

Student Scholarship

Student scholarship consists of senior theses (1897-present), master's theses from the College's MA programs (1885-1959), and papers written for History 361 about materials held in Quaker & Special Collections (1973-2004). Senior theses continue to be added to the collection each year.

Faculty, Staff, and Alumni

The College Archives collects personal papers created by individuals who have been associated with Haverford that document their relationship with and time at Haverford College. This includes student, alumni, staff, and faculty papers (records of student, staff, and/or faculty activities on campus such as scrapbooks, diaries, photographs, and programs). Materials of interest include documents related to relief work and, in particular, Haverford's involvement with the nascent American Friends Service Committee in the 1910s. Such faculty, staff, and alumni materials are collected primarily through donations by individual creators.

Publications

Publications include official publications of the College, such as the Catalog and alumni magazine, student publications such as the *Bi-Co News* and its predecessors, literary magazines, and brochures and catalogs. While the number and type of publications change over time, Quaker & Special Collections continues to collect comprehensively in this area.

Audio/Visual materials

Historical photographs of the College in a variety of formats (albumen, silver gelatin, color, digital) comprise the majority of these materials. They show the campus over time, students and faculty, important events, and daily life. Cassettes, video tapes, and digital files record lectures, speeches, performances given on campus, and oral history interviews. Some materials have been converted to digital formats for researcher use and digitization efforts are ongoing. Today Quaker & Special Collections collects audio/visual materials which document vital aspects of the College's history.

Fine Art

Fine art collecting supports curricular and teaching use and exhibition programs. The collection is particularly strong in photography.

Photography

The photography collection documents the history of photography and photographic technology, and includes daguerreotypes, tintypes, glass plate negatives, lantern slides, cartes de visite, albumen prints, silver gelatin prints, color photographs, and more. The collection includes significant collections of photographers including Ansel Adams, Charles Currier, Edward Curtis, Walker Evans, Lewis Hine, Sol Mednick, E. Eugene Smith, Jessie Wilcox Smith, Edward Jean Steichen, Paul Strand, and Carl Van Vechten. It is also particularly strong in photographs of and by African-Americans. Current collecting supports these areas of specialization, fills gaps in the collection, and supports the curriculum, particularly visual studies and fine arts, and exhibition programs of the College.

Other Fine Art

This collection includes prints, drawings, paintings, sculptures, and artifacts. Haverford is the largest repository of materials by Margaret Ralston Gest, including paintings, drawings, and pastels. The print collection is strongest in modern artists such as R.B. Kitaj, Sidney Nolan, Joseph Pecsenske, Adam Wurtz, Marc Chagall, Juan Miro. There are also significant prints by Piranesi and abstract works in watercolor, crayon, ink, and yarn by Eve Peri. There is a

collection of 28 Greek vases and artifacts, pots and sherds from excavations at Beth Shemesh, and examples of African sculpture and masks. The collection also includes art representing Quakers. Fine art is collected via gift through the College Art Advisory Committee in support of the curriculum.

Additional Collecting Areas

Quaker & Special Collections is always interested in collecting in areas outside those detailed here to expand our holdings, make new topics available to students, and to create collections more reflective of the Haverford and Philadelphia communities. In addition, Quaker & Special Collections continues to collect in any area of interest for curricular purposes. Curators maintain lists of desiderata.

Methods of Collection

Materials are received in the collection through both purchase and gift. As gifts of materials and funds are essential to maintaining and developing collections, Quaker & Special Collections seeks the support of donors both through direct donation of materials and through support of acquisitions funds.

The purpose of our collecting is to make materials available, and as such we are conservative about accepting materials with long-term restrictions. Understanding the range of issues around provenance plays an important role in curator evaluation of materials presented for potential gift or purchase. When receiving materials with connections to specific communities, staff work to ensure that those materials remain or continue to be connected with and accessible to their communities of origin.