The Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library promotes access, learning, equity and justice by documenting, preserving and making accessible distinctive and diverse manuscript collections, archival records, and rare books. Our extensive holdings of historic and rare materials include the Emory University Archives, African American collections, literary and poetry collections, and collections that document political, cultural, and social movements. The library fosters original research and critical engagement with the past by drawing in diverse communities through innovative outreach, programming, and exhibitions. We document and share the voices and stories of both well-known figures and lesser-known individuals who have contributed to culture and society.

Above all, the Rose Library gathers the stories of our community and helps all users engage with them. We share our resources with the Emory and Atlanta communities we serve, and with online users, so that people across the world can access the materials in our care.

COVER: Punk fliers from the exhibit “Punk’s Not Dead,” co-curated by Joseph Fritsch (21G) and Davis Husk (19C). Atlanta punk rock materials are included in our Political, Social, and Cultural Movements collections.

FACING: Text of Seamus Heaney’s poem “Had I not been awake,” from a broadside created by Bow & Arrow Press for the Raymond Danowski Poetry Library Reading Series.

ABOVE: “A Room Without Books…” broadside by Amos Kennedy Jr., from the Kennedy & Sons collection.
WHY ARE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES IMPORTANT?

Special Collections and archives are spaces that gather and preserve the records of human activity, and archivists and librarians are entrusted to manage, protect, and provide access to those records.

Special collections libraries include many different kinds of materials. From family scrapbooks that invite us to explore life through the eyes of another person, to historic photographs that allow us to visualize other worlds and generations, to government records that document the decision-making that impacts our daily lives, archives are powerful tools for understanding the world in which we live. Special collections libraries also create opportunities to see history and patterns in ways not possible before, through data and textual visualization and analysis.

Archives and special collections serve many different purposes—they promote historical knowledge and understanding, provide evidence of the past, give insight into the creative process, and help to preserve and promote memory and culture. They also make sure that knowledge of the past informs decision-making for the future.

ABOVE: Portrait from the Robert Langmuir photograph collection of more than 12,000 images documenting African American life.
WHAT MAKES THE ROSE LIBRARY UNIQUE?

The heart of any great university is its library, and the Rose Library is no exception. Our extraordinary library supports the educational mission of Emory University, a top-ranked private institution recognized internationally for its outstanding academic program.

Our extensive collections of note have been acquired through collaborative partnerships with faculty, alumni, donors, and antiquarian book dealers. Our knowledgeable staff are distinguished professionals committed to documenting society and culture by selecting records of enduring value from the millions of documents created by individuals, organizations, and institutions. These materials are then organized and clearly described so that they can be discovered and used. Each year we host more than 1,000 researchers, students, and visitors who interact with our nearly 2,000 archival and manuscript collections or read one of the hundreds of thousands of books, newspapers, and periodicals in our collections.

The heart of any great university is its library, and the Rose Library is no exception.

HOW WE RESPECT OUR MATERIALS

Great thought and care goes into making sure that special collections and archives are preserved and made available to the public. Before someone comes into the reading room to use a photograph or document or to view a digitized book online, librarians and archivists must prepare the collections in the following ways:

PROCESSING AND CATALOGING

The Rose Library receives a thousand hard drives and boxes of papers each year that are carefully arranged and described to help researchers find and use our collections. No matter what a collection contains—papers, photographs, sound recordings, or digital data—our archivists and librarians research and record information about the book or collection, as well as the history and the context in which it was created and used. This helps us to understand and explain both the records and the activities they document. The Rose Library is also distinctive for its decision to open collections to researchers when materials have arrived at the library but are still awaiting more in-depth preparation.
PRESERVATION

Because we want them to be used far into the future, we take significant measures to ensure the long-term preservation of all the collections in our care. For some items, especially those that are very rare or fragile, this may mean undergoing full conservation treatment in Emory Libraries’ conservation lab.

For others, it includes storing collections in appropriate containers and in locations with suitable environmental conditions, reformatting or migrating digital material, repairing broken or damaged books, and ensuring that all staff and researchers handle the material with care. We are able to store collections in secure and temperature- and humidity-controlled environments at the Woodruff Library and the Library Service Center high-density storage facility that is shared with Georgia Institute of Technology.

Aquisitions

Our curators and university archivist are subject experts responsible for building our collections. They are entrusted with developing collecting strategies that strengthen existing holdings, and with building collections that support new scholarship and engagement.

The university archivist works closely with records creators and Emory departmental offices to ensure that records of enduring value are transferred to the archive and remain an active part of the Emory University’s record. Our curators work closely with faculty, students, and Rose Library archivists, including instruction program staff, to develop collections that document critical histories and attract use. The curators also work closely with Emory Library subject liaisons to ensure that our collecting strengths build upon and complement Emory Libraries’ vast holdings.
Access to the Rose Library is free and open to everyone. Each year we welcome visitors from around the world in pursuit of scholarly research and personal fulfillment.

**RESEARCH**
Our reference staff is available to connect you to the right materials for your project or interest. We hope you will join the more than 1,500 students, scholars, artists, genealogists, and community members a year who visit our Hicks Smith Reading Room.

**FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**
Emory students and visiting researchers (both academic and non-academic) are encouraged to apply for our many research fellowships and awards to support their work.

**INSTRUCTION**
We work with faculty and teachers to design hands-on engagement that complements classroom instruction and ensures student success. Each year we teach more than 100 classes to over 1,000 students from Emory and other universities and colleges.

**K-12 TEACHERS AND STUDENTS**
We support all teachers in introducing students to the world of primary sources. Please contact us to arrange a field trip or hands-on workshop at Emory or in your classroom.

**EXHIBITIONS**
Our materials are featured in exhibitions curated by faculty, staff, and students throughout the year on Emory’s campus, online, and in the broader community.

**EVENTS**
From author talks to conferences, and festivals to concerts, we regularly sponsor and host events throughout Atlanta. We actively seek opportunities to support the communities that both use and create the materials we collect.
“I chose Emory to receive my archive because I myself feel at ease and comfortable at Emory. I can imagine in years to come that my papers, my journals and letters will find themselves always in the company of people who care about many of the things I do: culture, community, spirituality, scholarship and the blessings of ancestors who want each of us to find joy and happiness in this life by doing the very best we can to be worthy of it.”

ALICE WALKER
Our key collections are African American history and culture, poetry and literature, Southern political, cultural, and social movements, Emory University history, and rare books. Every item we collect and preserve bears witness to a historical moment and allows today’s and tomorrow’s citizens to engage directly with evidence of the past. Our collections tell the stories of individuals and organizations that have contributed to the world in which we live and reveal the networks and relationships that comprise modern society. From Irish poets awarded Nobel prizes for poetry written in the language of their English oppressors, to African American women writers who advocated for change and reckoning by reading and writing when it was illegal to do so, our collections reflect generations of change wrought by those whose papers we have the honor of caring for.

All of our collections can be searched or browsed through the Emory Finding Aids database (for manuscript and archives collections) or discoverE catalog (for books and periodicals).
AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

Our African American collections recount the beginnings of people of African descent in North America and extend through the present. These materials reflect the development of social, political, and cultural movements, literature, visual arts, dance, and sports. They document individuals, organizations, and events that celebrate the efforts of well-known public intellectuals and scholars, writers, and religious leaders. They also affirm the contributions of lesser-known, though equally important, community activists, cultural workers, and African Americans representing divergent backgrounds and perspectives.

Whether you flip through pages of Grace DeLorme’s scrapbooks from her freshman year at Atlanta University, study Alice Walker’s manuscript of *The Color Purple*, examine W.E.B. DuBois’s copy of David Walker’s *Appeal*, watch outtakes of a documentary on writer Margaret Walker, peruse Carter G. Woodson’s library, or click through more than 12,000 photographs of African American life—the Rose Library can connect you with an extensive variety of resources to explore.
LITERARY AND POETRY COLLECTIONS

The Rose Library is home to a globally significant collection of material related to modern and contemporary poetry and literature. These collections, which highlight the entire enterprise of literary production, include the papers of writers, poets, and critics, the records of publishers and presses, and rare books and literary manuscripts. Our expansive collections offer exceptional strengths in Irish literature, modern poetry, African American writers, Georgia and Southern writers, counterculture, and the Beats.

In our reading room, you are welcome to read Seamus Heaney’s letters, browse Ted Hughes’s library, see Flannery O’Connor’s childhood drawings, click through Salman Rushdie’s computer, and explore much more.

FACING: A letter from poet and Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney, from the Seamus Heaney papers.

ABOVE: Novelist Salman Rushdie’s passport. When Emory acquired Rushdie’s papers, they included his personal computers and established Emory as a leader in preserving and providing access to born digital archives.

FROM TOP: Script for the unproduced play “Beat Generation,” from the Jack Sampas collection of Jack Kerouac materials. Papers by and about W.B. Yeats form the cornerstone of our Irish poetry collections. “Mistaken Identity” is a handmade book created by author Flannery O’Connor at age 15.
THE GAY ANTI-ESTRO CARTELS

GAY LIBERATION

LIFE ISN’T ABOUT FINDING YOURSELF.
LIFE IS ABOUT CREATING YOURSELF.

willis’ gay liberation journey
POLITICAL, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

The Rose Library collects materials that document the history, culture, and politics of Atlanta, Georgia, and the South. These collections highlight the remarkable changes in the region since the end of the Civil War.

Atlanta and the South emerged from the war defeated and out of step with the national mainstream. During the 20th century, activists, artists, athletes, business leaders, elected officials, journalists, and organizations challenged and transformed the region into a bellwether for American politics, culture, and the country’s economy.

At the Rose Library, you can examine a Ron Sherman photograph to see how Atlanta’s skyline has changed, read Dr. Jesse R. Peel’s journals to understand how to confront a public health crisis, learn how to respond to a church bombing by pouring over Eugene Patterson’s newspaper columns, or analyze the plays of Rebecca Ranson to understand how to live a life of art and activism. These are some of the stories you can discover about our city and our South in our library.

FACING: Scrapbook from our LGBTQ collection
ABOVE: “Ron and Pat,” from the “Epitaphs for the Living” photograph series by photographer Billy Howard.
We'll be seeing you ....
EMORY UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

The Emory University Archives collects, organizes, preserves, and provides access to records and materials that document over 180 years of Emory history. As the official repository of the records of the university and its affiliated organizations, we collect materials that document the history of Emory, including its founders, administration, faculty, students, and alumni/ae.

The University Archives is also home to the Emory Oral History Program, which is committed to the production, preservation, and promotion of oral history recordings. The program supports students, teachers, and community partners with resources and guidance to conduct oral history interviews and research. Another important function is our records management program, which sets official policies and provides guidance and resources for all stages in the records and information lifecycle.

FACING: “Dooley’s Rib: For Co-Eds.” The back cover of Dooley’s Rib features Dooley, the spirit of Emory, walking with a companion. Dooley’s Rib is a guide that outlines the rules, norms, and expectations for college women following formal coeducation of Emory in 1953.

ABOVE: Original concept sketch for Emory’s Atlanta campus by architect Henry Hornbostel, ca. 1915.

TOP: Occupation of the Administration building, May 1969, from the Emory University Archives.
RARE BOOKS

Holding several hundred thousand volumes of books and serials dating from the 13th century to the present, with formats ranging from scrolls to miniature books, our print collection is a significant resource for the study of the history of Western print culture. Our book collection complements and builds upon our other collecting strengths. We hold one of the world’s most significant research collections of printed material documenting the African American experience, and our other print collection highlights include contemporary literature and poetry, gay and lesbian pulp novels, and regional history.

We also collect the personal libraries of authors and artists whose papers we hold, including inscribed and annotated editions. Particular strengths include the Raymond Danowski Poetry Library, books printed in the American South, Belgian imprints, French Revolution pamphlets, Victorian yellowbacks, modern British and American literature, artists’ books, travel guides, and fine literary first editions.

FACING: The 1894 edition of Pride and Prejudice is known as the “peacock” edition. Our copy is signed by the illustrator.
ABOVE: First edition of James Joyce’s Ulysses.
FROM TOP: First editions in the Rose Library include L. Frank Baum’s The Wonderful Wizard of Oz; an inscribed copy of Harper Lee’s To Kill a Mockingbird; and Polychronicon from 1482 (a collected history of the world) printed by William Caxton on England’s first printing press.
The Raymond Danowski Poetry Library consists of an astonishing 75,000 volumes of rare and first editions of modern and contemporary poetry and is one of the largest and most significant collections of verse in the world. It includes over 50,000 literary journals, several thousand broadsides, recordings, counterculture newspapers, unique manuscripts, ephemera, and other items that provide the full context of poetry as a vantage point on the 20th century and beyond.

Acquired in 2014, the collection was initially assembled by collector Raymond Danowski, whose the ambition was to collect every English language poetry title published in the 20th century. It is thought to have been the largest collection in private hands before it arrived at Emory. The collection is also a living library, regularly added to by new acquisitions, readings, publishing efforts, digital projects, and exhibitions that help establish its place as the poetry library of record for the 20th century.

FACING: Raymond Danowski (1943-2018)

ABOVE: Selection of items including the childhood dictionary belonging to poet and author Gwendolyn Brooks, a photograph of Lucille Clifton as a child, Black Sparrow Press books, and a manuscript of the book, Blues People: Negro Music in White America, by Amiri Baraka.

Emory’s Special Collections was formally established in 1940, following the acquisition of early Americana from industrialist book collector Tracey MacGregor and the acquisition of a preeminent Confederate collection. Known originally as the “Treasure Room,” the collections grew with support from the Beck Foundation, donations, and book-buying trips.

In the late 1960s the Treasure Room was relocated to the then-new Robert W. Woodruff Library and was named the Special Collections Department. It served for three years as the office for former President Jimmy Carter, University Distinguished Professor, during the construction of his presidential library in Atlanta. In 2003 Special Collections was renamed the Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library (MARBL).

Through the years, our collection and programs have grown in size and prominence. A major gift from alumnus Stuart A. Rose in 2014 allowed us to renovate our top floors to be the new home of the Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library. Architects Collins Cooper Carusi transformed the Rose Library into a world-class library with panoramic views of the Atlanta skyline, secure collections areas, seminar rooms, dedicated teaching space, event rooms, and rotating exhibition spaces.
SUPPORT US

The Rose Library has been shaped and strengthened through the generosity of thousands of individuals who have supported us through the decades. We cannot realize our potential without individuals, corporations, and foundations willing to invest in our future. Funds donated to our collection endowments will create an impactful legacy for generations of future researchers and visitors.

To make a gift, please visit engage.emory.edu/Rose

CONTACT US

To learn more about our services and collections, please visit rose.library.emory.edu or contact us at rose.library@emory.edu or 404.727.6887.

CONNECT WITH US

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