



BPL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

Joe Berman and Elliot B. Davis, Co-Chairs
Wednesday, November 8, 2023 8:30AM

Members of the Public may sign up for Public Comment via the CHAT by 9:00 a.m.
Comments left in the chat will not be acknowledged. written comments may be submitted to the Clerk of the Board,
pcarver@bpl.org

BPL OPENING STATEMENT

The Trustees of The Boston Public Library reaffirm our commitment to racial equity and to principles of diversity equity and inclusion, more broadly.

The Library is formally committed to becoming an anti-racist organization in response to systemic racism, inequity, and injustice prevalent in our society.

We acknowledge also that the Boston Public Library's Central Library stands on land that was once a water-based ecosystem providing sustenance for the indigenous Massachusetts people and is a place which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange among nations. We are committed to land acknowledgements for all locations at which we operate.

We reaffirm this commitment to set the context for our planning, deliberations, and public engagement so that they take place from the spirit of welcome and respect, found in our motto 'free to all.'

Taken from the Institutional Statement Ratified by the Board of Trustees for the Boston Public Library on September 29, 2020.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Welcome Porsha Olayiwola
- Roll Call of Committee Members
- Approval of Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2023

II. COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

February 29, 2024, 8:30 AM, Central Library, Commonwealth Salon

April 11, 2024, 8:30 AM, Central Library, Commonwealth Salon

**Meetings are suggested to be 75 minutes and in-person*

III. OVERVIEW OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Beth Prindle, Director of Research & Special Collections

A. Scope of Collections

B. Recent Acquisitions

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENTS



ARCHIVES



ARTS

PRINTS, PHOTOS,
FINE ARTS, MUSIC



CONSERVATION & PRESERVATION



RARE BOOKS & MANUSCRIPTS



MAPS

LEVENTHAL MAP &
EDUCATION CENTER*



Eve Neiger
Lead Archivist



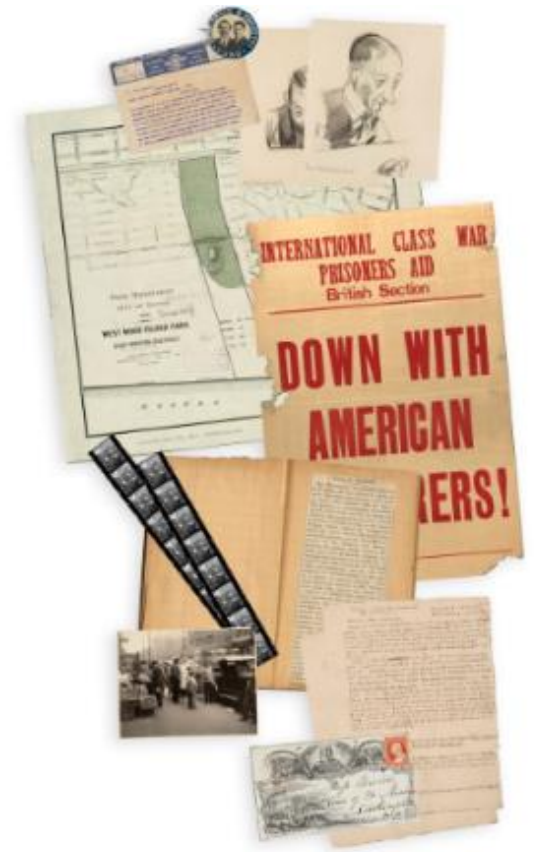
Crystal Rogers
Archivist



Margaret Peachy
Archivist



Kim Reynolds
Archivist



Archives

Archives are groups of materials that documents the activities of an individual, family, or organization.

As part of retrospective accessioning work, the Archives team has identified over 500 named collections stored throughout the institution, across all spaces and buildings.





Kristin Parker
Lead Curator of the Arts

Jared Rex
Curator of Music

Aaron Schmidt
Curator of Photography

Anne Moore
Special Library Assistant

Calder Sell
Special Library Assistant

Eve Griffin
Curator of Fine Arts

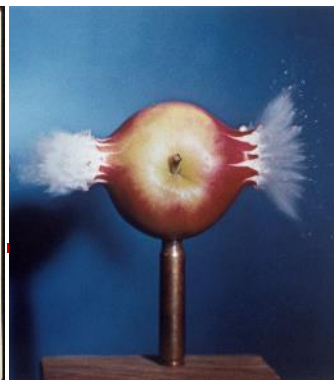
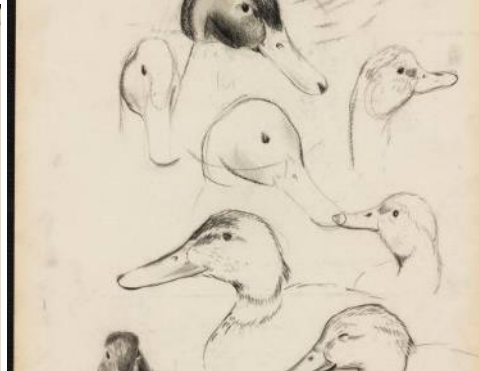
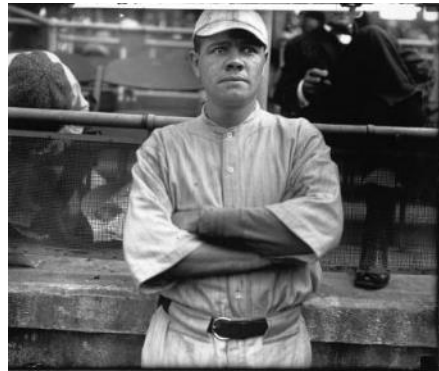
Curator of Prints

Arts

Over 130,000 **prints and drawings**

Over 1.5 million **photographs**

Over 100,000 **music** scores and 150,000 books, manuscripts, archives, and correspondence related to music





Jessica Bitely
Preservation Manager



Chris Letizia
Chief Book Conservator



Mary French
Conservation Officer



Becky Philio
Conservation Technician



Anna Lee
Stacks Coordinator

Conservation & Preservation

Collaborate with BPL curators, archivists, librarians, facilities staff, and others to identify sustainable actions for the long-term care of collections: from individual books and works on paper to historic building issues.

Their work centers on essential care and maintenance that supports **lasting public access**.





Jay Moschella
Lead Curator
Rare Books & Manuscripts

Kathleen Monahan
Special Collections
Public Services Librarian

Claire Drone-Silvers
Rare Books &
Manuscripts Specialist

Sabina Beauchard
Special Library Assistant

Nicole Veneto
Special Library Assistant

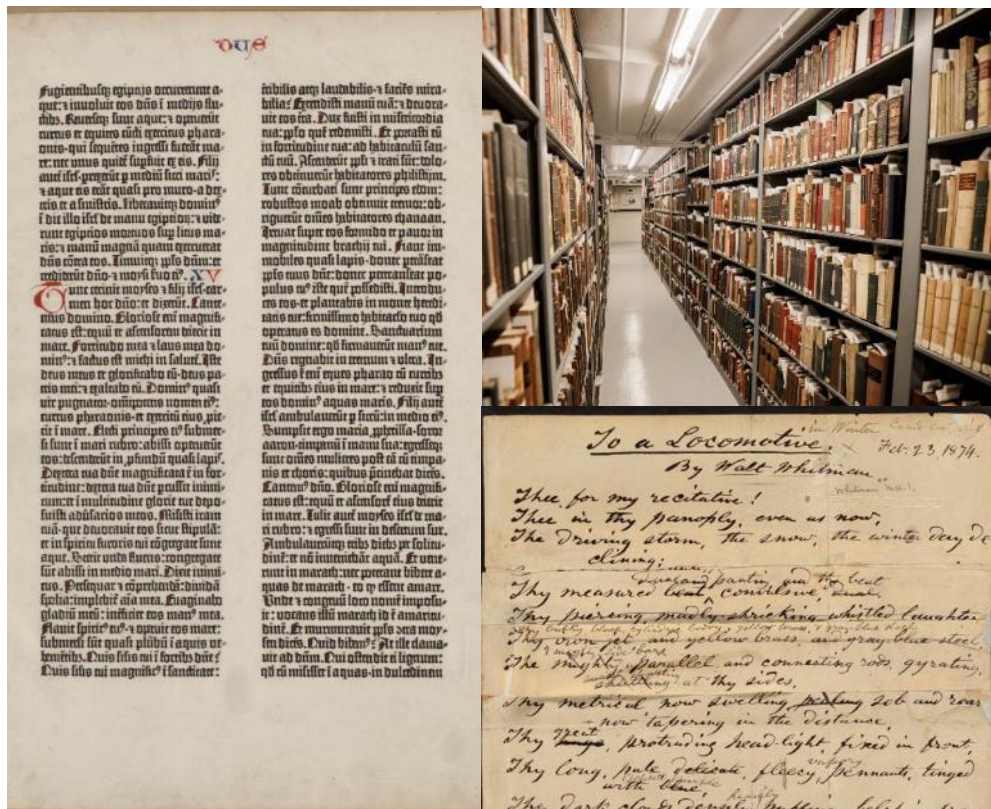
Siobhan McKenna
Receptionist/Tour Support

Jack Baker
Receptionist/Tour Support

Rare Books & Manuscripts

The department houses approximately 235,000 books and hundreds of thousands of manuscripts and archival materials. The newly renovated department contains over 7 miles of shelving.

Major collections include the history of Boston, New England, and America, including manuscripts and printed books relating to 19th-century American abolitionist movements.



Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center (LMEC)

➤ Staff



Emily Bowe
Assistant Director



Garrett Dash Nelson
President & Head Curator



Ian Spangler
*Assistant Curator of Digital & Participatory
Geography*



Lauren Chen
Reference & Cataloging Librarian



Lynn Brown
K-12 Education Lead



Micaela Kahn
Visitor Services & Exhibition Assistant

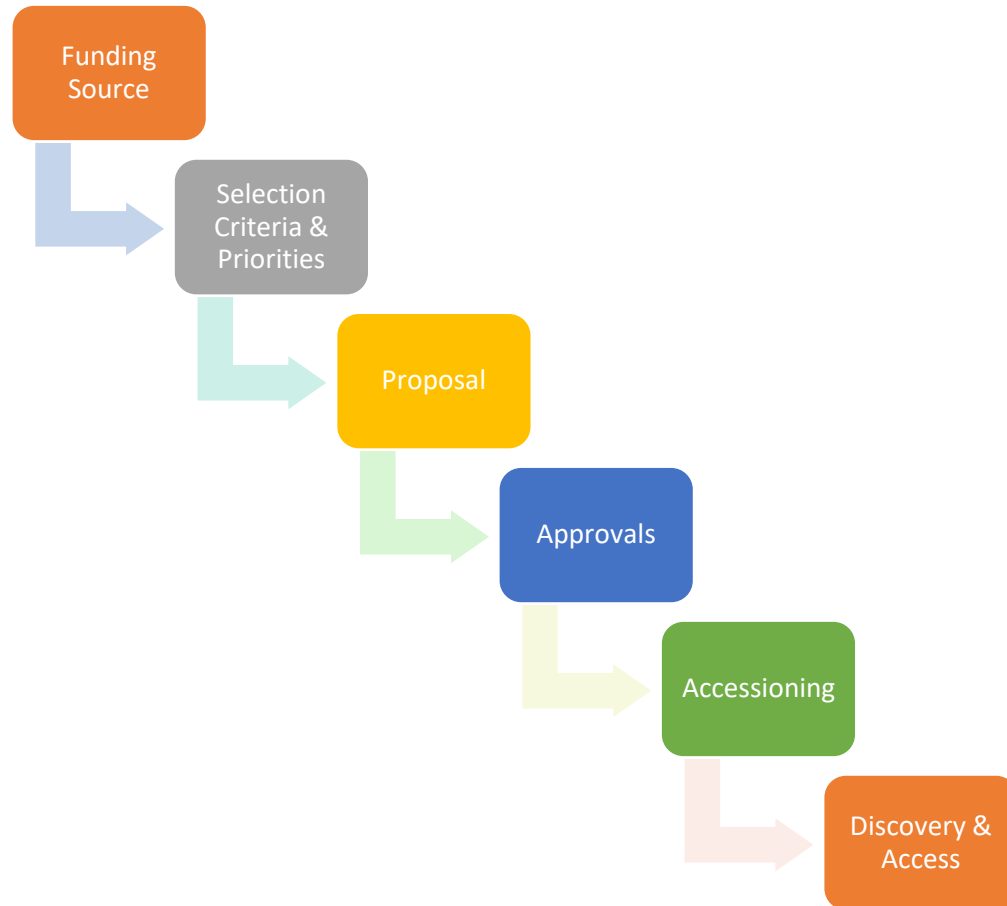


Rachel Sharer
Development Coordinator



Created in 2004 as a public-private partnership between the Library and philanthropist Norman Leventhal. LMEC stewards the BPL's collection of 200,000 maps, 5,000 atlases, and other cartographic material through exhibitions, educational programs, and a website that includes more than 10,000 digitized maps at collections.leventhalmap.org.

ACQUISITION PROCESS



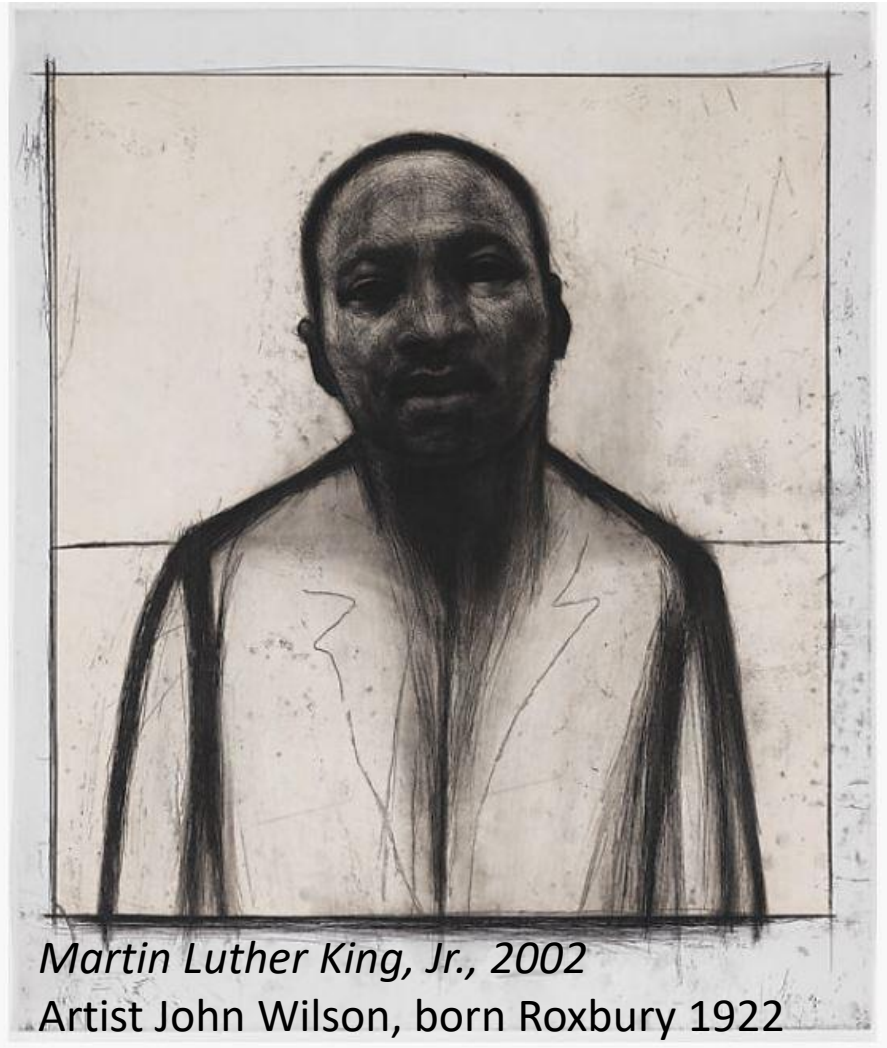
Priority alignment

- Enhances equitable representation
- Engages diverse audiences
- Contributes to broader understanding of Boston history, culture, etc.
- Enhances value of existing special collections
- Connects to multiple collecting areas

Requirements

- Can be processed with existing BPL infrastructure and resources
- Meets highest ethical standards (provenance, licensing, etc.)
- Are short- and long-term stewardship costs taken into account?
- Stable enough for intended uses?
- Legal ownership unencumbered and free of claims?
- Will not knowingly further oppression of communities that created the item

NEW ACQUISITIONS 2019-2023 – A SNAPSHOT



Martin Luther King, Jr., 2002

Artist John Wilson, born Roxbury 1922



The Cherokee Phoenix, printed in New Echota, Cherokee Nation, between 1828 and 1834, is the first newspaper published in an indigenous language in the United States.

NEW ACQUISITIONS 2019-2023 – A SNAPSHOT



*Embroidered silk purse with
manuscript lining, circa 17th century*

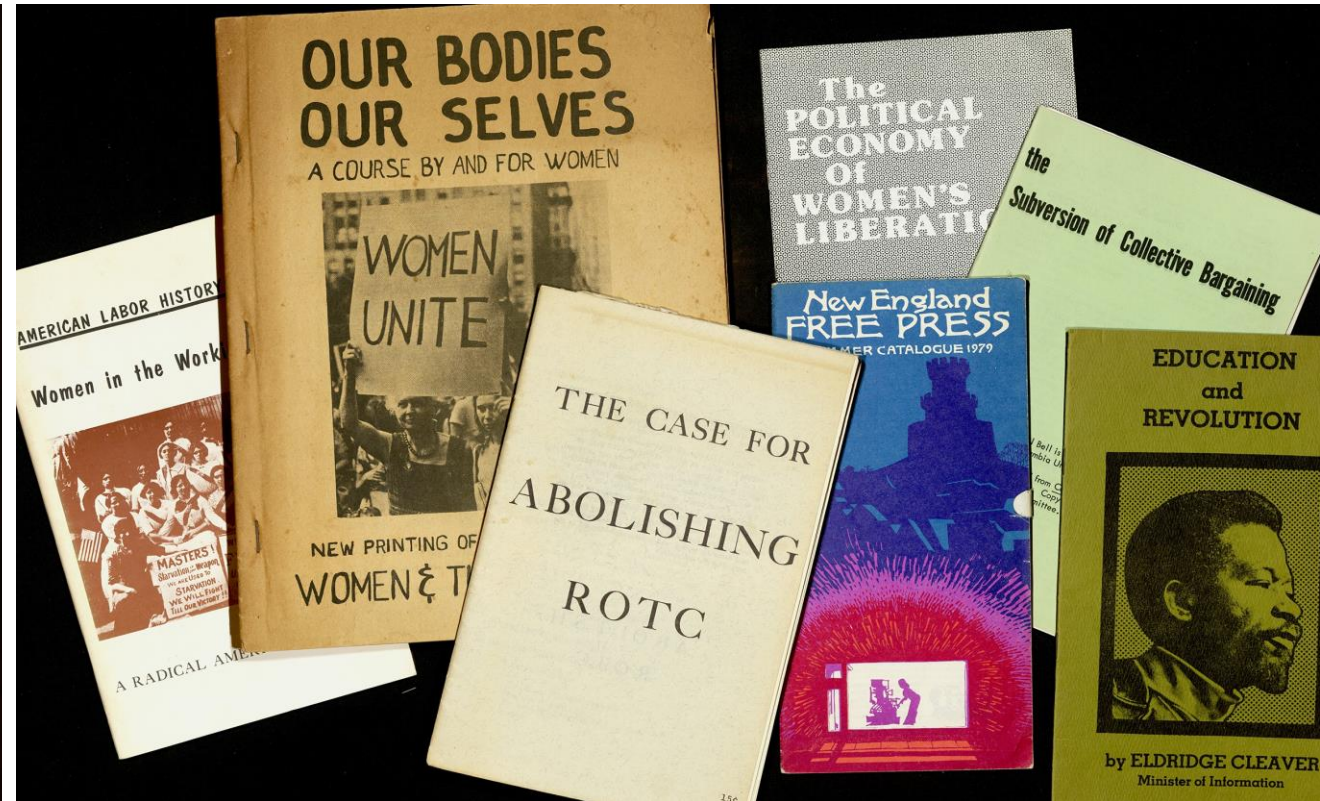


*Duke Riley's *The Enchafed Flood*, 2020-21
mosaic*

NEW ACQUISITIONS 2019-2023 – A SNAPSHOT

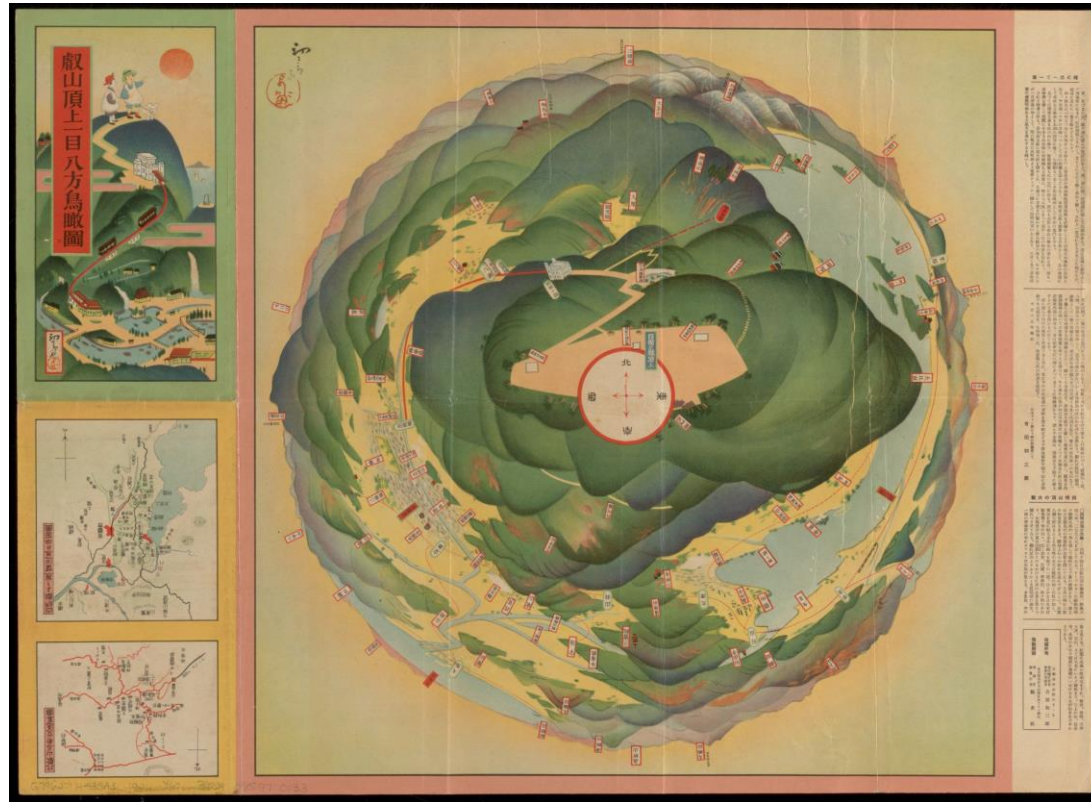


Caleb Cole, Birthday Girl, 2008

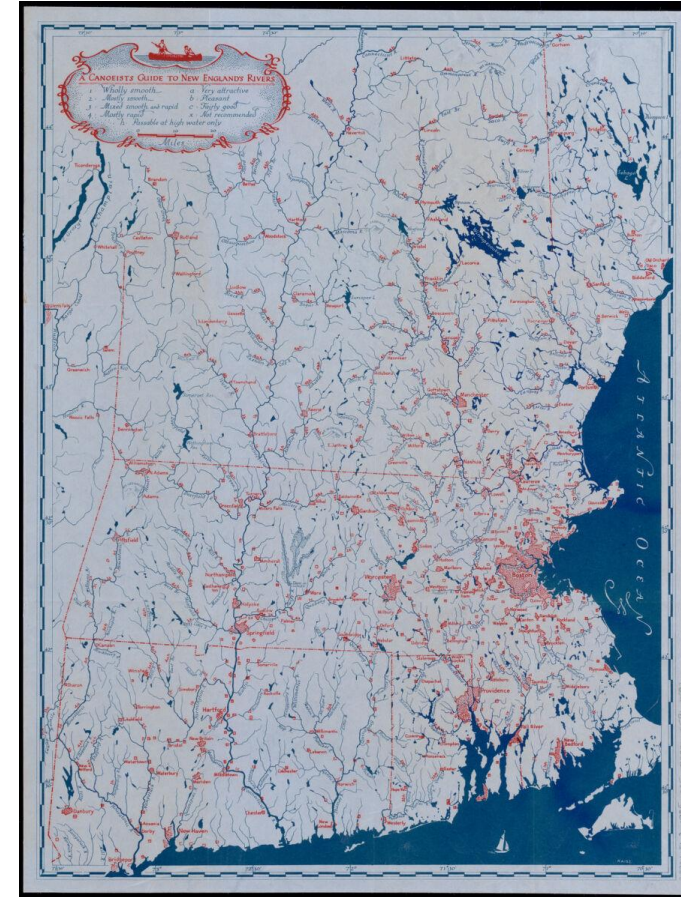


New England Free Press Publications, 1967-1981

NEW ACQUISITIONS 2019-2023 – A SNAPSHOT



Hatsusaburo Yoshida, 叡山頂上一目八方鳥瞰圖 (1926), a 360-degree view from the summit of Mount Hiei in Japan



Erwin Raisz, A Canoeist's Guide to New England's rivers, 1935

THIS JUST IN: NEW ACQUISITIONS ON DISPLAY



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS OPEN HOUSES / SAMPLERS



IV. REVIEW OF COMMITTEE CHARTER AND ROLE

PURPOSE

The Special Collections Committee serves in an advisory capacity for a variety of matters, including the development, stewardship, and promotion of the Boston Public Library's exceptional Special Collections. These rare and culturally significant materials—collected from the earliest years of the library to present day—span a wide variety of periods, subjects and formats, including rare books, manuscripts, maps, archives, prints, photographs, music, and works of art.

As a public institution, the Boston Public Library holds its Special Collections in public trust. One of the primary roles of this Committee is to bring broader public awareness to the activities and priorities within Special Collections. This will be achieved through regular reports on collection development, access and outreach efforts, major projects, stewardship work, and other initiatives as appropriate. Committee members are asked to advise on the library's ongoing strategic initiatives and priorities for Special Collections. They support and promote these efforts among affiliate groups, external stakeholders, community organizations, and the broader public with the goal of aligning and leveraging advocacy for Special Collections to amplify the BPL's larger institutional mission, services, and strategic priorities.

IV. REVIEW OF COMMITTEE CHARTER AND ROLE (CONT)

COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

Library Trustees, individuals from the library and cultural heritage fields, representatives of library affiliate groups, members of the community at large, the President of the BPL, and the Director of Research & Special Collections.

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Offer community perspectives and input on relevant policies, projects, and processes that affect stewardship of and access to Special Collections.
- Provide recommendations to the BPL Board of Trustees on Special Collections matters requiring Board approval.
- Review regular reports on new acquisitions, initiatives, accomplishments, and strategic goals for Special Collections in conjunction with the overall BPL strategic priorities.
- Build awareness and foster connections among relevant local, peer, and philanthropic communities for greater support of the library's ongoing Special Collections stewardship, discovery, and outreach efforts.

COMMITTEE ENGAGEMENT

The Committee shall meet three times annually and report annually to the Board of Trustees on its activities and progress toward goals supporting BPL's strategic priorities.

V. LOOKING AHEAD FOR THE COMMITTEE

Year One: 2023-24

Collection Development Policy update

Update on BPL Strategic Planning process

Committee composition

Years Two and Three: 2024-25; 2025-26

McKim Capital Project updates and related SCC priorities

Updates on acquisitions and other initiatives

New Business

**BOSTON
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**



Public Comment

**BOSTON
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**



- If follow up is required, please send your contact email or phone number to the Clerk of the Board at pcarver@bpl.org
- People will be chosen in the order they were received and allowed 2 minutes to speak.
- The Moderator will unmute your mic when you are called on.
- Comments made in chat during meeting will not be acknowledged.