

60th Annual Snyder Book Collecting Contest Finalist Summaries

Aubrey Burgess

Undergraduate Division

Title: Books: The Romantic Interconnectivity of Us All

Summary: From faded children's illustrations to gold trimmed poetry of the greats, my collection is composed of antique books published between 1836 and 1964. All these old treasures connect me to the past and those that once flipped through their pages. The knowledge contained between the covers has been forgotten; it is lost. Through the assemblage of these volumes, I can connect with people from earlier times. Through the books, my path crosses strangers in a way neither of us could have predicted.

Joshua Gathright

Undergraduate Division

Title: World War II: An Explosive, and Multifaceted, View of the Deadliest War of all Time

Summary: My interest, and the resultant collection of books, in history stems all of the way from my childhood and has become a symbol of my dedication to my field of study. It serves as a resource, reservoir of knowledge, and cache of experience. My collection includes viewpoints from the individual person to small groups or units in various theatres all of the way up to monstrous encyclopedias dealing exclusively with the complete war and includes a few family related works. I plan on continuing to grow this collection continuously as my thirst for knowledge continues to grow.

Sarah McCall

Undergraduate Division

Title: Monsters on My Bookshelf: A Collection of Scary Stories

Summary: Beware, this is not a collection for the faint of heart! Terrifying tales of monsters and mayhem await those who are brave enough to peruse this assemblage. I myself am a lifelong, cheerful consumer of the horror genre and as the keeper of this spine-tingling vault, I seek out the scariest of stories, from the child's tale of the vampiric rabbit *Bunnicula* to the dense and ambiguous *Turn of the Screw*. As an English major with a growing confidence in her literary criticism and analysis capabilities, I am interested not only in the thrill of being scared, but understanding why I'm scared, what constitutes 'scary,' and how I might scare people with my own stories. Proceed if you dare.

Brenna Murray

Undergraduate Division

Title: The Evolution of Fantasy and Science Fiction: Exploring the World in My Mind

Summary: Beginning before I was born, my collection of fantasy and science fiction books serve as the timeline of my exposure to new and exciting worlds. These particular books stand out to me as markers of new turns in textual history as well as growth in my understanding of literary genres. I hope this collection continues to gain depth and breadth as I explore new works from beloved authors and discover hidden treasures from emerging writers.

Luke Schletzbaum

Undergraduate Division

Title: Diversity of Flight: A Collection of Man's Mastery of The Air

Summary: This collection of books represents not only a lifelong interest of mine, but also a collection of warm memories. Since flight is an important aspect of my family's history and my childhood, the collection has great intrinsic value because it has, in part, helped shape my personality. The collection is of a unique part of history I believe deserves to be remembered.

Danny Caine

Graduate Division

Title: Rust Belt Splendor: Hustle, Music, and Identity in the Post-Industrial Midwest

Summary: Built around a career-spanning selection of works by comic memoirist Harvey Pekar, "Rust Belt Splendor" explores questions of identity in the Rust Belt following the mid-20th century economic collapse of the region. Focusing primarily on Cleveland, Akron, and Detroit, the collection employs comics, fiction, non-fiction, and poetry to present the Rust Belt identity as one shaped by social class, blue-collar jobs, popular music, and even sports failure, all of which together form a feeling of "Rust Belt Hustle." The cumulative effect is a portrait of a region scarred by a changing economy but persistent and stubborn in spirit.

Megan Jones

Graduate Division

Title: The Life and Times of Sacco and Vanzetti

Summary: This collection contains material related to the Sacco-Vanzetti case. There are primary accounts by people directly involved, letters to and from Sacco and Vanzetti, secondary historical retellings, fictional pieces inspired by the case, and works that provide cultural, historical, and political context for the events surrounding Sacco and Vanzetti's seven year imprisonment and execution.

Elizabeth J. Stigler

Graduate Division

Title: Koláče and Community: Czech-American Recipes, Czech-American Identity

Summary: This collection is primarily composed of Czech and Czech American cookbooks but is supplemented by academic food studies texts relating to the study of identity and community. The cookbooks are written in both Czech and English and have publication dates from as early as 1911 through the mid 2000s. The food studies texts are contemporary theoretical explorations of the ways in which we construction and understand our historical moment through our personal, familial, and ethnic foodways.

Christopher Watson

Graduate Division

Title: Greek Myth on the Athenian Stage and Beyond

Summary: Greek mythology developed over a period of centuries. It was a living, breathing tradition that told unique versions of the same stories in many different times, places, and contexts. My collection focuses on myth as it was portrayed on the fifth-century Athenian stage, but expands outward to explore the development of these myths from their earliest written versions to their later instantiations in the Hellenistic and Roman periods. The collection began from books needed for my classes, but, as my interests developed, I began to buy additional books to add depth and breadth to my collection.

Miriam Brack Webber

Graduate Division

Title: "A Soviet Artist's Response to Just Criticism": Shostakovich and Creativity in Soviet Russia

Summary: This collection examines how the cultural milieu during Shostakovich's compositional career was influenced by Soviet politics. The collection consists of Soviet historical narratives, biographies of the composer and his colleague Sergei Prokofiev, and cultural histories that focus on Soviet music, ballet, literature and film. DVD and CD recordings of major cultural works in Soviet Russia.

Tsung-han Weng

Graduate Division

Title: Second Language Acquisition and Teaching: Theoretical Concepts and Practical Application

Summary: This collection contains works of second language acquisition from theoretical and practical perspectives. Theoretically speaking, the books range from introduction to second language acquisition to linguistic theories in second language acquisition. Practically speaking, the books cover second language pedagogy and multicultural education issues. Also, with the research method books, it makes a researcher with theoretical and practical knowledge to conduct second language studies.