

Archival Practicum at LaBudde Special Collections: Experiences

Jessica D. McClanahan

Emporia State University

Fall 2012

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When I first came to LaBudde Special Collections, I was a sophomore in Printmaking at the Kansas City Art Institute. The impression it left on me – the original Kelmscott Press editions of Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales, the Andy Warhol book with attached flexi disc, the woodcuts by Albrecht Durer – was deep. I always dreamed of working here, but I never knew how I could gain that opportunity. When I began the MLS program at Emporia State University, I knew that it would be my ticket into this wonderful collection. I first spoke to Stuart Hinds, Director at LaBudde, when I was working on a repository site visit paper for my Introduction to Archives course. He just happened to be walking in while I was asking the reference librarian some questions; we spoke, I told him about my degree program, my paper, and my background, and after taking me on a tour of the stacks he offered me a chance to complete my practicum there.

My first project – the one that Stuart had in mind the minute I told him I was a printmaker – was to go through the already processed “Graphics Collection,” and provide more detailed information about what was there. The collection is basically a hodgepodge of prints dating from the 1500s to the 1900s, and ranging in subject from political to portraiture to fine art to landscape. There are lithographs, etchings, woodcuts, paintings and drawings, and several other types of print media, and I identified them and made note on the finding aid. I also researched certain subjects or artists to see if there was anything of value. There are two original Marc Chagall

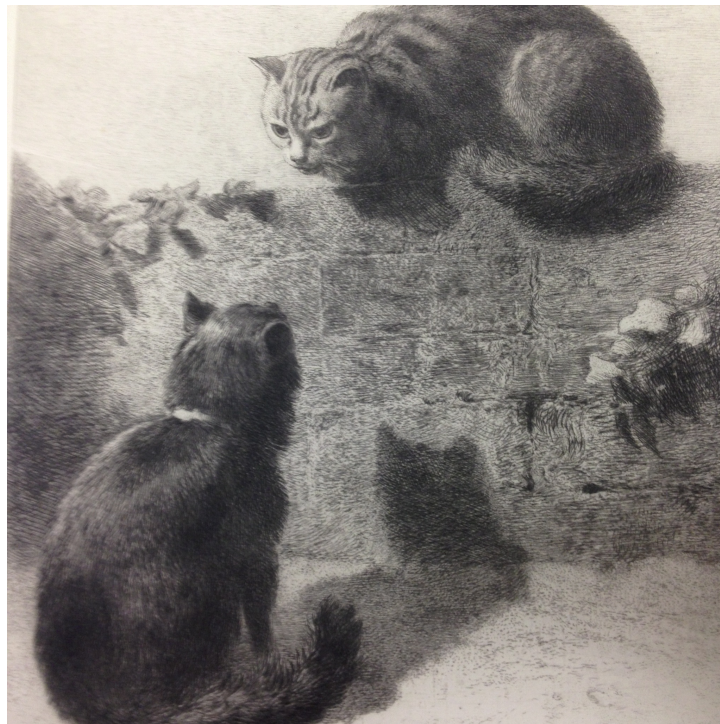
lithographs in the collection, one of which was listed on Christie's for \$4,700 (Pictured below).



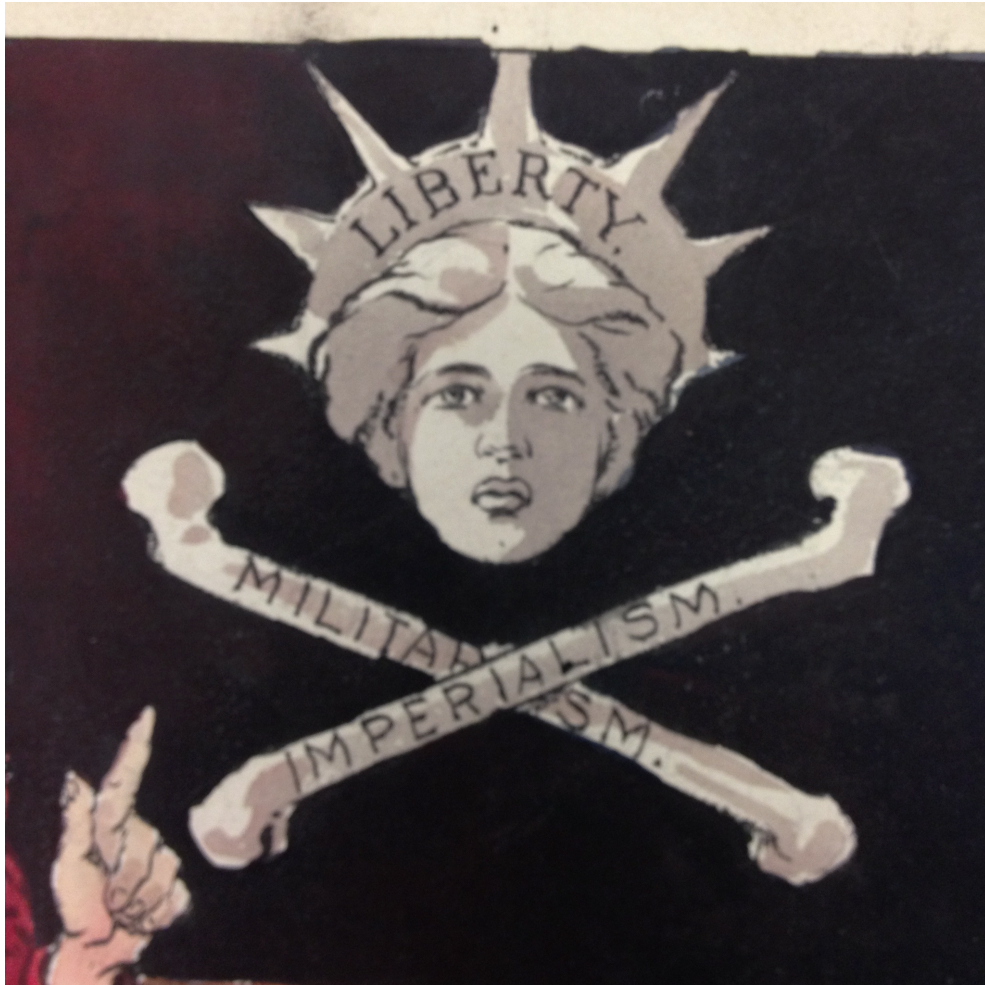
"The Flute Player," Marc Chagall

There are also several chromolithographs from the Ukraine, which have writing exclusively written in the Cyrillic alphabet. I took Russian in high school and am able to sound out the letters, which helped me to identify where they were from, the artist, the medium, and the date, as well as the subtle differences in the languages that pointed to the fact that they were not Russian, but Ukrainian.

Pictured below are a few examples of the kinds of things I was dealing with in this collection. They are mostly unknown artists with unknown dates, but these show the wide range of print methods that are displayed within the collection.







I enjoyed going through and identifying the prints, and I think that Stuart expected this project to take the whole semester, but I was done in just a few weeks. We decided that I should process a collection from start to finish, so I took one that was donated from the Missouri Library Network Corporation, a non-profit that provided information networks and database consortiums for several Missouri libraries. It was the exact opposite of the Graphics Collection, and contained nothing but financial information, client information, and board meeting packets. It was

fairly straightforward and simple, so I was able to process it quickly and thoroughly. The finding aid for that collection is also attached.

After processing the MLNC collection, I decided that I wanted to take my practicum a different way. Since I already had processing experience, I decided that maybe I would like to try an exhibition. Stuart jumped on the idea and already had something in mind. He was going to put up a number of anonymous, mostly Victorian era, tintypes and photographs. I took the idea and ran with it, remembering my love for curating as I went along. I had three large display cases at my disposal, wrote an essay, pulled some quotes to use as decoration, and put together a really neat exhibit on the main floor of the Miller Nichols Library. (Essay is attached).





















After the exhibition was set up, Stuart sent a wonderful email out to everyone in the library, inviting them to view it and giving me full credit. He was very

impressed with my curatorial abilities. My last few weeks were spent retrieving books on a list to be moved in to special collections, and after that, I added some periodicals from the DeeDee DeVille collection, part of the Gay and Lesbian Archives of Mid-America, to a large periodicals list and boxed them up.



I really feel like my experience here at LaBudde was quite valuable. I was able to work in several different areas – fine art, records management, processing, etc. – and I felt I got a real sense of what it would be like to work in a special collections library.

Appendix I

Anonymous and Found Photographs Essay

Anonymous and Found Photographs

The images in this collection were donated to LaBudde Special Collections over the years by various sources. While most of these images are anonymous or found photography, depicting unknown or long forgotten people and places, their importance still remains as images within the collective human memory. According to Robert Flynn Johnson, even though the viewer is given little to no context or identifying information about these photos, he or she is still provided with a clue to the past. "By definition," he states, "a photograph is a discernible marker of what has been... What stimulates the imagination is that every photograph contains an interweaving of obvious facts and subtle fictions."

Anonymous and found photographs invite the viewer to create a story, to peer into the potential reality of the situation being depicted. An almost voyeuristic sense is felt when digging through the photo bin at the flea market, as one examines the private moments of people from days gone by. Questions may arise upon seeing these photos: Where did these people come from? What was the reason for this particular photograph to be taken? Did they ever intend for anyone outside of their immediate circle to see these pictures? What turn of events occurred to separate them from their original owner?

Within the current technological environment - social networking, digital photography, camera phones, security cameras, etc. - society has become quite accustomed to being photographed in daily life. Over one hundred years ago, when photography was first popularized among the middle class, the opportunity for hundreds, thousands, or even millions of people to see your family picture was rare, if not totally improbable. Now, we take for granted the fact that we can immediately share our snapshots with all of our friends and loved ones (and total strangers, if one so desires) at the touch of a button.

Found photography has a delicate nature, not only due to the materials and methods used to create the images, but also for the images themselves. Pictures are precious; photo albums used to be arranged with care in order to preserve a family's memories for future generations. Even when there is no context, no familiar face, no place names or dates, it is still difficult to discard such vivid, albeit mysterious, depictions of the past. The nature of this exhibition is to showcase these forgotten faces and forgotten moments to give them a chance to be seen once more. The secret truths within the images and the imagination of the viewer both combine to create new narratives and characters, and to breathe new life into the photographs, long since disconnected from their creators' original intent.

Appendix II

Missouri Library Network Corporation Collection Finding Aid

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Historical Sketch

"The mission of the Missouri Library Network Corporation (MLNC) is to organize and deliver to its member libraries and other contracting entities OCLC-based information services, related electronic services and content, and training in the management and use of information" (MLNC, n.d.). The MLNC was in operation from 1976 to 2011, when it merged with Amigos, "the largest consortium of libraries in the Southwestern United States" (Amigos, 2009).

During its 25 years of service, the MLNC provided several libraries and other organizations with the tools needed to facilitate information use for their respective patrons by allowing them access to the resources available through Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), Bibliographic Retrieval Services (BRS), and Academic Library Consortium for Automation (ACLA).

The major objectives of the MLNC were to "support library efforts to provide a seamless user environment," "encourage and facilitate the implementation of change in libraries," "training and continuing education," "fostering library development," "provid[ing] ways for libraries to leverage resources," and to "further enhance relationships and membership" (MLNC, n.d.).

Source:

Amigos and MLNC handouts, located in Box 3, Folder 9.

Scope and Content

The Missouri Library Network Corporation (MLNC) Collection was donated in 2012 by the organization. The collection consists of various organizational, financial, and contractual documents pertaining to MLNC, its associated networks, and participating libraries. The collection materials range in date from 1977-2011, with the bulk of the collection from 1983-1989. General operations, board meetings, annual reports, and network affiliations make up the breadth of this collection from the early days of MLNC in the late 1970s all the way up to its merger with Amigos in 2011.

The MLNC collection has been arranged in six series and four subseries, each one focusing on a different aspect of the corporation and its dealings with other organizations. Original order within the series was mostly preserved, however the series were arranged in order to be more conducive to research. When materials are not organized by date, they are organized by meeting agenda items, or kept in original order. This collection provides an example of the inner workings of a nonprofit organization, as well as a brief glimpse into the history of library networking and cataloging in a time of rapid technological change; it would be useful to anyone studying library network operations, consortia, library history, Interlibrary Loan operations, OCLC, and more.

Series Notes

Series I: MLNC - General Operations

Series I, located in Box 1, Folders 1 - 15, is made up of all the documents pertaining to the general operations of the organization. Bylaws and structure, financial and taxes, strategic planning, and committees and members are all covered here, as well as projects, notes, and newsletters. The documents range in date from 1981-2011, and also include several CDs.

Series II: MLNC Board of Directors

Series II contains documents regarding the Board of Directors for MLNC, and covers several years' worth of board meeting materials. The series is located in Box 1, Folders 16-30 and Box 2, Folders 1 -4, and is divided into two subseries: Board Meetings (arranged in individual folders by meeting date, and then organized according to meeting agenda items) and July 23, 1988 Board Elections. Inclusive dates range from 1987-1992. Also included is the Board Binder for 2011.

Series III: Annual Meetings and Reports

This series contains documents pertaining to the MLNC's annual meetings and reports. Each yearly meeting has its own folder, and is then arranged by meeting agenda items; several annual reports are filed together in one folder. The series ranges in date from 1981-2011, and is located in Box 2, Folders 5-23.

Series IV: Participating Libraries - Permanent Papers

Series IV is a collection of the permanent papers and cataloging profiles of the libraries and other organizations that used MLNC services. Each institution has its own folder, and items therein are arranged by date. The series is housed in Box 2, Folders 24-36.

Series V: Networks and Databases

Located in Box 2, Folders 37-39, Box 3, Folders 1-6, and Box 4, Folders 1-2, Series V showcases documents pertaining to three networks that were used by MLNC: Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), Academic Library Consortium for Automation (ACLA), and Bibliographic Retrieval Services (BRS). The documents in each folder are arranged by dates, which range from 1977 - 1990. Contract negotiations, equipment and hardware, brokerage, copyright and responsible use, and telecommunications are covered here, with the bulk of the material covering OCLC operations.

Series VI: Amigos

When MLNC was about 25 years old, the organization was merged with a similar one called Amigos. Series VI holds the documents about the merger plans and meetings, material covering the scope and purpose of both organizations, and tape subscription. The series can be found in Box 4, Folders 3 and 4; inclusive dates range from 1984-2011.

Container List

Series I: Missouri Library Network Corporation – General Operations

Box	Folder	Description
1	1	25th Anniversary Slide Show CD (May 3, 2007)
1	2	Bilaws and Proposed Structure (1981, 1987, 1988, 1996, 2011)
1	3	Committees - Library Advisory Committee, Long Range Planning Committee, MLNC Committee, New Products and Services Committee (1981, 1986, 1989, 1990)
1	4	Financial Statements (1989, 2011)
1	5	Interlibrary Loan (1983, 1984, 1992, 1994, 1995, 1997)
1	6	Mailings (2006, 2007, 2008)
1	7	Members (1985, 1986, 1987, 2005)
1	8	"Quick Flash" CDs (x3) - MLNC Newsletter (1996-2005, 2005-2006, 2007-2008)
1	9	Online Services (1983, 1984, 1985)
1	10	Presentations/Projects (n.d., 1993)
1	11	Selected Notes CD (1996-2002)
1	12	Strategic Planning Retreat (1990, 2007, 2008)
1	13	Taxes (1983, 1984, 1989, 1990, 1991)
1	14	United States Newspaper Project - Newspaper Cataloging Manual (1984)
1	15	United States Newspaper Project - Planning Guide and Resource Notebook (1991, 1992)

Series II: MLNC Board of Directors

Box Folder Description

1 16 Board Binder (2011)

A. Board Meetings

1 17 Board Meeting - November 1987

1 18 Board Meeting - January 1988 (1987, 1988)

1 19 Board Meeting - March 1988

Box Folder Description

1 20 Board Meeting - April 1988

1 21 Board Meeting - May 1988 (1987, 1988)

1 22 Board Meeting - June 1988

1 23 Board Meeting - July 1988

1 24 Board Meeting - October 1988

1 25 Board Meeting - January 1989

1 26 Board Meeting - March 1989

1 27 Board Meeting - June 1989

1 28 Board Meeting - October 1989

1 29 Board Meeting - January 1990 (1989, 1990)

1 30 Board Meeting - January 1991 (1989, 1990, 1991)

2 1 Board Meeting - January 1992 (1991, 1992)

2 2 Board Meeting - April 1992 (1991, 1992)

B. July 23, 1988 Elections

2 3 Election Ballots Draft 1

2 4 Election Ballots Draft 2

Series III: Annual Meetings and Reports

Box Folder Description

2 5 Annual Meeting 1981

2 6 Annual Meeting 1982

2 7 Annual Meeting 1983

2 8 Annual Meeting 1984

2 9 Annual Meeting 1985

2 10 Annual Meeting 1986

2 11 Annual Meeting 1987

Box Folder Description

2 12 Annual Meeting 1988

2 13 Annual Meeting 1989

2 14 Annual Meeting 1990

2 15 Annual Meeting 1991

2 16 Annual Meeting 1992

2 17 Annual Meeting 1993

2 18 Annual Meeting 1994

2 19 Annual Meeting 1997

2 20 Annual Meeting 1998

2 21 Annual Meeting 1999

2 22 Annual Meeting 2007

2 23 Annual Reports (2006, 2007, 2007/2008, 2008/2009, 2009/2010, 2010/2011)

Series IV: Participating Libraries - Permanent Papers

Box Folder Description

2 24 Anheuser-Busch Co., Inc. Corporate Library (1977)

2 25 Assemblies of God Graduate School (1978)

2 26 Avila College (1979)

2 27 Children's Mercy Hospital (1991, 1993)

2 28 Eden-Webster Libraries (1983, 1984)

2 29 McDonnell Douglas Automation Company (1983)

2 30 Midwest Research Institute (1982)

2 31 Missouri Historical Society (1982)

2 32 Missouri Institute of Psychology (1977, 1981)

2	33	Missouri Southern State College (1980)
2	34	Missouri State Library (1976, 1978, 1979, 1982, 1983)

Box Folder Description

2	35	Mobay Chemical Corporation (1982)
2	36	Ruth R. Cleveland Memorial Library (1991)

Series V: Networks and Databases

Box Folder Description

A. Online Computer Library Center (OCLC)

2	37	Brokerage (1977, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1985)
2	38	Contract Negotiation (1983, 1984)
2	39	Contract Negotiation (1983, 1984)
3	1	Copyright and Responsible Use (1982, 1983, 1984)
3	2	Hardware and Equipment - OCLC 105 & 110 Terminals (1983), LS/2000 (1983, 1984), OCLC M300 Workstation (1984)
3	3	Pricing (1983, 1984)
3	4	Tape Subscriptions (1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985)
3	5	Telecommunications (1980, 1982, 1983)
3	6	Users' Council (1982, 1983, 1984)

B. Academic Library Consortium for Automation (ACLA)

4	1	Plans and Recommendations for Automated Systems and Services for ACLA (1990)
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C. Bibliographic Retrieval Services (BRS)

4	2	Group Contract Negotiations (1983, 1984)
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Series VI: Amigos

Box Folder Description

4	3	Merger with MLNC (2009/2010, 2010, 2011)
4	4	Tape Subscriptions (1984, 1985, 1986, 1993, 1994, 1995)

