From My Commonplace Book

Morris Cohen

"One can remain alive long past the usual date of disintegration if one is unafraid of change, insatiable in intellectual curiosity, interested in big things, and happy in small ways."

--Edith Wharton, A Backward Glance (1934)

... 

"Long ago, Humboldt named three strategies for ignoring something: 'First, people will deny a thing; then they will belittle it; then they will decide that it had been known long ago.'"

--Eric McLuhan, letter to the editor, N.Y. Times, April 23, 1989, p. 35.

...

"Father's bookshelves were organized with an iron logic into sections and subsections, by subject and field and language, and alphabetically by author's name. The top brass, the field marshals and generals of the library, that is the special tomes that always gave me a thrill of respect, were priceless, heavy books clad in splendid leather bindings. On their rough leather surface my fingers sought out the delightful impression of the golden lettering, like the chest of some field marshal in the Fox Movietone newsreels bedecked with rows and rows of gleaming medals and decorations. When a single ray of light from Father's desk lamp fell on their ornate gold ornamentation, a flickering sparkle leaped towards my eyes, seeming to invite

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Cataloging Rare Books: What and Why

James Larrabee

What are the peculiarities that set rare book cataloging apart from its more everyday forms? Why the need for them? Anyone, even a cataloger (perhaps especially a cataloger) who has seen a full-dress catalog entry for a rare book may well ask these questions.

Rare book cataloging, while built on the scaffolding of the normal catalog record—main and added entries, title, publisher, collation, subject headings, perhaps an LC class number—elaborates some of these elements considerably, and adds other elements which may appear enigmatic to the uninitiated. Those who are familiar with catalogs of rare book dealers or auctioneers will find less difficulty; in fact, one would not be far wrong in saying that a library rare book cataloging entry is a combination of a dealer's catalog description with a standard AACR2, MARC record. This article will touch briefly on some of the chief features peculiar to a rare book cataloging record.

Fuller Descriptions in Transcribed Areas

Title transcriptions are frequently quite long; likewise in the publisher area. Older books tend to have verbose titles, in which the author's name (complete with lengthy titles of honor, nobility, academic distinction, office, etc. etc.) are grammatically interwoven. Sometimes the title is virtually a table of contents. Printer and publisher names are typically embedded in explanatory phrases or complete sentences, and not

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me to join them. These books were princes, dukes, earls, and barons.

Above them, on the shelf just below the ceiling, hovered the light cavalry: periodicals in many-coloured wrappers, arranged by topic, date and country of origin. In striking contrast to the heavy armour of the commanding officers, these cavalymen were dressed in light robes of exciting colours.

Around the cluster of field marshals and generals stood large clumps of brigade and regimental officers, rough, tough-shouldered books, in strong cloth bindings, dusty, slightly faded, as though dressed in sweaty, grubby camouflage battle dress, or like the fabric of old flags, tested in battle and hardship...

Ranking lower than the officer books in their cloth bindings were the hundreds and hundreds of simple books bound in rough cardboard, smelling of cheap glue – the grey and brown privates of the library. Even lower than these privates in my estimation were the rabble of semi-regular militias: unbound books whose pages were held together by tired rubber bands or wide strips of sticky paper. There were also some shabby gangs of bandits, in disintegrating yellowish paper wrappers. Finally, beneath these, were the lowest of the low, the non-books, a mixed multitude of mendicant leaflets, offprints, handbills, on the lowest rung of the bookcase – flotsam and jetsam huddled on the bottommost shelf, waiting for Father to remove them to some asylum for unwanted publications, and meanwhile here they were, temporarily camped, out of kindness not of right, heaped up, crowded together, until today or tomorrow the east wind with the birds of the desert would sweep their corpses away, until today or tomorrow, or at the latest by the winter, Father would find the time to sort them out ruthlessly and throw most of these charity cases (brochures, gazettes, magazines, journals, pamphlets) out of the apartment to make room for other beggars, whose day would not be slow to arrive. (Father took pity on them, however. Again and again he promised himself to sort them, make a selection, get rid of some, but I had the feeling that not a single printed page ever left our apartment, although it was bursting at the seams.)

- Amos Oz, Panther in the Basement (1997) p.74-75

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infrequently are accompanied by local addresses ("At the sign of the swan"). While extremely long titles may be shortened, and certain information omitted from printer statements, the catalog record more or less reflects the book as it presents itself.

Additional Entries

Printers, publishers, translators and illustrators, even bookbinders when known, may be traced. Names connected with provenance (see below) may also be traced if considered significant. These entries may further carry relator terms, indicating their connection to the item cataloged.

In the subject area, a 15th century printed book (incunable) will be given the form heading "Incunabula—Specimens." Many libraries use genre terms (quasi-subject headings) to give access to features of rare books of particular interest to their collections. Genre terms relate to all aspects of rare books, including printing and publishing, literary and quasi-literary forms, even paper and type details. The array is truly staggering, and growing.

Physical Description of the Book as Published

Here are included physical features of the book as it left the printer, prior to all subsequent changes affecting only the particular copy in hand (including binding, normally a custom feature in the pre-modern era). These features, in principle, are therefore common to all copies of the edition.

The collation is broadened to include unnumbered and blank pages, and a brief indication of the printing format (folio, octavo, etc.) In the notes area, a signature note is given (e.g. pi2 a-b4 c2 A-CC8 DD4), descriptive of the pattern of the arrangement of type and folding of the printed sheet. In addition, there may be notes describing woodcut illustrations, as well as decorative features typical of the pre-19th century era of printing—woodcut initials (large capitals), head- or tailpieces (occurring at the top or bottom of the page at section breaks), printer’s devices (those interesting

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pictorial or symbolic gadgets, usually woodcut, seen on title pages), etc. Other printing features may be mentioned, such as double columns, italic or gothic type, sideglosses, etc.

Physical Description of the Library’s Copy

Here are included notes on the binding (leather, calf, vellum; gold-tooled; red page-edges; etc.) and on any other noteworthy physical feature peculiar to the copy being cataloged. Significant defects, such as missing pages, must be detailed. Handwritten annotations ("marginalia") may be mentioned. Such exotic features as hand-illuminated initials will, of course, be described in detail.
Ownership History of Library's Copy (Provenance)

This is a note possibly introduced "Provenance." Any information as to previous ownership, particularly by known collectors, scholars, etc., or by libraries or institutions, is recorded here. The source of the information may be given (typically, inscriptions, bookplates, or stamps on the book itself).

Scholarly References

As in dealer's catalogs, references may be given to standard works of bibliography which present fuller descriptions of the book. These may be numerous for an incunable. Particular areas of printing history have been extensively researched, such as English imprints of 16th-17th centuries, and Spanish and Latin American imprints of all periods; and of course particular authors, such as Shakespeare, or particular printers. These references, belonging as they do to the everyday working jargon of the rare book field, tend to be telegraphic in form.

Why the Difference?

The approach to cataloging sketched above, and presented formally in Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Books (apart from subject analysis and classification), obviously adds considerably to the length of the cataloging process and of the resulting record. To what purpose?

I believe the answer to this, while as complex as the subject of rare books itself, lies mainly in the importance of the book as a physical object, an artifact. A modern book is viewed by the cataloger (and generally by the user) merely as a vehicle for a particular text (arrangement of words and/or images), and identified by a particular arrangement of type or type images, in combination with a particular date and publisher. The physical description is minimal, and arguably superfluous in the vast majority of modern editions, except perhaps as giving the user a general idea of the nature and extent of the item. (One wants to know if one is dealing with a 700-page novel or biography, or a 250-page one.) With rare books, the concept of the work and edition is not less fundamental; but the artifact takes on an equal or even greater importance. The Gutenberg Bible is priceless not as a particular 15th century version of the Latin Vulgate, but as an event in printing history and a consummately beautiful achievement in the printing art.

The development of today's rare book cataloging is inseparable from the history of the book (essentially up to the 19th century, when book production was revolutionized) and of book collecting. Book collectors are interested in fine printing, bindings, printed decorations and illustrations. (It may be noted that the extremely detailed descriptions of quite minor defects which are given in dealers' catalogs, but not in library catalogs, is probably for the sake of full disclosure to the potential buyer in a mail-order environment.) They are interested in historical associations, whether from the provenance of the item, or from its place in the history of publication or of ideas, which add interest, and hence value, to the particular item. All these interests and more may be reflected in the cataloging.

The modern book is an infinitely more uniform (and frankly, dull) item. Hence, collectors' interests seem to center on first editions and their related "points."

Beyond the collector is the world of scholarship, with its own concerns. Here, the usefulness of fuller transcriptions and signature notes, possibly helping to identify similar editions or more complete editions, will be more evident. Literary genre terms give further access to early printed materials in addition to subject headings. For the scholar, the rarity itself of the item, irrelevant from a theoretical point of view, may raise practical questions of time and opportunity. Fuller entries may help to decide the usefulness of an item before making a trip to consult it.

But the book itself and its history has also become an important academic study. Hence, the book will be seen both in its physical development and dissemination, and as a carrier of intellectual content. Here is a sort of crossroads where many of
the interests both of collectors and of other scholars will meet. Tracing of printers' names, the use of many genre terms, detailed collations, and a good deal of binding description, even provenance notes—in this context, the usefulness of these will be evident.

The world of the incunable (imprints dating before 1501) is a specialty in itself. Frequently lacking title pages, titles, page numbering, dates or printer statements (all these elements had to be invented by early printers), incunables are particularly in need of such features as signatures, detailed typographic description, and long transcriptions from various points in the text. This sort of cataloging has been carried to an ultimate degree of elaboration by standard sources such as the British Museum Catalog of XVth Century Books and the Gesamtkatalog der Wiegendrucke (complete catalog of incunables), and this has also served as an influence on cataloging of later books—perhaps to an excess.

Standards and Resources in Rare Book Cataloging

As mentioned above, the rules for rare book cataloging by academic libraries in the U.S. are presented in Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Books, an official publication of LC and of the Bibliographic Standards Committee ("Bib Standards") of the Rare Books and Manuscript Section (RBMS) under the auspices of the ALA component organization, the Association of College and Research Libraries. So far as I am aware, all or certainly a large number of rare book cataloging agencies here are committed to following this standard. The Committee has also published ancillary materials (some in collaboration with LC) such as Standard Citation Forms for Rare Book Cataloging: Examples to Accompany Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Books, 2nd edition; and various thesauri of terms to use in genre tracings. These titles, arcane to the non-cataloger, are items of everyday use to the cataloger. They introduce a highly desirable uniformity in the grammar of the catalog record without hindering local usages arising from the scholarly, artistic, or bibliographical emphases of particular collections.

Nor is the rare book world any stranger to the online environment. The Bib Standards Committee maintains its own home page and also sponsors a page of links useful to the cataloger, and for that matter, to anyone interested in rare books. For the home page, see www.rbms.nd.edu. For the resources page, scroll down the homepage for a link, or see www.library.upenn.edu/ipc/rarecat.html#CSC. Catalogers interested in seeing what is of current concern to the standard-setters can do nothing better than browse through the committee home page.

Note: Sarah Yates of the University of Minnesota Law Library writes our regular LH&R column on the Cataloging of Rare Books. However, Sarah decided that having two cataloging articles in one issue "might be a little too much excitement" for our readers. Her column will return in the next issue. Sarah did prepare this biographical sketch of our distinguished contributor, James Larrabee:

My first cataloging column contained the disclaimer that I have relatively little experience in cataloging rare books. The same cannot be said of the author of this article.

James Larrabee is the Robbins Rare Book Cataloger at Boalt Hall Law Library at the University of California, Berkeley. He has been cataloging rare books for over twenty-five years, the last ten of which have been devoted almost exclusively to rare book cataloging.

James recently completed his second three-year term on the Bibliographic Standards Committee of ALA's Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, a group to which he brought a much-needed law library perspective. He also participated in the Invitational Working Conference for the Revision of DCRB sponsored by the Beinecke Library, Yale University, in 2003.

It is my great pleasure to "turn over" this issue's column to such a distinguished colleague.
Editor's Corner

How’s this—a Winter issue that is available while it is actually still Winter! Will miracles never cease? I do hope that you enjoy the issue!

The deadline for material for the Spring issue is May 31st. That way we can get the issue together, scanned and posted on our web page before everyone packs up to head off to Texas for the AALL Annual Meeting. In addition to our regular columns, remember that we welcome book reviews and articles on topics of interest. I would also like to get our Summer issue published shortly after the Annual Meeting. The deadline for that issue will be August 15th.

I do want to apologize to James Larrabee, the author of our feature article. James had submitted this article some months ago. It arrived shortly after Dickinson Law-PSU had converted from Eudora to Microsoft Outlook, and my new e-mail program was not behaving well. Unfortunately James’ article—along with all of what was then in my inbox—sailed off into cyberspace. (This is, of course, why I keep threatening to toss my laptop out the window and revert to using the old Underwood Number Five that once belonged to a former dean and which now resides in our Rare Book Room.) In any event, I am very pleased that we were able to include James’ long-delayed article in this issue.

-Mark Podvia

The University of Minnesota Law Library’s Millionth Volume:

The Papers of Clarence Darrow

On October 22, 2004, the University of Minnesota Law Library celebrated the acquisition of its millionth volume. A one-day symposium, Law, Information, and Freedom of Expression, was presented with the generous support of the Faegre & Benson law firm. The symposium featured several of the nation’s leading constitutional law scholars, including Frederick Schauer, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University; Daniel A. Farber, School of Law, University of California, Berkeley; Robert C. Post, Yale Law School; Robert C. Berring, Jr., School of Law, University of California, Berkeley; and Lillian BeVier, University of Virginia School of Law. Following the symposium, the millionth volume was presented, as well as the 999,999th volume and the millionth and one volume.

The Papers of Clarence Darrow consist of letters, manuscripts and other documents pertaining to the eminent American jurist Clarence Darrow, his clients, his friends and immediate family. Preserved by Clarence Darrow’s direct descendants, this collection of letters and documents has remained inaccessible to scholars and to the public at large since Darrow’s death in 1938. Both in size and in content, this collection surpasses all other compilations of Clarence Darrow material. The archives enhances the knowledge and understanding of Clarence Darrow and illuminates the legal, historical, and social issues of his time. Furthermore, this acquisition establishes the University of Minnesota Law Library as the nation’s premier repository of Clarence Darrow material.

The heart of the collection is 340 letters written by Clarence Darrow. Personal and informal in tone (and clearly not written with an eye toward publication or posterity), these letters possess an intimacy attesting to and revealing the essence of Clarence Darrow’s character and commitment to social justice. Most of the letters are handwritten (some are typed) and all are signed by him. The letters span a period of just over 60 years, beginning with the earliest known surviving letter of Clarence Darrow, written in 1873 as a teenager, and ending with a letter written in 1936, two years before his death.

These letters are complemented by 110 letters written to Clarence Darrow. Darrow invariably
received letters of substance, often both intimate and revealing in content. Among the many persons who wrote to Darrow are Jane Addams, Eugene Debs, Theodore Dreiser, Mother Jones, Helen Keller, Sinclair Lewis, H. L. Mencken, Franklin D. Roosevelt, John Scopes, Upton Sinclair, Woodrow Wilson, and Frank Lloyd Wright.

The Papers of Clarence Darrow also contains a significant number of other documents and materials concerning Clarence Darrow and the Darrow family. The letters from and to Clarence Darrow are supplemented by letters between members of the Darrow family, many of which mention or discuss Clarence Darrow.

The collection’s letters are informative and substantive, revealing significant detail about the many legal cases and social causes that were central to Darrow’s career. In addition to providing a wealth of factual information, these letters offer insights into Clarence Darrow’s thoughts, emotions and reactions during many of the crucial events in his life: the Big Bill Haywood trial in Boise, Idaho; the McNamara brothers trial in Los Angeles, and Darrow’s own trials for bribery there; the Leopold and Loeb trial in Chicago; the Scopes “Monkey Trial” in Dayton, Tennessee; the Sweet case in Detroit; the Massie trial in Honolulu; and the stock market crash of 1929, which threatened to ruin Darrow financially.

The Law Library’s 999,999th Volume

The Law Library purchased Common Sense by Thomas Paine as its 999,999th volume. The pamphlet is one of the first editions of the “Enlarged Version,” published by William and Thomas Bradford on February 14, 1776. This edition was authorized by Paine due to a dispute over royalties between the author and Robert Bell, the original publisher. It had been Paine’s intention to devote his share of the profits from the sale of Common Sense to buy winter clothing for the Continental army, but Bell insisted that no profit had been realized from the first printing. Paine then authorized William and Thomas Bradford to publish this enhanced edition, which includes an appendix and “An Address to the People Called Quakers.” Paine also lowered the price of the new edition from two shillings to one shilling, ostensibly to make the pamphlet more accessible, but also to undercut Bell’s price.

Thomas Paine’s Common Sense has been called the “single most influential political work in American history” and is credited with “turning the American mind toward the thought of independence.” The first edition appeared in book stalls on January 9, 1776, and was an immediate publishing success. More than 120,000 copies of the forty-six page pamphlet were sold in just three months. Given a colonial population of around three million, that would be equivalent to selling over eleven million copies today.

The success of the pamphlet can be attributed to Paine’s ability to frame an argument that was embraced by the masses. Understanding that the long road to independence would require sustained sacrifice and a shared vision, he emphasized the common objectives of the disparate colonies. While others presented arguments filled with classical references and legal terminology, Paine never forgot his intended audience, putting forth an impassioned discourse written in the language not of the courthouse, but of the public coffee house. Printed at a time when some were urging reconciliation with George III, Paine’s pamphlet delivered a bold argument for freedom from the tyranny of monarchy.

Common Sense was published anonymously, and although Paine was eventually recognized as its author, there were persistent rumors that the work was penned by John Adams or one of the leading figures in Congress. For his part, Paine viewed Common Sense as his most significant work. When he later wrote American Crisis, he used the sobriquet “Common Sense.”

Thomas Paine’s historic pamphlet is a significant addition to the stellar collection of early American law in the Arthur C. Pulling Rare Books Collection. The Collection includes a particularly impressive number of the early session laws of the original
thirteen colonies, early constitutions of the states, and important documents of the American Revolution.

The Law Library's 1,000,001st Volume

In honor of the Law Library’s acquisition of its millionth volume, Thomson-West created a Clarence Darrow database specifically for the University of Minnesota. This resource consists of federal and state decisions in which Darrow served as counsel or was cited, was mentioned or listed as counsel, and secondary materials that analyze or comment upon Darrow and his work. The database brings relevant materials together in one place and will allow researchers to search full text documents for information related to Darrow’s life and career.

Thomson-West’s generous creation and donation of the Clarence Darrow database exemplifies the strong relationship that the University of Minnesota Law School has enjoyed with West for over one hundred years. In 1988, West donated the Law Library’s 500,000th volume, a rare copy of the first volume in the original series of the Northwestern Reporter dating to 1877.


2. Id. at 21.

-Katherine Hedin, Curator of Rare Books and Special Collections, University of Minnesota Law Library

--Karen Beck, Curator of Rare Books, Boston College Law Library

Boston College Display Announced

You are invited — either in person or as a virtual visitor — to the Boston College Law Library’s Daniel R. Coquillette Rare Book Room to view a selection of rare books and other materials the library has recently acquired — primarily through the generosity of Professor Daniel R. Coquillette and Robert E. Brooker III. Many of the books on display were likely to have been owned and used by a seventeenth-century practicing common lawyer. Taken together with books donated in prior and future years, the collection when complete will form an unsurpassed working seventeenth-century law library that might have belonged to a particularly wealthy and learned practitioner.

In the seventeenth century, English lawyers grappled with the developing law of contracts, commercial law and the new area of environmental protection. Many of the works on display here reflect these areas of study and practice. The seventeenth-century books on exhibit are complemented by eighteenth- and nineteenth-century books and legal documents that show the continuity of Anglo-American legal theory and practice over the centuries. Many of the books feature handsome original leather or vellum bindings, beautiful printing, and elaborate illustrations.

The books will be on view through June 2005. The Daniel R. Coquillette Rare Book Room is generally open Monday — Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., but if you are planning a special trip to see the exhibit, please call the curator ahead of time to be sure the room will be available. To view highlights of the exhibit, visit http://www.bc.edu/schools/law/library/about/rarebook/exhibitions/newacq05/.

San Antonio, Texas Rare and Used Book Dealers

Antiquarian Book Mart
3127 Broadway Street
(210) 828-4885
Any updates to this list will be included in the Spring issue of LH&RB.

--Mark Lambert, Special Collections and Government Documents Librarian, South Texas College of Law Library

**Member News**

**Dr. Warren M. Billings** reports that two of his books – *A Little Parliament: The General Assembly of Virginia in the Seventeenth Century* (Richmond: The Library of Virginia, 2004) and *Sir William Berkeley and the Forging of Colonial Virginia* (Baton Rouge: LSU Press, 2004) are now in print. The latter just came off the press a few weeks ago. Warren is completing a stint as chairman of the History Department of the University of New Orleans and will be on a well-deserved leave until January 2006.

**Phyll Johnson,** Director of Electronic Services and Communications at the University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Law, reports that UMKC will host a conference in summer of 2005 to promote an interdisciplinary discussion of the importance of court records to empirical and historical research in both law and social sciences. The U.S. National Archives & Records Administration has invited response and comment on a pending appraisal and disposition decision affecting regional federal civil court case files closed after 1970. Conference topics will focus on the value of the court records to historians, social scientists and legal scholars; empirical research; the importance of conflict as a part of our national, regional and local history; legal history; the role of court records for improving legal advocacy and training; digitization efforts; and changes in legal bibliography.

**Mark Lambert,** Special Collections Librarian at the Fred Parks Law Library, South Texas College of Law, Houston, Texas, recently passed his certified archivists exam. Mark also has recently been appointed by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals Library System to be its part-time Archives Consultant. Mark will attempt to better organize the history of all the courts of the Fifth Circuit, especially concentrating on the nine district courts within the circuit. The immediate goal is to develop an archives collection that reflects a fuller and broader history of all the courts of the Fifth Circuit. A more fully developed archival program for the circuit will provide for courthouse displays, exhibits and educational opportunities through lectures and writings. The long-term goal will be to help create the framework for a Fifth Judicial Circuit Historical Society. In this new position, Mark will travel to the circuit court and all nine district courts in the circuit, evaluate what materials have already been collected on the court, the judges, the significant cases of the district as well as the courthouses of the district, and make suggestions to the librarians on additional materials to collect in the future. Mark will then identify each district's past judges, significant cases and courthouses, and attempt to collect additional materials not already preserved by the district by contacting former and current judges and their family members, clerks of the court, prominent attorneys who practice before the court, university libraries and archives, newspaper morgues, and museums in the circuit.

**Michael Widener,** Head of Special Collections at the University of Texas' Tarlton Law Library, Karen Beck, Curator of Rare Books / Legal Information Librarian and Lecturer in Law at the Boston College Law Library, and Professor Michael Hoeflich of the University of Kansas
collaborated on "The 1846 Auction Catalogue of Joseph Story’s Library," number 5 in the Tarlton Law Library’s Legal History Series. Beck prepared the Index, Hoesfich wrote the Introduction, and Widener wrote the Foreword, designed the publication and is the General Editor of the series.

—Karen Beck, Curator of Rare Books, Boston College Law Library

Recent Acquisitions

Phill Johnson, Director of Electronic Services and Communications at the University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Law, reports that the family of Charles D. Gould has donated materials consisting of photographs, medals and documents relating to World War II. Mr. Gould was a photographer with the U.S. Army Signal Corps and the collection concentrates on the trials of Nazi war criminals at Nuremberg. The documents include trial handbooks identifying the defendants, most of whom autographed the documents, newspaper articles, press passes, and indictments. The professional-quality photographs depict the trial defendants, U.S. judges and other military personnel, war scenes, and graphic views of concentration camps. The items are currently being inventoried in anticipation of digitization.

Mark W. Lambert, Special Collections Librarian at the Fred Parks Law Library, South Texas College of Law’s Fred Parks Law Library, reports the following new acquisitions:

The San Jacinto County Law Book Collection, donated by the San Jacinto County (Texas) Heritage Society, Coldspring Texas, in August 2004. The collection consists of 44 titles or 53 volumes, with the approximate inclusive publication dates of 1870-1915, the former date being when the county was created out of parts of four other Texas counties. The books were part of the law library recovered from the original wooden San Jacinto County Courthouse when it burned down in 1915. Subsequently a new stone courthouse was built, and apparently all new law books were acquired for the law library, and the old salvaged books were forgotten. Later when they were re-discovered the law books were donated to the San Jacinto County Heritage Society. The Heritage Society runs a museum complex including the original county jail, and eventually ran out of room for the law book collection. Some volumes show evidence of the 1915 courthouse fire, and the donation includes five titles with no previous holdings in Texas according to OCLC.

The Professor Leonard A. Duffy Papers and Law Book Collection, donated in October 2004. Leonard A. Duffy was a professor of law at South Texas from 1968-1997, mainly teaching property law and land titles. After Professor Duffy died in 2004, the family donated to the Fred Parks Law Library Professor Duffy's lecture notes, as well as his extensive law book collection consisting of 78 boxes of books, including 48 titles or 76 volumes added to the Special Collections department. The titles added to the Special Collections department include such items as Bouvier's Law Dictionary from 1857 and Rapalje and Lawrence's Law Dictionary from 1883.

—Karen Beck, Curator of Rare Books, Boston College Law Library