From My Commonplace Book

Morris Cohen

Franz Kafka, *The Trial* (1948):
On the table, which still stood on the platform as before, several books were lying. "May I glance at the books?" asked K., not out of any particular curiosity, but merely that his visit here might not be quite pointless. "No," said the woman, shutting the door again, "that isn't allowed. The books belong to the Examining Magistrate." "I see," said K., nodding, "these books are probably law books, and it is an essential part of the justice dispensed here that you should be condemned not only in innocence but also in ignorance." "That must be it," said the woman, who had not quite understood him... (p. 62)

... I had rather take my chance that some traitors will escape detection than spread abroad a spirit of general suspicion and distrust, which accepts rumor and gossip in place of undismayed and unintimidated inquiry. I believe that that community is already in process of dissolution where each man begins to eye his neighbor as a possible enemy, where non-conformity with the accepted creed, political as well as religious, is a mark of disaffection; where denunciation, without specification or backing, takes the place of evidence; where orthodoxy chokes freedom of dissent; where faith in the eventual supremacy of reason has become so timid that we dare not enter our convictions in the open lists, to win or lose.

The History of every major Galactic Civilization

Continued on page 2 COMMONPLACE

From the Chair

Laura Ray

The Legal History & Rare Books Special Interest Section is working with the Centennial Committee and Micrographics & Audiovisual Special Interest Section to advise AALL members planning, or working on, Oral History projects. We kicked off this effort at the 2005 AALL Annual Meeting with our *Values, Video and Vignettes: Using Video Oral History Techniques to Document the Unwritten Histories of AALL* program. If you missed that program, you’ll find much of the information in John Pedini’s article *In Their Own Words: Videotaping Oral History, Trends in Law Library Management and Technology*, June 1998, pages 1-5. This article provides key information on identifying appropriate subjects, researching subjects, and developing interview questions, as well as very practical information on scheduling, speaker releases, equipment, setting, lighting, camera operation, interview pacing, and interview techniques.

Continuing the Oral History program effort, the AALL Centennial Committee has two particularly relevant items within the “Centennial Celebration Toolkits” section of its Web site: “Overheard at the Bar” Programs and Oral History Project. The “Overheard at the Bar” Programs link provides a good overview of how to produce “live oral history” programs. During such sessions, in front of a live audience, key individuals informally discuss their professional and personal activities and experiences. Perhaps you recall “The Centennial Bar is Now Open: Pour Another Round of AALL History” program – with Carolyn Ahearn, Albert Brecht, Laura Gasaway, Roger Jacobs, Gitelle Seer, and Betty Taylor – at the 2004
tends to pass through three distinct and recognizable phases, those of Survival, Inquiry and Sophistication, otherwise known as the How, Why, and Where phases. For instance, the first phase is characterized by the question How can we eat? The second by the question Why do we eat? and the third by the question Where shall we have lunch? (p. 215)

Continued from page 1 CHAIR

AALL Annual Meeting? You could produce a similar program with local and regional law librarians. The Oral History Project link provides excellent basic information on producing oral histories, as well as a few links to oral history Web sites.

If you need advice or assistance with an Oral History program or production, please contact me (216-687-6880; laura.ray@law.csuohio.edu). I or one of my colleagues in the Legal History & Rare Books SIS or Micrographics & Audiovisual SIS will be very happy to do what we can to make your program or production a success. In addition, below are several links to oral history Web sites that may help you to better understand oral histories and how to produce them.


The "oldest and largest organized oral history program in the world." In addition to a catalog of approximately 8,000 histories, this site includes numerous links to academic, government, and private oral history programs.

Harvard University Film Study Center and George Mason University Center for History and


Historical Voices (http://www.historicalvoices.org/)

"One of the first fully functional, multi-media, interoperable digital libraries available online." Includes the Oyey Project and History and Politics Out Loud. Part of the Digital Library Initiative II funded by the National Science Foundation and National Endowment for the Humanities. Housed at Michigan State University's MATRIX: the Center for Humane Arts, Letters and Social Sciences.


Oral History Association (http://omega.dickinson.edu/organizations/oha/index.html)

In particular, see its Oral History Review and Evaluation Guidelines publications, and consider subscribing to its H-Oralhist discussion list. Also, note its 10/25-29/06 Annual Meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Oral History Society (http://www.ohs.org.uk/)

In particular, see its Journal of the Oral History Society.


United States Senate: Art & History: Oral History Project (http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/history/gthree_sections_with_teasers/oralhistory.htm)

Editor’s Corner

Despite holding this issue for a couple weeks at the request of our Chair, we are still getting it out on time! Thank you to everyone who helped to make this possible.

The deadline for the next issue is May 15th. That is a firm deadline that cannot be moved as shortly thereafter we will begin the process of moving our collection and offices to temporary quarters during the construction of our two new law buildings, one at University Park and the other in Carlisle. The exciting part of this project for me is that the plans call for a beautiful Rare Book Room at our University Park location. The sad part is that the current plans call for razing our beautiful Colonial-style 1918 building—Trickett Hall—in Carlisle. Requiescat In Pace.

I look forward to reading your submissions for the Spring issue.

--Mark Podvia

CONTENTS

Cataloging Trends and Acronyms: Of DCRM(B), RDA, and FRBR, p. 4
Did You Know? St. Louis Trivia, p. 9
Editor’s Corner, p. 3
From My Commonplace Book, p. 1
From the Chair, p. 1
Member News, Recent Acquisitions and Other Activities, p. 6
Cataloging Trends and Acronyms: Of DCRM(B), RDA, and FRBR

Sarah Yates

Readers of this column already know about *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Books* (DCRB), the rules for cataloging rare books. And you also have at least a passing familiarity with the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules*, 2nd ed. (AACR2).

What you may not know is that both sets of rules will soon be outdated. DCRB and AACR2 are both being revised. Drafts of at least part of each are available online. The draft of part one of the new general cataloging rules are at http://www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc/rdadraftptt1.html, and the zeta draft of the new rare book cataloging rules are at http://www.folger.edu/bsc/dcrb/dcrmbzeta20060108cleancopy.pdf. The rare book rules are also available at http://www.rbms.nd.edu/, the Web site of the ALCTS Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, the organization responsible for the revision, but there is no direct URL to the draft.

If you look at these drafts, the first thing you may notice is that the rules are not just being revised; they are being renamed as well. AACR2 is becoming RDA, which stands for *Resource Description and Access*. The first draft of the revision was called, predictably enough, AACR3. When AACR3 was scrapped, the new name, RDA, was introduced. And a new name is certainly appropriate; while many of the actual rules are not changing much (at least in the draft of the part that is publicly available), the organizational changes alone make RDA more a rewriting than a revision.

The DCRB name change, like the revision itself, is a less drastic one: from *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Books* (DCRB) to *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books)* (DCRM(B)). The name change is intended to accommodate standards for other formats that are also in process: DCRM(S) for rare serials and DCRM(M) for rare music.

Another similarity between RDA and DCRM(B) is their FRBRization. The principles of FRBR (commonly pronounced “ferber”) were laid out in a 1997 International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) report titled *Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records* (hence the acronym). The full report is available at http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/frbr/frbr.pdf; it is definitely worth looking at if you are a cataloger who will soon need to start incorporating FRBR principles into your everyday work, or if you sometimes fraternize with catalogers and want to know what the heck they are talking about.

One FRBR concept that will have special implications for rare book catalogers is the distinction between *works*, *expressions*, *manifestations*, and *items*. Of these four, the differences among various *manifestations* of an expression of a single work may indicate the greatest need for special cataloging standards for rare books. The IFLA report defines a manifestation as representing “all the physical objects that bear the same characteristics, in respect to both intellectual content and physical form” (p. 20). The document further explains that “changes that occur deliberately or even inadvertently in the production process that affect the copies result, strictly speaking, in a new manifestation. A manifestation resulting from such a change may be identified as a particular ‘state’ or ‘issue’ of the publication” (p. 22). The “strictly speaking” may let general catalogers off the hook when it comes to making distinctions in the catalog between certain different manifestations. However, this is the type of hook that rare book catalogers have always been on and will remain on.

In fact, one of the factors necessitating a supplementary cataloging code for rare books in the first place was the inadequacy of AACR in distinguishing among different states and issues. And indeed there was no reason for AACR to provide for this level of detail for most general cataloging. For one thing, there is much greater uniformity among books published in the machine-press era. For another thing, even when slight differences do exist among mass-produced books, these differences are less likely to be of particular interest to patrons.

So while descriptive cataloging rules have always placed added emphasis on enabling users to
distinguish among different manifestations, this goal is detailed much more explicitly in DCRM(B)—using FRBR terminology—than it was in DCRB. For example, a keyword search of the latest draft of DCRM(B) yields eighteen hits for the word *manifestation*; the same keyword search in DCRB on Catalogers’ Desktop yields zero hits. (Similarly, the December 2005 draft of part one of RDA contains twenty-four instances of the word, compared with five in the entire text of AACR2.)

Besides a new emphasis on FRBR concepts and terminology, how will DCRM(B) be different from DCRB? As someone who was not involved in the revision process, I hesitate to give anything that may sound like a definitive answer to this question. However, based on a more-than-cursory yet less-than-thorough glance at the zeta draft, I will share a couple of my general impressions.

First, DCRM(B) is much more explicit in its instructions. For example, rule 0F (Language and script of the description) in DCRB is one (short) page. In DCRM, it is three full pages and includes subrules 0F1 (Romanization), 0F2 (Letters, diacritics, and symbols), 0F3 (Punctuation), and 0F4 (Spacing). None of these subrules exists in DCRB.

Second, DCRM(B) seems to be moving even further in the direction of faithfulness to the way information is presented in the book. To this end, certain optional provisions of DCRB, such as using Roman numerals to transcribe dates that appear in that form, are being made mandatory in DCRM(B). Rare book catalogers who already follow these optional provisions may notice little change in the way they catalog. (I was lucky enough to be trained in rare book cataloging by Deborah J. Leslie, chair of the RBMS Bibliographic Standards Committee; she tipped the class off as to which provisions would become mandatory so we would be prepared for DCRM(B).)

Aside from the actual changes in the rare book cataloging rules, perhaps the most interesting thing about them is that the revision is taking place at the same time as the revision of the general cataloging rules. This fact would not be remarkable in itself, were it not for DCRM(B)’s intended compatibility with AACR2 in matters where the rules do not differ for a specific rare-book reason. In fact, the fifth stated principle of DCRM(B) (zeta version) is: “Rules shall conform to the structure and language of the latest revision of AACR2 to the extent possible…”

This raises an obvious question: Will DCRM(B) need to be rewritten (again) in order to provide for compatibility with RDA?

It is probably too early to answer this question. RDA is essentially still in its first draft, if you don’t count AACR3, to which it reportedly bears little resemblance. (The draft of AACR3 was not made public, so I cannot comment first-hand on its resemblance or lack of resemblance to RDA.) Therefore, it is difficult to predict how much the rules will differ from those in AACR2, much less how compatible they will be with DCRM(B).

Structurally, however, RDA is very different from AACR2—and therefore from DCRM(B). One thing that makes DCRB easy to learn for catalogers already familiar with AACR2 is that the organization is so similar. In both, the rules for description are organized by International Standard Bibliographic Description “areas,” and to the extent possible, corresponding rules have corresponding numbers. For example, the general rules on statements of responsibility relating to an edition are under 1.2C1-5 in AACR2 and 2C1-3 in DCRB. While DCRM(B) retains the same numbering system, RDA not only has a different system (all numbers, no letters), but it is no longer organized by “areas.” Will these organizational differences in themselves—assuming that the final versions of both documents resemble the current drafts—necessitate a rewriting of DCRM(B)?

And given that another revision in the near future is a real possibility, why did RBMS go ahead with the revision of DCRM(B) at a time when changes to AACR2 were imminent? The generally cited reason is the length of time required for the revision of AACR2. Rare book catalogers, it was felt, simply could not wait for much-needed new and newly explicit instructions. And in fact, since RDA is not now expected until 2008, that would have been a long time indeed to wait—particularly if RBMS had decided for the final version of RDA before even beginning its revision process. It is also possible that RBMS was anticipating much less
drastic structural changes to AACR2 than now seem likely.

Of course, how all this will eventually affect the daily work of rare book catalogers is hard to guess. What does seem certain is that catalogers of all kinds are in for some interesting changes in the coming years.

Sarah Yates is Foreign Law and Rare Book Cataloger at the University of Minnesota Law Library.

Member News, Recent Acquisitions and Other Activities

Compiled by Patricia Turpening

The George Washington University Law Library’s French Collection is Featured in France Magazine

The Winter 2005-06 issue of France Magazine features an article on the Jacob Burns Law Library’s French Collection. The article is available online: go to www.francemagazine.org/, then click on “Patrimoine.”

France Magazine is an elegant and lavishly-illustrated publication focusing on French culture, society, and business. Published by the French-American Cultural Foundation, it is issued quarterly by the French Embassy in Washington, DC., and distributed to francophiles throughout the world. The French-American Cultural Foundation’s mission is to foster cultural and educational ties between France and North America.

--Submitted by Jennie C. Meade
The George Washington University

Television Features U.S. Courts Library 8th Circuit Archives/History Program

On January 12, 2006, the U.S. Courts Library 8th Circuit’s archives/history program was the subject of an eleven minute segment on the Federal Judicial Center’s “Court to Court” program, a TV magazine for court staff broadcast on the federal judiciary’s television network, FJTN. The segment describes the library’s work to preserve and display the history of the federal courts of the 8th Circuit.

In 1998, the headquarters library in St. Louis became the official repository for the circuit’s non-case archives and now houses the collection in its archives and rare books room. Circuit Librarian Ann Fessenden is curator of the archives collection and Joan Voelker is the part-time Archives Librarian. The library also works on permanent and temporary displays for courthouse learning centers, court events, and public outreach.

The program includes interviews with Ann and Joan in the St. Louis library, showing the archives room, the Blackmun Rotunda (a permanent exhibit on the life of Justice Harry A. Blackmun), and table top displays, and with Suzanne Morrison, Branch Librarian in Fargo, North Dakota, showing the Burdick Room (learning center) and an exhibit celebrating the anniversary of the U.S. Marshals Service.

--Submitted by Joan Voelker
U.S. Court of Appeals, 8th Circuit

The Fred Parks Law Library Celebrates its Half-Millionth Volume!

On Friday, October 21st, 2005, The Fred Parks Law Library of South Texas College of Law celebrated an important milestone, the acquisition of its Half-Millionth Volume. For the occasion, the library acquired two rare books to represent the ceremonial half-millionth and half-millionth and first volumes to be added to the library’s collection. This event was included as part of South Texas’ Founder’s Day, the day each fall when the college celebrates its founding in 1923 by the Houston Y.M.C.A. and some of the most prestigious attorneys in Houston at the time.

For the half-millionth volume, the library acquired a rare first edition of William Blackstone’s Commentaries on the Laws of England, which included the very rare "Supplement to the First Edition." For the half-millionth and first volume, the library acquired an early (1610-11) edition of the Spanish medieval law code, Las Siete Partidas, glossed by important Spanish medieval jurist Gregorio Lopez. With these two books the library was able to honor the two legal systems that have
made Texas law, the Anglo-American common law, and the Roman-Spanish civil law. The acquisition of these two rare books was funded by the Fred and Mabel Parks Foundation of Houston.

The celebration was held in the lobby of the Fred Parks Law Library, with guest speakers South Texas Dean James Alfani, Ann Parks Stallings of the Parks Foundation, Library Director David Cowan, Special Collections Librarian Mark Lambert, and the featured special guest speaker Joseph W. McKnight, Larry and Jane Harlan Faculty Fellow and Professor of Law at the Dedman School of Law, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas.

Professor McKnight, an expert in American Legal History and Family Law, talked briefly about the significance of these two volumes to Texas and legal history, including two interesting pieces of trivia. The first piece of trivia was the fact that the United States symbol for money, the dollar sign ($), was derived from the seal of the Monarchs of Spain, which included two columns wrapped by scrolls. The second bit of trivia was the fact that the New York Stock Exchange's long habit of pricing stocks in eighths, as in 1/8th, 2/8th, etc., was derived from the Spanish system of money, the coin of eight reales, or piece of eight.

Following the guest speakers, a champagne toast was given to the two rare books, and also to deceased library benefactor Fred Parks, and a reception was held in the Fred Parks Law Library lobby. The library's collection now ranks in the top third of all law libraries in the United States, according to the number of volumes.

The two rare books were exhibited in the library lobby until the close of fall semester, and are now housed in the Special Collections Department of the Fred Parks Law Library, along with numerous other significant rare law books, manuscript collections documenting Texas and American legal history, and the historical records of the college.

--Submitted by Mark W. Lambert
South Texas College of Law

Recent Acquisitions of the Special Collections Department, Fred Parks Law Library, South Texas College of Law, January 2006.


Acquired as the Fred Parks Law Library's ceremonial half-millionth volume. This is the very rare first edition with the "Supplement to the First Edition."


The only edition of this 19th century treatise on public maritime law by Rear Admiral Dahlgren, the father of American naval ordinance. The only other holding in Texas is at the SMU Underwood Law Library.


Spain. Las Siete Partidas del Sabio Rey Don Alonso el Nono: Nuevamente Glosadas, por el licenciado Gregorio Lopez. [The Seven Parts of the Wise King Alonso the Ninth; with numerous glosses by the lawyer Gregorio Lopez.] Madrid: Juan Hasrey, 1610-11. 5 volumes. Acquired as the Fred Parks Law Library's ceremonial half-
millionth and first volume. It was first compiled in 1265 and first printed in 1491. This later edition is the preferred edition edited and glossed by famed Spanish jurist Gregorio Lopez.


Submitted by Mark W. Lambert
South Texas College of Law

**Nicholas Triffin Collection at Hamline Law Library**

Do you love law books which have stood the test of time in the physical as well as the scholarly sense? Francis Bacon's *Elements of the Common Lawes of England* in the 1630 publication? Richard Crompton's *L'Authoritie et Jurisdiction des Courts de la Maistrie de la Rougnye* in the 1594 publication? John More's *Laws Resolutions of Women's Rights* in the 1632 publication? How about law books dating from the 1990's but dealing with historical topics?

Hamline Law Library's recently opened Nicholas Triffin Memorial Collection is one place to find these books. Sheltered in protective display cases acquired for the purpose, this compact special and historical collection features numerous law-related books and documents accumulated over the lifetime of former Hamline Law Library Director and Professor Nicholas Triffin.

Professor Triffin's widow Madeleine Wilken and son Robert Triffin donated the material to the library in loving memory of the professor. Professor Triffin was an exceptionally dedicated librarian and attorney who died in 2000 after a long battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Holding undergraduate and law degrees from Yale University, he tried his hand at both private law practice and academic administration before turning his sights to law librarianship. He earned his M.L.S. degree from Rutgers University in 1978 and initially worked in the University of Connecticut Law Library. Later his career took him to posts as law library director at Hamline and at Pace University in New York. Professor Triffin acquired a national reputation and became legendary for his knowledge of legal bibliography and publishing. Madeleine Wilken has retired and resides in Connecticut.

The Triffin Collection reflects extra efforts by the law library's technical services team, including librarians Frances Singh and Dee Dee Narum, in organizing and cataloging the collection. Researchers conveniently may view item records by using the keyword "Triffin" in the Cooperating Libraries in Consortium (CLIC) catalog, after limiting the search to the Hamline Law Library. The search page is found at the following address: [http://clinet.clic.edu/search](http://clinet.clic.edu/search). Also, a bibliography will be made available. Visitors are welcome to enjoy the collection consistent with library policy, but advance notice may be necessary for access.

Submitted by Regina A. Watson
Hamline University

**Mike Widener Becomes Yale's Rare Book Librarian**

Mike Widener, who has headed the Tarlton Law Library's Rare Books & Special Collections for 14 years, is departing on June 30 to become the Rare Book Librarian at the Yale Law Library.

Since Mike Widener came to Tarlton in 1991, he has built its rare book collection into one of the leading collections of its kind in the U.S., in terms of the quality of its collections and its service to faculty, students and the scholarly community. He has built world-class collections of law dictionaries, the works of John Selden, and a unique collection of law-related fine press books.

Mike initiated the Tarlton Law Library Legal History Series and has edited and designed its six
volumes. The website he developed for Tarlton Law Library’s Rare Books & Special Collections, at http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/rare/, is, with the possible exception of Harvard Law Library’s, the most extensive website for any academic law library’s special collections department.

AALL Scholarships Available

The AALL Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the availability of three scholarships to assist individuals in achieving their goal of becoming a law librarian. Applications for each scholarship are available at http://www.aallnet.org/services/scholarships.asp. These scholarships are designed to assist individuals studying to become law librarians with their educational expenses. Application deadline is April 1st, 2006. A brief description of each category available is listed below.

Library Degree for Law School Graduates:
Awarded to a law school graduate working towards a degree in an accredited library school with the intention of having a career as a law librarian.

Library School Graduates Attending Law School:
Awarded to a library school graduate working toward a degree in an accredited law school with the intention of having a career as a law librarian.

Library Degree for Non-Law School Graduates:
Awarded to a college graduate with meaningful law library experience who is a degree candidate in an accredited library school with the intention of having a career as a law librarian.

Library School Graduates Seeking A Non-Law Degree:
Awarded to library school graduates who are degree candidates in a area, other than law, which will be beneficial to the development of a professional career in law librarianship and who intend to have a career as a law librarian.

Law Librarians in Continuing Education Courses:
Awarded to law librarians with a degree from an accredited library or law school who are registrants in continuing education courses related to law librarianship.

AALL & Thomson West - George A. Strait Minority Scholarship Endowment:

The George A. Strait Minority Scholarship is awarded to college graduates with law library experience who are members of a minority group as defined by current U.S. government guidelines and are degree candidates in accredited library or law schools and who intend to have a career in law librarianship.

James F. Connolly LexisNexis(tm) Academic & Library Solutions Scholarship:
The James F. Connolly LexisNexis(tm) Academic & Library Solutions Scholarship is awarded to library school graduates with law library experience who are presently attending an accredited law school with the intention of having a career as a law librarian.

For further information, please go to the website above or contact jenny.kanji@lexisnexis.com.

Did You Know? St. Louis Trivia

This will help you to get ready for the AALL Centennial Celebration in St. Louis.

St. Louis’ McDonnell Douglas Corporation, now Boeing, designed and built the space capsule that carried the first astronauts into space in the 1960’s when the company was known as McDonnell Aircraft.

The Eads Bridge, completed in 1874 over the Mississippi River, was the first arched steel truss bridge in the world. When it was first proposed, it was scoffed at as impossible to build.

The St. Louis Zoo, considered one of the finest and largest in the world, is home to over 6,000 animals on 83 acres in Forest Park. The St. Louis Zoo was a pioneer in the use of open enclosures, placing animals in natural environments without bars. The zoo is again on the cutting edge of technology with the "The Living World" education center. "The Living World" is the first center to use live animals and high technology together to teach about the diversity of life. Admission to the Zoo is free.

The 1904 World’s Fair in St. Louis popularized a number of new foods: The hot dog... the hamburger... the ice cream cone... and iced tea. In
1904, the first Olympiad to be held in the U.S. was held in St. Louis at Washington University's Francis Field.

The Climatron at the Missouri Botanical Garden houses a recreated rain forest filled with plants. The Climatron, built in 1960, was the world's first climate-controlled geodesic dome designed as a greenhouse. The Climatron now uses new E-feron glass to help it use solar energy more efficiently. The Garden also is the site of the largest Japanese Garden in North America.

The Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis (New Cathedral) features what is considered to be the finest and largest collection of mosaics in the world, with one hundred million pieces of stone and glass making up the art works that line its interior.

The first cathedral west of the Mississippi River was built on the St. Louis riverfront. The Old Cathedral still stands there today.

Many of the historic transportation pieces housed at the National Museum of Transport in St. Louis were experimental vehicles in their time, and several are the only examples remaining in existence.

St. Louis is home of the nation's second oldest symphony, which has been touted by experts as one of the best in the country. The St. Louis Symphony celebrates its 127th season in 2006.

Eighteen Nobel laureates have done research at Washington University in St. Louis, including five who received the Nobel Prize for research they conducted there.

Noted St. Louis surgeon Dr. Evarts Graham performed the first lung cancer operation in St. Louis in 1933.

The first United States kindergarten was started in 1873 by Susan Blow in St. Louis.

In 1818, St. Louis University was the first university founded west of the Mississippi River.

In 1856, St. Louis was the site of the first major horse show in the United States.

The Old Courthouse in St. Louis features the first cast iron dome ever built. The historic building was the scene of Dred Scott's 1847 historic freedom trial, which focused national attention on the slavery issue.

The first successful parachute jump from an airplane took place at St. Louis' Jefferson Barracks in 1912.