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## Founders Keepers Newsletter 2018-6-15

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# Founders Keepers

## Comic Book Nook by Sarah Cain

### Upcoming Events

- June 18: Summer Session classes begin
- June 20: All library meeting
- August 9: Civil Service Celebration
- August 24-26: DeKalb Corn Fest

I would like to introduce the Comic Book Nook, which was established in September 2017 by Rare Books and Special Collections. Staff have been working toward breaking the stereotype that one needs a reason, such as doing research, to visit RBSC. We noticed that visitors often walk in the door because they are curi-

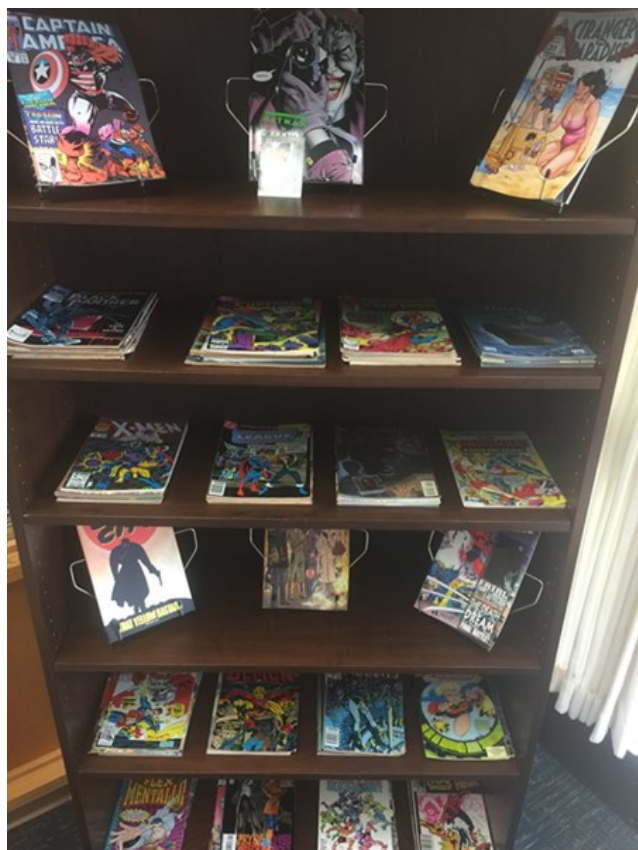
ous about the common press replica. It is our hope to further pique visitor curiosity by bringing to light our Comic Book Nook, a collection that allows visitors to browse, handle, and read anything and everything on the shelves, a degree of freedom not typically expected by our researchers and visitors. The collection is comprised of comics that have been donated and are duplicates of RBSC holdings. While the majority of the comics available to readers are superhero themed, there are also alternative comics dealing with social issues. What is even more exciting about the collection is that it will only continue to grow, and at no cost to the library because all items are acquired by donation.

The Nook is the brainchild of Annie Oelschlager. It resulted from a conversation she and Angie Schroeder had in early 2017 regarding the desire to provide visitors with easier access to comic books in RBSC after

numerous visitors requested to browse the Comic Book Collection. At one point, Angie and Annie considered making a physical list of comic books held in the collection since visitors were often very reluctant to search the online catalog, and yet they felt that this was not a solution to the problem—failure to meet visitor expectations.

The Comic Book Collection has been heavily promoted over the past several years, encouraging people to come see the collection. However, the arrival of excited visitors usually resulted in them leaving upset or disappointed because the comic books were not as accessible as believed. Visitors anticipated being able to walk in and browse shelves of comic books and make their selections as one normally would in a library. Unbeknownst to most visitors, our comic

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## Comic Book Nook (continued)

book collection was stored in archival envelopes by issue within archival boxes in the staff-only area in RBSC (and later moved to the basement making the process even more difficult). In order to read comics, visitors would have to use the catalog to find particular items of interest and their associated call numbers, fill out call slips for each separate title to have the items paged, wait for staff to retrieve the comics and deliver them to the reading room, and then be constantly monitored by staff while they read for pleasure. This is not the most inviting environment, even though there are friendly staff and a window-lit space with natural light—special collections have notoriously been located in basements or windowless corners which only adds to the institutional feel.

One of largest hurdles facing us—and special collections in general—is better management of users' expectations. RBSC collections are not browsable like books found in the public libraries or general stacks at Founders, which is the discovery process familiar to most of our users who want to see the comic books. The Comic Book Nook is our way of better meeting visitor expectations by creating a more welcoming and people-centered space. It allows visitors to browse the shelves, pick up items of interest, and read them in a comfortable, living room-like setting without the constant monitoring that occurs with use of our other materials. Another major hurdle facing special collections is



security concerns (e.g., theft, proper handling, etc.) for the items under their care. To combat this matter, Angie decided against the use of our single issue preservation and research copies in the Comic Book Collection and instead used comics owned in duplicate that were accessioned through (large, multi-issue) donations.

Any and all are welcome to browse the Nook! We have a warm and comfy spot waiting

just for you!

I cannot thank Angie and Annie enough for their ingenuity and their enthusiasm for undertaking challenges facing special collections in the 21st century. So from the bottom of my heart, thank you.

## Tiny Treasure in Rare Books and Special Collections

by Mary Burns

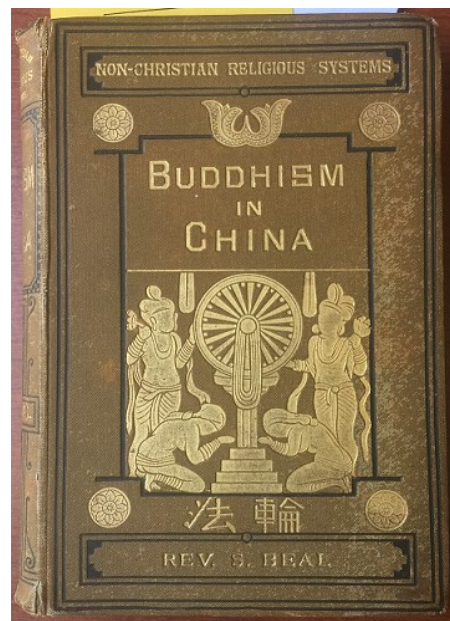
The NIU Rare Books and Special Collections holds many attractive books produced during the nineteenth century for a broader audience that extended beyond the wealthiest classes. Increases in literacy fed a demand for more books and periodicals. Throughout the course of the century the processes associated with book production became mechanized and books could be published for a mass audience. Paper was produced much more cheaply than before and in greater quantities. Publishers issued their books bound in cloth bindings instead of leaving them in sheets for their new owners to take to a binder. Books were also issued in parts to make it easier for those of more humble means to purchase them. More books could be illustrated with the less expensive processes of wood-engraving and lithography. Later in the nineteenth century, color illustrations were made using the process of chromolithography. *Buddhism in China* (1884) written by the Reverend Samuel Beal possesses many of the characteristics that make these books so appealing.

Samuel Beal (1825-1889) was a prominent nineteenth century sinologist. He was the first Englishman to translate the early records of Buddhism directly from the Chinese originals. The son of a Wesleyan minister, he graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge in 1847. He became a priest in 1852 and served as a naval chaplain. From 1856-1858 he served aboard the H.M.S. Sybille during the Second Opium War (1856-1860). The Sybille was sent to the China station where Beal spent his free time studying the Chinese language. He became so proficient he was

**Publishers issued their books bound in cloth bindings instead of leaving them in sheets for their new owners to take to a binder.**

able to act as the naval interpreter during the war. After he retired from the navy in 1877 he served three different parishes as rector. Also in 1877, he was appointed professor of Chinese at the University College of London. Beal's distinguished reputation was cemented with the publication of a series of works on the travels of Chinese Buddhist pilgrims in India from the fifth to the seventh century A.D., along with his books on Buddhism. His travel writings of Chinese Buddhist monks who journeyed to India over the centuries are especially important. These works played a vital role in the discovery of many archaeological sites from the time of the Buddha. In 1885 the University of Durham conferred the degree of Doctor of Civil Law (D.C.L.) upon him in recognition of his many contributions to research in Chinese Buddhism. Since Beal was not a missionary his studies in eastern religions were not directed towards converting non-Christians. Rev. Beal died, unmarried, at the rectory, Greens Norton, Northampton in 1889, the last parish he served.

Beal's *Buddhism in China* was printed and published in London by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. It was issued as a part of their series, "Non-Christian Religious Systems." The SPCK, the oldest Anglican mission organization, was



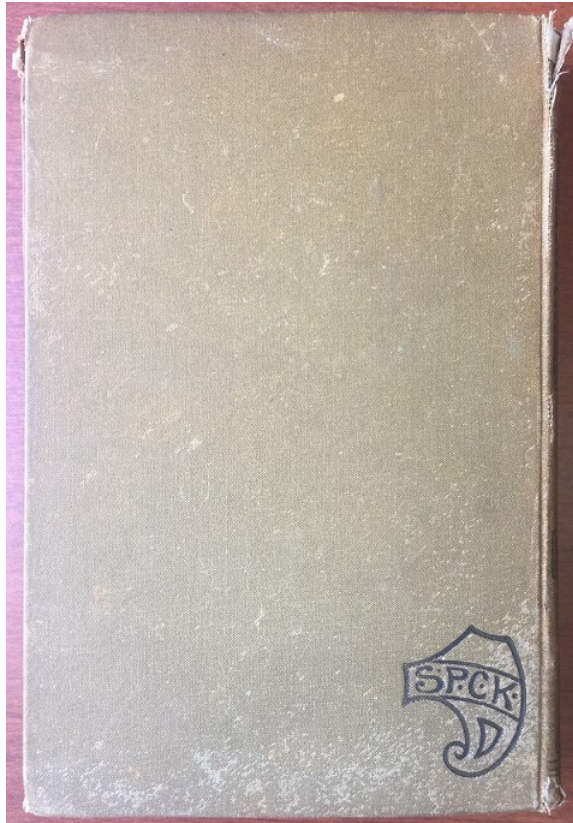
Front Cover

founded in 1698 to provide religious literature for people who did not have access to libraries and to promote the establishment of charity schools. The brown cloth publisher's binding is decorated with black and gold embossed designs. The gold embossed features include Chinese characters, two worshippers, two Buddhist priests and a 24 Patthāna. The back cover has a black embossed motif with "S.P.C.K." Publisher's bindings first began to appear in the 1820s. The printers, Wyman and Sons, were located on Great Queen Street in Lincoln's-Inn fields, a district rich in social, historical and literary associations. According to *Wyman's Commercial Encyclopaedia of Leading Manufacturers of Great Britain* (1888) the firm was known for the quality of its Oriental printing and producing periodical publications. The title page imprint gives Brighton as the second place

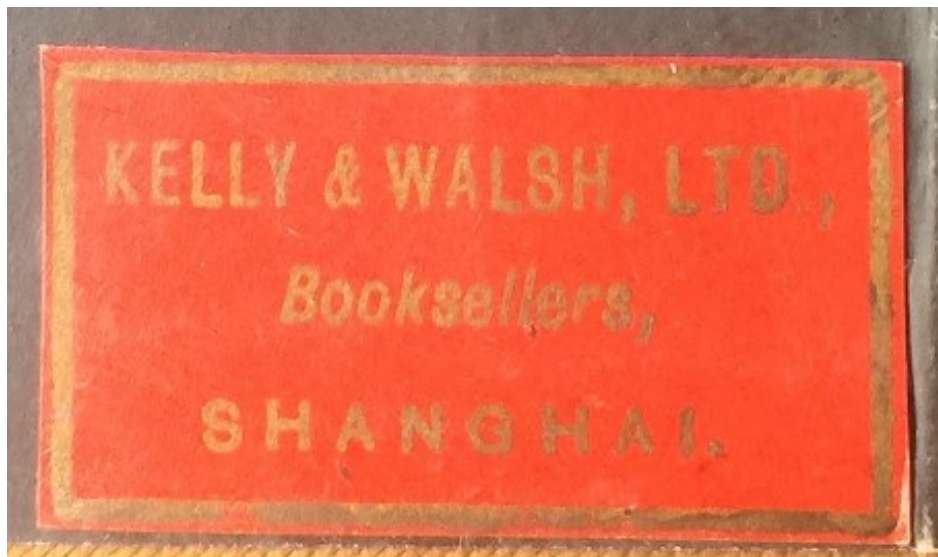
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## Tiny Treasure (continued)

of publication. The city became known as "London by the Sea" after the development of the railways made it possible for people to make day trips from London. Beal's work was made available in the United States by the New York publisher E. & J.B. Young & Co. Edwin and James B. Young had been grocers and distillers when they joined James Pott in 1871 forming Pott, Young & Co. They operated a retail bookstore that originally specialized in books for church but started to publish religious books. There is one illustration, a folded lithographed map of China, the Pacific Islands and the Middle East printed by Stanford's Geographical Establishment. Edward Stanford Sr. (1827-1904) started the business and by the end of the nineteenth century it became the largest and best mapmaker and publisher in London. The inside front cover of the NIU RBSC copy has a bookseller's label attached to it. The small, plain red label outlined in black belongs to "Kelly & Walsh, LTD., booksellers, Shanghai." Founded in 1876, Kelly and Walsh was a Shanghai-based publisher that was known for its English language books. The inside back cover has a large bookplate belonging to the NIU Center for Burma Studies. It is covered by a label identifying Professor David Steinberg as the donor. Steinberg is a Distinguished Professor of Asian Studies Emeritus at Georgetown University and a specialist on Burma-Myanmar, the Korean Peninsula, Southeast Asia and US policy in Asia.



Back cover



Seller's Sticker

## Music in the Park by Sarah Holmes

Looking for something to occupy your Tuesday evenings this summer? Well, look no further. Your favorite Music Cataloger (that's Sarah H. if you weren't sure) will be performing with the DeKalb Municipal Band Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m. at Hopkins Park in the Dee Palmer Band Shell! What could possibly be better than spending an evening swatting away bugs and listening to some good old band music, you ask? Well, watching a large group of people play that band music while wearing bow ties and tux jackets in the summer heat while trying not to inhale bugs, that's what. It can be an enjoyable evening for all.

Listed below are the all the dates, and the themes of some of the concerts. If you only attend one performance this year you should make it the August 7<sup>th</sup> *Musical Trip Around the World* concert as this will be your one and only chance to hear Sarah (that music cataloger we talked about earlier) be the featured piccolo soloist. This is a big deal. She doesn't get that screechy, erm...lovely piccolo out for just anyone, but she will on August 7<sup>th</sup>! If you don't know what a piccolo is come and find out.

"Piccolo? You mean PiccoLOVE!" – *Rolling Stone magazine*

"Band shells are way better than peanut shells!" – *Mr. Peanut*

"Being a vocal soloist with this band is on my bucket list" – [Your favorite singer]

"My biggest regret is not having the DeKalb Municipal Band play at my wedding" – *Prince Harry*

"Presidents Own? Eh, they're nothing compared to the DeKalb Municipal Band. I wish I could be inaugurated again, just to have them play!" – *Barack Obama*

"Ditto" – *George W. Bush*

### June

12 Opening Night!

19

26

### July

4 A Star Spangled Spectacular! (includes fireworks)

10

17 A Tribute to Broadway and the Silver Screen!

24

31 A Special Children's Concert!

### August

5 Elwood House Ice cream Social @ 2:30 p.m.

7 A Musical Trip Around the World! (Sarah H. piccolo solo)

14



## News from the Southeast Asia Collection by Hao Phan

From May 7 to 23, I traveled to Myanmar, Cambodia, and Vietnam to teach two library workshops and acquire library materials for the Southeast Asia Collection.

The two three-day workshops in Myanmar, held at Yangon University from May 9 to 11, and Yadanabon University from May 14 to 16, focusing on open access (OA), provided training to about 60 library professionals and staff. The workshops are part of a consortium project between the University of Washington, Arizona State University, and Northern Illinois University, funded by the Henry Luce Foundation, to assist academic libraries in Myanmar in preserving research materials in the country and making them accessible to researchers in America.



National Archives in Myanmar

The teaching team includes Elizabeth Bedford and Anne Graham from the University of Washington, Ralph Gabbard from Arizona State University, and myself. In the workshops, we introduced to the audience concepts of OA, copyright, what it means to be a reputable OA journal, outreach practices for OA, institutional repositories, and

DSpace. My presentations were on Create Commons, Rights Statement, and the publishing industry in Myanmar.

Copyright, in particular copyright concerning academic publishing, is almost a novelty to authors and librarians in Myanmar. On the one hand, authors don't pay attention to their rights over their publications.

On the other hand, book piracy is a serious problem in the country, including the illegal reproduction of literature, text books, and research publications for commercial purposes. Illegitimate copies of books, for instance, are displayed openly in the major bookstores in Yangon. The copyright law in Myanmar, which up to early 2018 was still based on the Copyright Act 1914 of the British colonial government, did not cover patents, industrial designs, trademarks, software, and of course digital content. More importantly, the law is rarely enforced. In the context of copyright in Myanmar, thus, the concept of open access might appear unnecessary, and at the same time, suspicious as a form of exploiting intellectual property. It is



Workshop at Yadanabon University 2018

*Continued page 7*

## News from the Southeast Asia Collection (continued)

crucial to address these misconceptions while discussing copyright and open access in Myanmar. Decades of isolation and information control under the military rule have made the task of gaining access to research materials in Myanmar a challenge today. The National Archives of Myanmar, for instance, has been digitizing many records from the

British colonial period (1824-1948) but does not want to share them on the internet, in spite of the fact that, by law, only records since 1962, the year when the military junta took power in the country, are still off limits. With further training and financial support for libraries in Myanmar, hopefully more research materials in Myanmar will be made available online in the

near future.

Apart from teaching the workshops, my trip was also for library acquisitions. I collected books, CDs, DVDs, maps, government and non-government publications from Myanmar, Cambodia, and Vietnam. This part of the trip, including travel expenses and book purchases, was provided by the NIU Center for Southeast Asian Studies.



Workshop at Yangon University 2018