

EXHIBITS

Department of Special and Area Studies Collections

Smathers Library second floor gallery
Open Monday through Friday,
9:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.

THE BROADWAY MELODY: Musical Theatre Highlights from the Great White Way 1900-1950

Through April 30, 2010

At the turn of the 20th century, the Broadway musical theatre was an amalgam of European operettas, minstrels and ethnic stereotypes. Eventually this innocent patchwork quilt of entertainment would evolve into a more sophisticated product and, by the second decade, Broadway was the entertainment capital of America, and possibly the world. The creators, performers and productions of the period are showcased in a series of exhibit cases representing Florenz Ziegfeld (who epitomized the flamboyant Broadway impresario) and a handful of the legendary composers (George, M. Cohan, Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Richard Rodgers, Lorenz Hart, Oscar Hammerstein II, Eubie Blake and Thomas “Fats” Waller) who, with their poetic words and lilting music, shaped the modern musical theatre into the taste maker of the nation. Until Broadway was overshadowed by Hollywood as the entertainment of choice, it was the theatre that produced the most fashionable dress styles, the latest dance steps, the snappiest jokes and slang, and the popular hit parade for most of the half century.

The exhibit presents a rare selection of playbills, programs, posters, sheet music, photographs, video images and miscellaneous ephemera from the vast theatre holdings of the Belknap Collection for the Performing Arts and the general Popular Culture Collections of the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections. The exhibit gallery spotlight will fall on many of the giants



of theatre history (some still household words and others now forgotten by the general public) including Ethel Merman, Al Jolson, Ray Bolger, Alfred Drake, Paul Robeson, Mary Martin, Helen Morgan, Josephine Baker, Fred and Adele Astaire, Ethel Waters, Eddie Cantor, William Gaxton and Victor Moore, Bert Williams, Bob Hope, The Nicholas Brothers, Marilyn Miller, Fanny Brice, Danny Kaye and Gene Kelly. The annual “Follies” (1907-31) of the master showman, Ziegfeld, is represented by a rich potpourri of comedy, music, beauty and enduring star performances.

The milestones of the era beginning with Cohan’s “Little Johnny Jones” (1904) through the theatrical masterpieces of “Showboat” (1927) and “Porgy and Bess” (1935), the smash hit all-black musicals such as “Shuffle Along” (1921) and “Hot Chocolates” (1929), the audience’s shocked reaction to the antihero of “Pal Joey” (1940) and culminating in the impact of “Oklahoma” (1943), which redefined the Broadway musical and set the stage for the “Golden Age of Musical Comedy” (1943-64), are all displayed in a collection of vibrant and vintage souvenirs from the history of the “street of dreams.”

This iridescent, melodic and entertaining exhibit will run through April 30. For more information call the Department of Special and Area

Studies Collections at (352) 273-2759
or visit the Belknap website at: <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/spec/belknap/belknap.html>

Jim Liversidge
Popular Culture Collections

Marston Science Library

Second floor

Places & Spaces – Mapping Science

Through April 30, 2010

Curated by Dr. Katy Börner, Victor H. Yngve Professor of Information Sciences, School of Library and Information Science at Indiana University Bloomington, the exhibition features a variety of maps, diagrams and globes designed to create a navigable landscape charting developments in science. “Places & Spaces” is meant to inspire cross-disciplinary discussion on how to best track and communicate human activity as well as scientific progress on a global scale.

The “Places & Spaces” exhibit demonstrates the power of maps to navigate and make sense of physical places and abstract topic spaces. University students might use maps to see how well a syllabus covers a field’s major topic(s); researchers may be inspired by the maps to seek out different avenues of obtaining scholarly information, thus enhancing their research activities; and faculty members may see teaching opportunities on a scale they had not previously envisioned

Each year since 2005 ten new maps have been added, which will result in 100 maps by the year 2014. MSL is displaying the first 50 maps which includes “The Power of Maps,” “The Power of Reference Systems,” “The Power of Forecasts,” “Science Maps for Economic Decision Makers,” and “Science Maps for Science Policy Makers.” The “Illuminated Diagram” display combines the high data density

of two large prints – a map of the world and a map of science – with the flexibility of an interactive program driving a touch panel display and two projectors that illuminate the maps. Touching a science area on the lectern's touch screen leads to an illumination of the origin of all papers on the selected scientific topic in the geographic map.

The World processor globes bring dimensionality to three diverse views of scientific inquiry and global diffusion. Foreign U.S. patent holders are represented in a relationship scaled by productivity; worldwide patent grants are plotted on a global scale through history, and geomorphic representations of areas of exceptional innovation and productivity; finally, science itself is shaped into sculptural form that is generated from the proximity of scientific fields of research to each other.

A reception serving light refreshments will be held at MSL on Thursday, March 18 from 3:15 to 6:00 p.m. During the reception “The Story of Science Maps” will be presented by Börner. Also featured are Dr. Robert Hatch, UF associate professor of history, and Jason Harrington from the UF graduate school of mathematics.

“Places & Spaces” exhibitions have also been held at Stanford University, University of Alberta, Institute for Research Information and Quality Assurance in Bonn, Germany, National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C., Storm Hall, San Diego State University and WDG Architecture, Washington, D.C.

The online counterpart at <http://scimaps.org/> provides links to a selected series of maps and their makers along with detailed explanations of why these maps work.

Kerry Britt
Marston Science Library

“My dear foolish Zelma”: Smathers Libraries acquires important early letter from Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings to Cross Creek Trial nemesis Zelma Cason

An important letter detailing the nature of the tumultuous relationship between Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and Island Grove resident Zelma Cason has been donated to the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Papers in the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections at George A. Smathers Libraries.

The letter was donated by Lakeland resident Billy Townsend, the grand-nephew of Kate Walton who was part of the legal team that represented Cason in her 1943-1947 libel/invasion of privacy suit against Rawlings. In her 1942 best-selling memoir *Cross Creek*, Rawlings had characterized Cason as: “an ageless spinster resembling an angry and efficient canary,” which precipitated the suit. Townsend is planning to write a book relating his aunt’s perspective on the famous Cross Creek trial.

The hand-written letter, dated September 21, 1933 was written on board the S.S. Minnewaska as Rawlings was returning to Florida after vacationing in England. In it, Rawlings proffers a gesture of reconciliation with her friend, Zelma Cason. Apparently, Rawlings had made a disparaging remark to Zelma’s brother about her “vicious little tongue”, and Zelma was not speaking to Marjorie. Here is the somewhat suspect olive branch extended by Marjorie:

My dear foolish Zelma, the thought of coming back to another long grind of hard work with you refusing to be a friend, is very painful to me... It doesn't seem like Alachua County with you looking at me as if you wished I would drop dead....

This letter is a significant addition to the Rawlings Papers in that it is the only piece of direct correspondence between the two women to be found in the archive. Predating any of the legal squabbles between them by almost ten years; it indicates that the seeds of contention between the two women may have been sown long before the unflattering characterization published in *Cross Creek* came out in print.

For more information, and to read this fascinating letter in its entirety, please contact the MKR Collection curator, Florence M. Turcotte at turcotte@ufl.edu, or visit the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections on the second floor of Smathers Library.

Elegance of Science art contest winners announced

Winners of the second annual “Elegance of Science” art contest were announced at a reception on February 25 at Marston Science Library. The winning artworks will be on display in the Marston Science Library and the Health Science Center Library. All of the entries can be viewed at www.uflib.ufl.edu/msl/art/slideshow2009.html. The contest is sponsored by the Marston Science Library and the UF Alumni Association, in partnership with the Health Science Center Libraries and the Architecture and Fine Arts Library.

1st place: *Mycorrhizas in Full Color* by Megan M. Smith

2nd place: *Orderly Destruction* by Hannah Vander Zanden

3rd place: *Fatal Attraction: When the Immune System Goes Bad* by Yaima Luzardo and Clayton E. Mathews

Honorable Mention: *Roads of Graphene* by Victor V. Albert

Alumni Award: *Lightning Over the Rappahannock* by Wes Marston



Mycorrhizas in Full Color by Megan M. Smith, the first place winner.