

Robert Burns Collection Development Policy

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I. Introduction

The Robert Burns Collection was acquired through the efforts of Alice Louise Reynolds from Mr. and Mrs. Robert Forrester in 1927. Mrs. Forrester, who was a retired librarian of the Salt Lake Public Library, gave this gift anonymously, requesting that her identity not be revealed until after her death. The original acquisition consisted of 521 volumes. Since that time, the Harold B. Lee Library has supplemented the collection by acquiring additional items by and about Robert Burns.

II. Position Responsible for Collecting Decisions

The Curator of Rare Books is responsible for collecting the material contained in the Robert Burns Collection.

III. Scope and Focus of Collecting

The Robert Burns Collection is comprised of primary and secondary works relating to the life and career of poet Robert Burns. The collection supports teaching and research through the Ph.D. level in 18th century British Literature, Romantic Literature, and Scottish Literature.

IV. Priorities and Limitations

a. Priorities

i. Areas of Specialization

The Robert Burns Collection seeks to collect editions of Burns' poetry and correspondence and secondary sources on Burns, his life, and his works, including criticism and reference works. The Burns Collection also collects printed works which illustrate the poet's legacy in popular culture and the poet's relationship to Scottish national identity from Burns' death in 1796 to the present day.

ii. Major Faculty Research Interests

The Robert Burns Collection supports current faculty research interests in Romantic literature, and to a lesser extent, Scottish literature.

b. Limitations

The Robert Burns Collection is primarily a print collection and time and financial resources will be devoted to developing print holdings only. For example, while the Robert Burns Collection contains song tunes and lyrics collected by Burns (*The Scots Musical Museum*), the collection excludes sound recordings.

V. General Selection Guidelines

a. Treatment of Subject Depth

Special Collections seeks to collect for and maintain the Robert Burns Collection at a level which supports undergraduate and graduate-level teaching and research.

b. Specific Delimitations

i. Type

Collected at a comprehensive level: British and American editions of works by Robert Burns; facsimiles of Burns' manuscripts and first editions.

Collected at a research level: Secondary works about Robert Burns, including biography and criticism; adaptations and parodies; and depictions in popular culture. Artists' books and fine press editions of Burns' poems.

Collected selectively: Secondary works on contemporaries of Robert Burns which devote major portions to discussion of the life and work of Robert Burns; print works illustrating Burns' impact on Scottish tourism.

Collected minimally: Translations of Burns' works into languages other than English/Scots English, editions of works by predecessors and contemporaries of Burns (e.g., Ramsay, Sillar, Ferguson).

ii. Physical Format

Collected at a research level: Monographs, periodical issues. Ephemera.

Collected at a representative level: Musical settings of Burns' poems (*Scots' Musical Museum*; Thomson's *Select Collection of Original Scottish Airs*) are only collected in their earliest editions or in scholarly editions. Reprints (including print-on-demand editions) of secondary works are added to the collection only if the original cannot be obtained for the collection.

Excluded: Manuscripts, sound recordings, sheet music, realia, ebooks.

iii. Date

Subject to limitations outlined above, any imprint date is collected, but generally 1787-present.

iv. Geographical focus

Collected at a research level: Materials published in the United States and United Kingdom (especially Scotland).

Collected at a teaching level: Materials published elsewhere in the world.

v. Subject Emphasis

Collected at a research level:

Robert Burns: poetry, correspondence, biography, criticism and interpretation, sources, bibliography.

Collected at a teaching level:

Robert Burns: appreciation, contemporaries, homes and haunts, including the commercial appropriation and sentimentalization of Burns' legacy and writings. Ayrshire, Scotland tourism and "The land of Burns." Contemporaries and imitators of Burns.

vi. Languages

Collected at a research level: English, Scots English.

Collected at a teaching level: Languages other than English or Scots English.

VI. Deaccessioning Guidelines

The Curator of Rare Books will make proposals to deaccession materials to the Special Collections Coordinating Committee. Materials may be deaccessioned if they do not comply with the Robert Burns Collection collecting policy or if they are duplicates of material already in the collection.

VII. Cooperation with other Institutions

The Curator of Rare Books is responsible for collecting the material contained in the Robert Burns Collection. The English Language & Literature librarian is responsible for collecting duplicate copies of works by and about Robert Burns for the general stacks. This is done with coordination and cooperation on the part of the two librarians. Fine press editions of Burns's works are acquired in consultation with the Curator of the Fine Press Collection.

VIII. Revisions

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