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The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library

— NEWSLETTER —

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Friends have successfully completed another year of support to the McDermott Library Special Collections Branch with our contractors' assistance. Amanda Hess's innovative efficiency as our Business Manager has reduced our costs with the promise of even more savings in the future. Aaron Wilson achieved full certification as an archivist. His full-time archival efforts now include both document and audio-visual collections. Aaron's priorities are guided by Dr. Hebert's goals for enhancing Special Collections. Since January 2020 The Friends' contractors have inventoried and evaluated 2,158 collections and 451 new accessions, completely processed 334 collections, and over 7,642 AV items. Significant unprocessed items backlogs remain in both areas. With your continued support we look forward to contributing this additional margin of excellence to the McDermott Library Special Collections in the coming year.

Please enjoy the rest of this newsletter that once again identifies some "gems" of the library's collections. Also included are reports from the interim Director of the Library, Col. Dave Buchanan, whom we have enjoyed working with and from Dr. Joel Hebert, Chief of Special Collections.

The Friends' only fund-raising activities are via the form accompanying this newsletter and our annual holiday letter in November. We are encouraged by the increased level of donations driven largely by patrons using qualified charitable donations from retirement and donor advised funds. These

activities raise about 10 percent of our annual budget. The rest of our annual support is funded by the income from a bequest several years ago from Maj. Gen. USAF (Ret) Richard A. Yudkin's estate. To include The Friends in your will or estate plan, our contact details are on the enclosed form.

Our annual luncheon this year will be held on May 21 at the Academy Club. I am pleased to announce that the Academy Superintendent, Lieutenant General Tony D. Bauernfeind, has accepted our invitation to be our luncheon speaker. Before assuming command of the Academy last August, Gen Bauernfeind served as the commander of Air Force Special Operations Command. He is a 1991 graduate of the Academy, and he returns at this time of consequence to develop the next generation of combat leaders. In our rapidly changing environment, we are excited to hear directly from the Academy's leadership. If you are in the area at the time, we would be delighted to welcome you to join our other patrons for the event. A link to the reservation form is at the bottom of this page.

We look forward to another year of increasing the McDermott Library's capabilities for original source research and greatly improving cadet, faculty, and researcher digital access to the wonderful collections. If you are interested in becoming involved in this effort at any level, or if you have items to donate, please contact us at:

<https://www.friends.usafalibrary.com/>

The Friends Annual Luncheon will be held on 21 May 2025

Use the enclosed RSVP form or visit EventBrite: [FOTL-Luncheon2025.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/FOTL-Luncheon2025)

Gems of Special Collections

Aaron Wilson

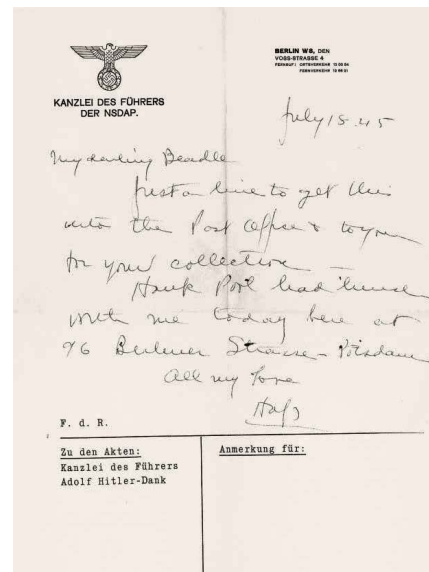
THE HENRY H. ARNOLD COLLECTION

The Clark Special Collections has an extraordinary collection that includes over 500 letters between General Hap Arnold, his family, friends, and military peers. Henry H. "Hap" Arnold (1886–1950) was an American aviation pioneer and military leader, holding the 5-star ranks of General of the Army and later General of the Air Force. These letters showcase the major events in General Arnold's life from his time as a U.S. Military Academy cadet (Class of 1907) to his retirement years. These letters describe serving in the Philippines from 1907-1909, receiving pilot training from Orville Wright, training new pilots in the Army Air Service, being the first pilot to carry air mail, and the first flights from the lower 48 States to Alaska. They highlight significant experiences as General of the Air Force and his work with national defense after his retirement.

In addition to the letters this collection contains numerous photographs, writings, and other artifacts produced by or bestowed on General Arnold. A significant highlight is a draft manuscript of General Arnold's autobiography, *Global Mission*, containing numerous corrections and annotations made by General Arnold prior to publication. The materials in the collection demonstrate General Arnold's roles as a leader, mentor, father, and loving spouse.

Altogether it constitutes a unique resource for any researcher interested in the life of General Arnold, early aviation, and World War II.

This collection has been made possible through the generous donations of Mr. Robert Bruce Arnold, General Arnold's grandson. The Friends contractors have helped preserve the collection in accordance with Special Collection's current archival best practices and policies, and developed a digital finding aid searchable by cadets and other researchers.



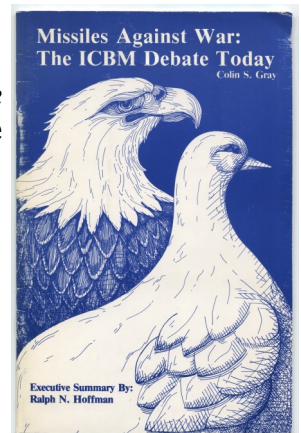
General Arnold wrote this letter to his wife on Nazi stationery in Berlin after Victory Europe Day.

THE RICHARD LEHNER ICBM COLLECTION

The Richard Lehner ICBM Collection details the modernization of the Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles program from 1962 until 1991. The collection features materials arguing for the continuation of ICBM programs and emphasizes the debates that occurred in the 1980s as the Reagan Administration pushed to increase the capabilities of the U.S. ICBM arsenal.

This collection highlights internal government conversations that occurred as the Cold War grew in intensity in the 1980s, with materials such as National Security Advisor Robert McFarlane's 1985 briefing book for the Vice President and Cabinet Secretaries. This briefing book sought to prepare all key members of the Reagan Administration for upcoming talks between President Reagan and Soviet Premier Gorbachev. Additionally, the collection showcases arguments for and against the expansion

of ICBM programs with the inclusion of numerous news articles and political cartoons. Within the collection, the debate is deeply analyzed with publications, such as Colin Gray's booklet, *Missiles Against War: The ICBM Debate Today*. The Richard Lehner ICBM Collection grants researchers the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of Strategic Defense initiatives and the second half of the Cold War.

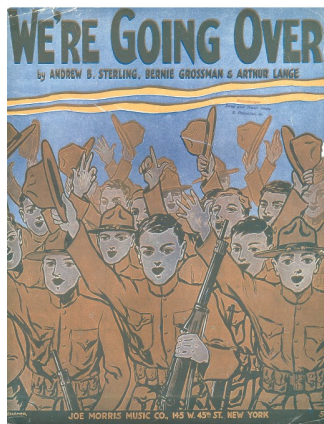


Colin S. Gray's booklet from 1985 engaging with the debate over expanding ICBM programs.

THE MARIE SCRUGGS COLLECTION

The Marie Scruggs Collection was recently processed at the McDermott Library by Friends contractors and includes 144 sheet music publications produced between 1905 and 1984. This sheet music significantly consists of patriotic music produced during World War I and World War II. Some of the highlights from this collection of music include: “We’re Going Over,” an anthem for American soldiers preparing to deploy to France in 1917, and “America Here’s My Boy,” a ballad for mothers grieving sending their sons to war.

In addition to the patriotically themed songs, the collection contains Irish and German folk music introduced to the United States during nineteenth century migration waves. Most pieces of sheet music within this collection have artwork covers that reflect the decade in which they were produced. This artwork conveys numerous topics including young romance, patriotism, and grief. The Marie Scruggs Collection is ideal for researchers engaged with the first half of the twentieth century in the United States or music historians generally.



Andrew Sterling, Bernie Grossman and Arthur Lange co-wrote “We’re Going Over” in 1917

Andrew Sterling and Arthur Lange co-wrote “America Here’s My Boy” in 1917



UPDATE ON THE FRIENDS HONOR BOOK COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM

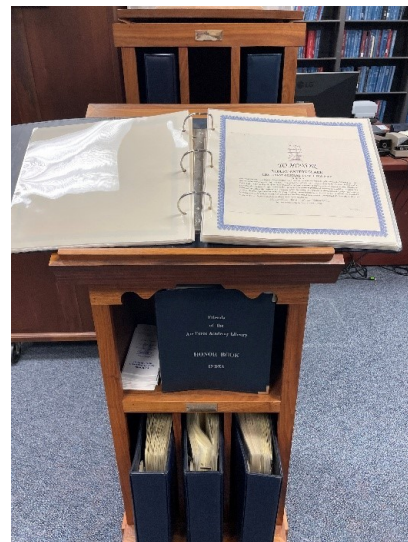
Paul E. Pirog

The Friends offers a special opportunity for those who wish to honor individuals, organizations, or groups of individuals. For a donation of \$50 or more, a handsome certificate will be placed in The Friends’ Honor Book. The Honor Book is displayed in a prominent location in the Clark Special Collections of the McDermott Library where it is readily accessible to cadets/faculty/staff, and to visitors by special arrangement.

This is an ideal way to give special, permanent recognition to a classmate, fellow crewmembers, a friend, a team, or an organization of special importance to you. The honored need not be military or deceased to be commemorated with an Honor Book Certificate. To date, more than 1,200 individuals, units, and organizations have been commemorated. Honorees include participants in virtually every American conflict as well as a wide variety of other people to include Academy faculty/staff and spouses, USAFA cadets, and graduates; personnel from other services; and family members and friends. The database of current honorees is now contained in a searchable Excel data spreadsheet which is located on The Friends’ website at: https://www.usafalibrary.com/support_images/honor_book_index.pdf.

Please consider participating in our Commemorative Program by completing and submitting the Honor Book Commemoration Application Form also located on The Friends’ website at: https://www.usafalibrary.com/support_images/honor_book_application.pdf.

Thank you for honoring those who are special to you and for your generosity.



CLARK SPECIAL COLLECTIONS IN THE CURRICULUM

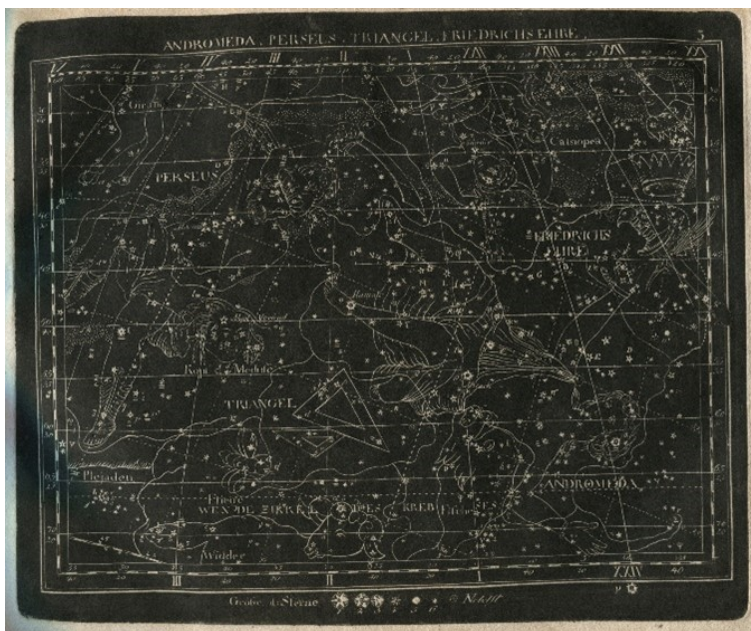
Dr. Joel Hebert, Chief of Special Collections

Over the past year, Special Collections staff have continued to make deep inroads with faculty as we work to spread the word about how we can best support cadet education. These connections have allowed us to leverage exciting archival materials in the curriculum in innovative ways.

As we endeavor to streamline instruction across the library, my staff and I have collaborated with the four research librarians who serve as liaisons to each of USAFA's academic divisions: humanities, social sciences, basic sciences, and engineering. Faculty now know that they can request traditional information literacy sessions from one of the research librarians and then pair that instruction with a visit to the archives. This model has proven extremely successful, as the combination of library and archives instruction often works to entice faculty to tack on a visit to Special Collections when they might not have previously thought of us.

As a result, we were happy to host Lt Col Benjamin Roth's Physics 371: Astronomy course to the archives in August 2024. Lt Col Roth's cadets used our extensive book collection on early studies of the cosmos, ranging from Galileo to Descartes and Newton, and including some of the rarest star charts ever published. We organized these resources into

three stations: *Navigating the Heavens*, *Celestial Motion*, and *Stargazing*. Cadets then worked through these stations with support from a librarian or archivist, engaging with the books and using them as a foundation to discuss the development of the scientific method and how knowledge built up over time.



The *Neuester Himmels Atlas* (1803) by Christian Friedrich Goldbach was one of the first published guides of the night sky to feature white stars printed in relief against a black background using an engraving method with copper plates.

UPDATE FROM THE MCDERMOTT LIBRARY'S DIRECTOR

David A. Buchanan, Col., USAF

Hello from McDermott! It's been a pleasure to serve as the interim Director following Diane Klare's retirement in July. The last several months have seen a lot of changes with personnel, but I am pleased to report that the modernization project is moving along with a potential start date in late 2026 followed by three 18-month construction phases that include a large reduction in our physical collection. We have been diligently assessing circulation data and other factors to determine where those cuts will happen. In all, this means that we will reduce our general collection from roughly 425,000 volumes to 200,000. Many items have never circulated, ever.

The architectural design is 100 percent complete and presents an exciting new layout of the entire space. The projected cost is around \$111M. Notably, our Special Collections will be expanded onto the third floor with an exhibit hall leading to its main entrance under the spiral stair. We will also incorporate space for the Academic Success Center and the Martinson Honors Program on the upper levels.

The staff and I remain dedicated to providing world-class library services to cadets and faculty and we thank The Friends of the Library for their support!