

FRBR Summary Description

The following information may be used to introduce inquirers to the Fine and Rare Book Room.

Fine & Rare Book Room

- **History:** Hunt Library, 1960. FRBR founded in 1964 by Rachel & Roy Hunt
 - One of smaller Special Collections including 10,000 volumes, but contains many gems and is largely made up of gifts. Interdisciplinary collection (Arts, Sciences, even Computer Science, etc...)
 - Collection core began with 3,000 of Mrs. Hunt's non-botanical books
 - Highlights: History of Printing, Book Arts, Bookbinding
- **Criteria for books:** very old (American pre-1850; European pre-1800), scarce, fragile, or association with someone famous (e.g. Dr. Herbert Simon)
 - *Oldest:* illuminated manuscript on parchment from around 1370 from northern Italy with psalms, songs and readings for Advent
 - *Most valuable:* First Folio of Shakespeare, 1623
 - *Most Intriguing:* Jeweled binding
- **Major Donor:** *Charles Rosenbloom*
 - Pittsburgh philanthropist & donor of music, 1974. Member of Pittsburgh Bibliophiles. Donations spread between Yale University, Univ. of Jerusalem, Carnegie Tech and his wife.
 - Two Beethoven sonatas, Opus 47 (1804) and Opus 96 (1816)
 - First four folio editions of Shakespeare's plays
 - 1518 copy of first complete Bible, printed/ published in Greek
 - Richard Wagner's *Lohengrin*, (1852) - only located copy
 - 1st Editions of : Frankenstein, Huck Finn, Moby Dick
- **First FRBR Librarian:** *Anne Skoog*
 - Studied at Yale, where trained by the best in Special Collections. Helped plan FRBR and remained librarian for 36 years.
 - Received major Rosenbloom gift as well as gift of Posner Memorial Collection in 1978. Mrs. Posner highly admired Miss Skoog's love of books. Upon retiring, she returned on a part-time basis and taught current Special Collections Librarian, Mary Kay Johnsen
- **Special Collections**
 - *Kate Greenaway* - children's book illustrator
 - *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*
 - *Thomas Bell manuscripts and papers* - author, *Out of this Furnace*
 - *Arnold Bank Collection of Calligraphy books*
 - *Posner Memorial Collection* - history of science
 - *Artists' Books*
 - *Special Topics:* Fine Printing/ Swiss Posters
 - *Dr. Herbert Simon*
- **Room Objects/ Furniture**
 - Crucifix – Salvador Dali
 - 3 Glasses & Flag - Andrew Carnegie's Skibo Castle in Scotland
 - Yellow chairs around round table - Jens Risom originals (Danish-Modern designer)