Celebration of Cellist Raya Garbousova by Sarah Holmes

On what would have been her 110th birthday, the Northern Illinois University Libraries and the Friends of the NIU Libraries will be hosting an event to celebrate and honor the life of former NIU faculty member, Raya Garbousova, world-renowned cellist, and her contributions to the world of music.

At 5pm on September 25, the Founders Gallery of the Founders Memorial Library will host an exhibit, light refreshments, live music, and a lecture. Dr. Cheng-Hou Lee will be presenting a program of cello music and Dr. Elinor Olin will be giving a lecture on the women’s role in music. Lee is currently Associate Professor of Music at NIU and Cellist of the Avalon Quartet, the quartet-in-residence at the NIU School of Music, and Olin instructs Music History at NIU.

Garbousova (1909-1997) was on faculty at NIU from 1979 until 1991 and was instrumental in building the music program by attracting very talented cello students to attend school at NIU. Garbousova traveled the world performing as a soloist and broke down boundaries and stereotypes by playing a “man’s instrument,” paving the way for future female cellists.

Her sheet music collection, held by NIU Special Collections, is featured in this exhibit. Other items on display are from the Music Library and University Archives. An extension of the exhibit can also be found in the Reynolds Whitney Gallery in the Music Building, which includes a large collage that was donated by her family.

The Madame Garbousova Exhibit is currently on display and available for viewing in the Founders Memorial Library Gallery.

Photo of Raya Garbousova with her cello. Madame Garbousova would have turned 110 this September.
Although a couple of months behind, Rare Books and Special Collections is honoring the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in the department exhibition “Stonewall and Beyond”. The exhibit is located on the 4th floor of Founders Library.

The Stonewall Inn was a gay club in New York City’s Greenwich Village. When the police raided the club in June of 1969, riots and protests erupted on Christopher Street and lasted several days. The event brought international attention to the need for justice for what was then called the gay community. It is often cited as the most significant event that triggered the gay rights movement.

Items on display in the exhibit cases are from the Gender Studies collection in Rare Books and Special Collections. The display highlights some of the Stonewall Book Award winners and nominees as well as items associated with the Stonewall Uprising and the LGBTQIA+ struggle.

Many of the Stonewall books have been donated, with major contributions by Dr. Rebecca Hunt, Associate Professor and University Policy Librarian, and Rob Ridinger, University Libraries Professor and renowned LGBTQIA+ Studies scholar.

The Stonewall Book Award became an official American Library Association award in 1986 and has been sponsored by the ALA Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table since 1999. The award has undergone several name changes since it was originally founded as the Gay Book Award in 1971. It has grown to be a highly influential award today.

Included in the case of early award winners is Isabel Miller’s *Patience and Sarah* that won the first ever Gay Book Award in 1971. The book was originally self-published in 1969 as *A Place For Us*. (Our copy is a later edition paperback published by Fawcett).

The exhibit will be on display through November.
SEA Receives Grant by Hao Phan

NIU Libraries has received a grant of $610,000 as part of the 1.2 million grant awarded to the Southeast Asia Librarians Committee on Research Materials of Southeast Asia (CORMOSEA) by the Henry Luce Foundation. This grant will be used to hire a web developer at NIU for four years to enhance and add new materials to NIU’s Southeast Asia Digital Library.

Recently Digitized by Matthew Short

Beadle & Adams published more than just fiction, issuing song books, handbooks, tax codes, and school books in the dime novel format. Recently online is Beadle’s Dime Dialogues and its companion series, Beadle’s Dime Speakers, which contain parlor plays and speeches for home or school productions. While most of the dialogues were written by regular Beadle contributors, including Mrs. Metta V. Victor, Edward Willet, Albert Aiken, Edward S. Ellis, and Frank S. Finn, one issue contains a little-known piece by Mark Twain, apparently its first appearance anywhere in book form.

Content warning: Many of the dialogues in these series are “humorous,” and what passed for humor in the 19th century is profoundly racist.

Also online recently is the short-lived, but culturally significant Belles & Beaux. This series is regarded as one of the earliest attempts at mass-market romance in North America. This paper ran for only 13 issues between January and April of 1874 and was targeted at young women. While Albert Johannsen holds that its failure was because the series catered to a female readership that did not exist, scholars like William Gleason hold just the opposite: the publisher promised a paper dedicated to romance, but many of the contents directly attack the idea of romantic love, some even verging on misogyny. Beadle learned from this lesson and their later romance series, Waverley Library (also digitized), was much more commercially successful, perhaps because it committed to its romantic premise.

We have also digitized several shorter runs in the last few months, including New & Old Friends (the publisher’s first attempt at issuing a black & white nickel weekly), Beadle’s Popular Library (their last nickel weekly), Irwin P. Beadle’s American Novels (brother Irwin’s swan song), Beadle & Adams’ Twenty Cent Novels (featuring color covers and stories too mighty for the ten cent format), and Beadle’s American Library (dime novels issued by the English branch of the firm in London).
Current Reading Collection Update by Wayne Finley

When we last updated you about the Current Reading Collection, it was still new and we had big plans. We even promised to expand the collection and produce book reviews. Well, we’ve delivered! With the release of this year’s monograph funds and the continued support from Deans Barnhart and VandeCreek, we’ve started ordering 2019’s best-of-the-best books. This year, the books span a variety of topics: science, biography, current events, history and fiction. There is something for everyone’s reading tastes.

Just last week we posted our first Professor’s Pick review. Professors’ Picks feature reviews from NIU faculty in both print and audio of some of the collection’s books. Professors’ Picks are available on the Current Reading libguide here: https://libguides.niu.edu/c.php?g=926850&p=6677869.

Here’s a list of some of our most recent favorite reads:

**The River** by Peter Heller
College friends Jack and Wynn embark on late-summer a trip down the Maskwa river in northern Canada before their classes resume in the fall. Their journey becomes shrouded in mystery when they are forced to rescue a woman who appears to be the victim of an attempted murder. Alone and against the elements, their friendship and survival skills are put to the test as they try to survive and get the wounded woman to safety.

**Inheritance** by Dani Shapiro
In this memoir, Shapiro provides a narrative of her spiritual journey when she discovered in middle age after the death of both her parents that her adored father with whom she so closely identified was biologically related to her. It is a beautiful and poignant story about identity and love.

**Jane Austen at Home** by Lucy Worsley
Like most of her lead women characters, Jane Austen spent much of her life searching for her forever home. The book tracks that search as no one else has ever done and provides a window into what it was to be a woman in Georgian England. Fascinating both for Austen fans and anyone interested in that historical period.

**Normal People** by Sally Rooney
This book, long-listed for the Man Booker prize, has been getting a lot of press. So one night when I could not sleep, I began to read it. And could not stop. So much for sleep! The simple style is deceptive. It masks stylistic sophistication. The tale of the on-again and off-again relationship of Connell and Marianne from high school through graduate school with all its missteps is always compelling and at times, heart-breaking.

Book Reviews: Tomie Reviewed by Sata Prescott

Junji Ito is well-known as a creator of weird tales and horror in manga format. In the English-speaking world, his most famous work is likely *Uzamaki* (Spiral), a story in which horror stems from obsession over the shape of a spiral. *Tomie*, initially serialized in 1987, however, is the work that first gained him notoriety in Japan. The 2016 printing by Viz collects almost every short comic featuring the titular Tomie. The harsh black and white illustration style underscores the drama of dread and suspense. There aren’t “jump” scares in these comics. Rather, Ito tells the conceit of the horror early in each story. In a very Hitchcock sort of way, we read with the burdensome knowledge that there is no other place this story could possibly go. That Ito some-
Book Reviews: Tomie (continued)

How subverts expectation without breaking this set tone is masterful. Furthermore, in a horror comic, where image is regent, one might expect that *Tomie* to be a gore-fest. It isn’t, preferring the let the ideas seep into the reader rather than spend overmuch effort in being visually sickening. While by no means a feminist work, the stories feature some themes on the evils of gendered manipulation and violence. *Tomie* is a great way to see a master horror-smith at the beginning of his career, and this particular collection is one of the nicest ways to do so.

Want to Renew your Friends Membership?

We are moving to an online form! Simply follow this link: [https://library.niu.edu/ulib/content/give/brochurerequestform.shtml](https://library.niu.edu/ulib/content/give/brochurerequestform.shtml) and request a brochure. This way, we can handle your financial information safely and securely!
A Message from Dean Barnhart

Welcome to the fall semester and, if you are new to the Huskie family, welcome to NIU! Is it me or does the campus feel busier this fall? From my office in Founders Library I can see the exciting renovations happening at the Holmes Student Center and also the students on their way to and from the library, their classes and other destinations. The campus grounds still look great from the summer and leaves are only starting to turn. All in all it is one of the best times of year to be on campus.

We’ve had a busy summer in the University Libraries, and the coming academic year is also looking very active. In facilities news, during the summer, the Founders Memorial Library (FML) was busy inventorying the research carrels, cleaning them up, and getting them ready for use this coming year. In addition, the library worked with our partners in the Writing Center and Tutoring to enhance their presence in the library and take advantage of the library’s location at the heart of campus. We look forward to other ways to create synergy with these services in the future. We also added some relaxing outdoor chairs in the FML patio in order to make it a more welcoming environment, because this is northern Illinois and we know that nice weather must be enjoyed while it is here.

The library received good news about two grants which will have a positive impact on the University Libraries and our collections. The Henry Luce Foundation grant for the Southeast Asia Digital Collection will be used to enhance the SEA Digital Collection through a web developer and increased digitization. An IMLS Museums for America grant, received by our friends in the Center for Burma Studies, will be used to create vastly improved storage facilities for the Burmese art collection in Founders Memorial Library.

As the initial rush of the semester dies down, I encourage you to come to the Founders Memorial Library this fall for a variety of activities and events. More information is available on our homepage.

• Our 4th floor display cases, outside Rare Books and Special Collections, are currently highlighting our LGBTQ+ collection in honor of the 50th anniversary of Stonewall.

• We also have an exhibit of materials celebrating the career and 110th birthday of Raya Garbousova (main floor, Founders Gallery). In addition we will feature both music and a lecture in the same space on September 25, beginning at 5 p.m.

• Professor Andrea Guzman will be speaking about human-machine communication on October 3 in the 71 North space at 6 p.m.

• And look for the Library table at Homecoming as we feature photographic treasures from NIU’s past and gather memories from our alumni.

Finally, let me just take this opportunity to remind all of the new faculty that the library allocates up to $350 for the addition of books to the library’s collections in your particular area of research. Reach out to your subject specialist librarian to make a request or ask for more information about library services and resources.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter and have a very successful fall semester.

Go Huskies!