

constitute the world's largest collection in its field. Included are exhaustive holdings of such major figures as Whitman, Poe, Longfellow, Frost, Pound and O'Neill, along with thousands of volumes by lesser-known authors. Subsumed within the collection are important subject areas such as poetry by or about African-Americans and Asian-Americans, thousands of acting scripts, and Yiddish American literature.

In addition to standard editions, this collection also acquires film and television scripts and the output of small and fine presses, and subscribes to over 600 literary journals and magazines. The collection also acquires American verse set to music, including songsters, song sheets, hymnals, scores, folk music, and librettos. Closely associated with the Harris Collection is a collection of 500,000 pieces of sheet music. Although its holdings date from the 18th century, the collection's strength lies in the 19th and 20th centuries. Minstrel music, jazz, Broadway and movie tunes, and rock and roll all find their place in the collection.

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS (Mark N. Brown, Curator)

There are more than 3,500 manuscript collections and 500,000 separate items in the John Hay Library's manuscript collections. The principal strengths are in American history and literature since the 18th century, although there are notable collections in other areas and periods. Literary manuscripts include large groups of letters and other manuscripts by H. P. Lovecraft, Edgar Lee Masters, Henry David Thoreau, Emile Zola, and John Buchan. Related to the field of American literature are the records of small presses, among which are the archives of the Unicorn Press, "December Magazine", "Second Coming", "Stone Country", and the "West Coast Poetry Review". Important historical holdings for the 19th century include those relating to the War of 1812, New England church history, and the history of Rhode Island. The Lincoln Manuscript Collection contains 2,600 items, including over 950 written or signed by Lincoln. The John Hay Manuscript Collection is a major source for the study of John Hay's life and times, containing such valuable research materials as the diary that Hay kept as assistant private secretary to Lincoln. For the 20th century, the Holocaust, the founding of Israel, and Watergate are covered by the papers of Rabbi Baruch Korff.

The Hall-Hoag Collection of Dissenting and Extremist Propaganda includes publications of over 700 left-wing and right-wing militant political, social and religious organizations since 1945.

Scientific and mathematical manuscripts are also acquired by the library. The Albert Edgar Lownes Manuscript Collection includes important manuscripts by several major European and American scientists, including such figures as Pasteur, Linnaeus, Darwin, and Audubon. Other important scientific papers include those of mathematicians Raymond Clare Archibald, inventor George Corliss, engineer Elmer Corthell, and surgeon William Williams Keen. The library is the archival repository of the American Mathematical Society, the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Chemical Society, and the Gorham Company, a leading American silver manufacturer.

A more detailed Guide to the Manuscript Collections is also available.

PRINTED BOOKS (Jennifer B. Lee, Curator)

Of the 50 named book collections under the care of Printed Books, only a few can be mentioned here. The McLellan Lincoln Collection, one of the five strongest in the field, provides research opportunities not only in relation to the career of Abraham Lincoln, but also for the entire middle period of American history and political culture. In addition to books, it contains newspapers, broadsides, prints, photographs, manuscripts, and museum objects.

The Lownes Collection of Significant Books in the History of Science is one of the finest of its kind, ranging from Aristotle to Einstein. It contains over three-quarters of those texts recognized by scholars as the "great books" of science published since the middle of the 15th century. Almost 80% of the Lownes Collection is devoted to natural history, complementing the general History of Science