

Some of these can be seen on the Toppan Library Web site at <http://ahc.uwyo.edu/about/departments/toppan.htm>:

- A clay cuneiform tablet from Mesopotamia.
- A papyrus fragment from an Egyptian Book of the Dead.
- Several illuminated manuscript Korans.
- Several complete European illuminated manuscripts from the 1400s.
- Early exploration books by Captain John Smith, Sir Walter Raleigh, De Bry, Lewis and Clark, Hakluyt, Mackenzie, Parry, and Captain Cook.
- Letters from such notables as Sir Walter Scott, Sir Walter Raleigh, Theodore Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, Charles M. Russell, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and Henry Longfellow.
- A fishing book with actual tied flies that are more than 100 years old.
- Books autographed by Amelia Earhart, Robert Frost, Henry Thoreau, Frederic Remington, Susan B. Anthony, Father De Smet, Mary Pickford, Thomas Edison, Owen Wister, Izaak Walton, Admiral Byrd, Arthur Rackham, George Washington, and other important politicians, artists, explorers, and literary figures.



Illuminated Flemish prayer book from the 1400s.



Autographed page from a book by John Burroughs, 1916.



Fore-edge painting on a book by Lord Byron, 1821.



Fringed buckskin binding on a book by Herbert Myrick, 1905.

Students studying one of the books from the Toppan Rare Books Library, American Heritage Center.



Clara Toppan

The late Clara Toppan (1910-2001), who was married to Frederick W. Toppan (who died in 1966), has been the sole financial benefactor of the Toppan Rare Books Library. Clara Toppan donated more than 4,000 books that now form the core of the rare books library of the American Heritage Center: important collections of fishing, hunting, and British and American literature. Her monetary donations, after the initial bequest of the books, began when the new American Heritage Center was built in 1993. Her support continues with a generous endowment. Curator Anne Marie Lane says, "Mrs. Toppan gave the seed money to start the rare books program. We would not be here, were it not for Clara. She was the absolute force behind this."

Clara Toppan, American Heritage Center collections.



The Colket Room, adjacent to the Toppan Rare Books Library, American Heritage Center.

Colket Room

The Colket Room is located inside the entrance to the Toppan Library. Charles Howard Colket (1859-1924) traveled the world beginning in 1879 when he journeyed by horseback from Beirut to Bagdad. Some of the archaeological and ethnological artifacts acquired during these travels, as well as those from trips with his wife Almira after 1890, are on display in colorful Egyptian-style cases. Everything was donated to the University of Wyoming through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Tristram C. Colket, II, who had originally brought the items from the family home in Philadelphia when they moved to Sheridan, Wyoming.

Individual Collections

Most of the material in the library is donated. Named collections are kept intact and include:

- Frederick W. Toppan Collection.
- Charles and Paul Clay Collection.
- Beatrice Beuf Collection.
- William Fitzhugh Collection.
- Lloyd Taggart Collection.
- Joseph Roebing Collection.
- Tristram and Charles Howard Colket Collection.
- Owen Wister Collection.
- Lewis Einstein Collection.
- C. C. Kuehn Collection.
- Maud Littleton Collection.
- Lewis Knapp Collection.
- Wilbur, Emma, and S. H. Knight Collection.
- Arthur and Helen Rippey Collection.
- Revilo Pendleton Oliver Collection.
- Walter Levy Collection.
- Louise Jackson Collection.
- Ed and Shirley CheraMy Collection.

Toppan Numbers

- **ca. 3000 BCE**--estimated age of oldest item in Toppan Library, a cuneiform tablet from Mesopotamia.
- **ca. 650 BCE**--estimated age of oldest illustrated text in Toppan Library, a fragment from the Egyptian Book of the Dead.
- **26 x 18 x 6"**, **16th century**--largest book in collection, a Spanish choir book.
- **1-1/2 x 1-1/4 x 1/2"**, **20th century**--smallest book in collection, a Mexican Bible.
- **8,000**--Toppan Library books currently cataloged on-line.

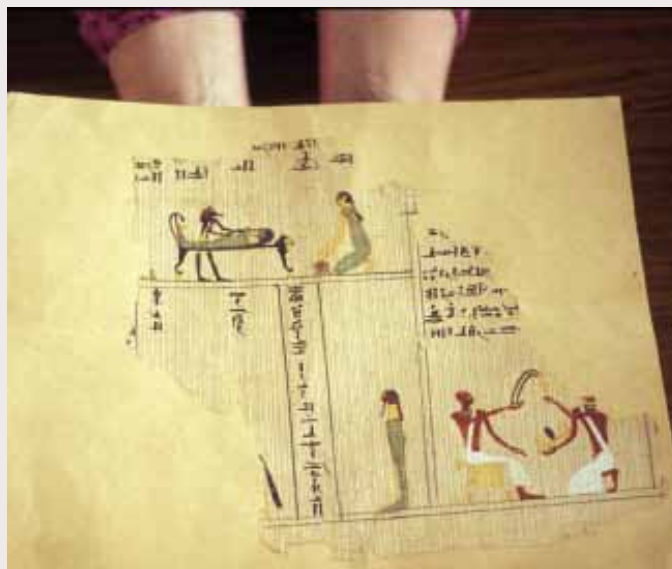


Curator Anne Marie Lane with a book display in the Toppan Library.

Service

Walk-in visitors, as well as researchers, are encouraged and everyone is welcome to look through the collection at no charge. However, as classes and presentations are often held in the library, it is advisable to call or e-mail to make an appointment if you have specific needs. We ask that backpacks, large purses, food, and drink be left in the lobby lockers. Researchers will need to present a photo I.D. and no pens are allowed (pencils are provided).

Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead fragment, Colket Collection.



American Heritage Center

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Business Hours

Toppan Library

M-F: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

American Heritage Center

M-F: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

For questions not relating to donations of collections, contact our Reference Department
307-766-3756

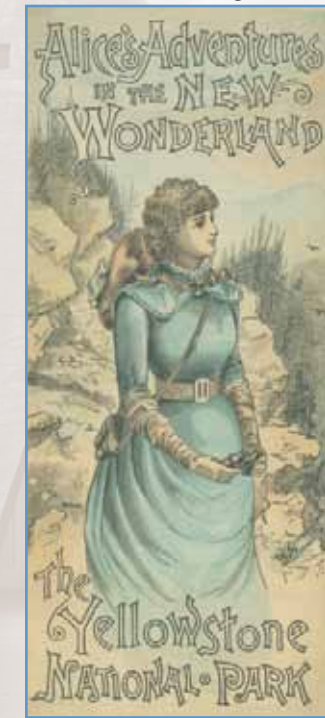


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Toppan Rare Books Library

The Toppan Rare Books Library at the American Heritage Center is home to



Promotional brochure from the Northern Pacific Railway Co., 1885.

UW's rare books collection, consisting of more than 50,000 items, including all of the University Libraries' pre-1850 books. The majority of the collection consists of printed books, and also includes newspapers, magazines, illuminated manuscripts, and other materials. Subjects collected include the American West, British and American literature, history, exploration, world

travel, religion, hunting and fishing, natural history, women authors, and examples of the book arts and book history.