Siena College

Highlights of the Standish Library’s

Special Collections
The Special Collection at Siena College Library consists of about 2600 volumes, which are stored in wire mesh shelving in the Fleet Special Collections Center and the Reed Reading Room. Eighteenth, nineteenth and rare twentieth century journals are shelved in special cases located in the Siena College Alumni Association Current Periodicals Area. There are nearly 750 volumes in the special journals collection.

The Franciscan Friars, friends of the college and other libraries, donated most of the books in the Library’s special collection over the years. Other special collection titles were gleaned from the library’s regular book stacks.

Within this collection there are several subject concentrations including theology, British and Irish history, Classical literature and English literature. There are also many editions signed by famous authors.

Some of the volumes in the special collection have been restored by rare book specialists and conservators such as the Harcourt Bindery of Boston and the Bridgeport Bindery and the Northeast Document Conservation Center. However many of these works remain very fragile and must be handled with great care.

Books from this collection are used in academic research at Siena and in the local scholarly community. Titles from the special collection are periodically exhibited in the display cases in Friars’ Rotunda, the Special Collections Reading Room and in the Taylor New Books Area.

The collection includes old and rear books, manuscripts, medieval and early modern documents and manuscript leaves, printed leaves from early books and facsimile editions. Some of the highlights from this collection are listed on the following pages.

Cover illustration:

Publishers mark and printer’s device form:

I. **Rare Books**


![Image of the Tower of London](image.png)

   An account of the Medieval Crusades. Includes folded map of Palestine.

   Published in Venice on October 29, 1510 the book includes two of the ancient historian’s
   Most notable works, *Antiquities* and the *Jewish War*. The work was translated from the Greek
   Into Latin by the theologian, Tytanius Rufinus of Aauileia, 345-410 A.D.

11th edition to which is prefixed the life of the author newly compiled... 
London: Printed for G. Conyers, 1736. Originally published in 1614 
the work is one of the 17th century’s principle glories. 
It was written while Raleigh was imprisoned in the tower of 
London. Covers the history of the world up to 130 B.C.

8. Recueil d'estampes d'apr'es les plus beaux tableauct d'apres les plus beaux desseins qui sont 
en France, dans le Cabinet du roy dans celui de Monseigneur le duc d'Orleans, & dans d'aus 
d'autres cabinets...Paris, de L'Imprimerie Royale, 1729; 1742. 2 volumes. Popularly known as 
the Cabinet Crozat, published in 1729 by the French financier and art collector Pierre Crozat. 
The catalog consists of illustrations taken from the major collections of art in 18th century 
France. Paintings owned by the King of France and Le Duc d'Orleans are among those included.
   The unique feature of this book is a fore-edge painting depicting
   an Italian river scene. The covers are hand colored and the work is illustrated with
   engravings after Turner, Stothard and others.

   This periodical, founded in 1731 by Edward Cave, was originally
   intended as a monthly reprint of topical news and essays. Under the
   influence of Dr. Samuel Johnson the magazine soon took on a more serious
   character, publishing parliamentary reports, maps, music and bibliographies.
   Siena College Library owns most of the volumes published between 1731 and 1837.

11. Johnson, Samuel. A Dictionary of the English language in which the words
    are deduced from
    their originals and illustrated in their different significations by examples from the best writers.
    London: W. Strahan for J. Knapton, 1755. A first edition of Johnson’s famous dictionary of the
    English language rebound in 3 volumes in the style of its time.

12. Muro, Francesco. Francisci Mavri Hispellatis Minoridae Franciscianos libri XIII. Florentiae:
    Carolum Pectinarium, 1571. The story of St. Francis of Assisi and his knights of Poverty, the
    Franciscans.

13. Calvin, Jean, 1509 – 1564. Calvini Noviodvnensis Opera Omnia; in
    Novem Tomos digesta. Amstelodamioloannis: Apud J.J.
    Schipperi, 1667-1671. Collected works of the famous 16th Century French theologian.
    Includes treatises in theology and biblical commentaries. 9 volume folio set.

14. Newcastle, Margaret Cavendish.
    The Life of the Thrice Prince William Cavendish...
    London: B. Maxwell, 1675

    A seventeenth century edition of the theological works of the great Franciscan saint.
    Rebound in the style of its time.

16. Lewis, Samuel, d.1865. Lewis’s Atlas Comprising the Counties of
    Ireland, and a general map of the kingdom. London: Lewis & Co., 1837.
    Includes 3 map plates of the counties and a large folded map of Ireland.

17. Swammerdam, Johann, 1637-1680. Bibel der natur, worimmen die insekten in gewisse classen
    verheit, sorgfaltig beschrieben, zergliedert... Leizig: in J.F. Gleditschens Buchandlung, 1752.
    The Book of Nature, or the History of Insects by the Dutch Biologist, Johann Swammerdam, an
    early founder of modern entomology.


II. Manuscripts

1. Breviarium Franciscanum ad usum Provinciae Tusciae, scriptum certo ante 1450: deest festum S. Bernardini Senensis, canonisati a 1450. Manuscript breviary produced in Italy about the year 1425. The provenance of this item indicates that this prayer book belonged to Franciscan communities in Tuscany during the lifetime of Saint Bernardine of Siena.

2. Illuminated patent of Nobility. Manuscript on Vellum. Valladolid, 13 August 1605-1607. Illuminated patent of nobility, issued to Diego Belarde de Aguilar on his own account and on behalf of his brother, Juan, reciting the patent granted by Charles V and the services of their father, Captain Rodrigo Belarde de Aguilar, the patent opening with a finely-illuminated miniature of the Virgin within a red and blue decorative border, and with a full page illuminated coat of arms, with illuminated hands and gilt borders throughout, notarial seals and later doockets at the end, vellum, 25 pages,

3. Luetgens, August. A Treatise on Insects apparently copied by August Luetgens. The manuscript was found among his papers at his death without any clue as to its origin: It is all in his handwriting. Copy produced prior to 1910. An original manuscript on insects (probably written during the 19th Century). Includes 75 figures and 20 plates mostly colored. Part II is titled The Anatomy and Physiology of the Blow–Fly... a Monograph.
III. Manuscript Leaves and Documents

1. Koran page (Arabic)
   Handwritten large manuscript leaf of fine quality. Imposing example from Persia circa 1553.

2. Antiphoner or Choir Missal (Latin) circa Spain 1650. This leaf is on extremely heavy vellum. Text is in rounded Gothic hand. The six lines of music and verse are on a stave formed of five lines.

3. Breviary (German). Leaf from 15th century northern German monastery. German Gothic script in black ink on vellum. The first line exhibits a wonderful example of a flourished letter ascender. Text is from St. Bonaventure’s Opera and possibly his sermons.

4. Book of Hours (Latin). Leaf dates from France, 1450-1475. Twelve lines of Gothic text in Latin on vellum. Verso has one initial “C” in highly burnished gold on a multicolor ground. Recto has twelve lines of Gothic text with rubricating on the last line.

5. Summa de Casibus of Bartolomeo da San Concordio (1261-1347) (Latin). Leaf from 1424-1450 Southern Germany or Austria. From encyclopedia of canon law.


10. Leaf from Legal Manuscript, Seville, Spain, 1602 Legal document on vellum related to family lineage. Partly written in Seville, 1602. Completed in Mexico City in 1641. The page contains a large illuminated E and elaborate bordering, with initials in gold leaf.

IV. Printed Leaves


5. Page from the First Folio Edition of Shakespeare’s Plays, 1623. The leaf is from the Tragedy of Cymbeline.
v. Facsimile Editions


