**RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES AND COLLECTION AREAS**

In addition to holding books in all disciplines from the 16th-century onward, Special Collections strives to acquire publications that complement the major subject and author areas of its manuscript holdings to provide more comprehensive research collections. These collections of rare books and unpublished materials provide opportunities for original research in diverse areas.

From its inception in the 1960s, Special Collections has developed internationally recognized holdings in Modernist British, American, French and Anglo-Irish literature. Among the authors represented in print and manuscript are: John Betjeman, Lawrence Durrell, T.S. Eliot, E.A.フォーster, Robert Graves, Aiden Higgins, Wyndham Lewis, Henry Miller, Sylvia Plath, Ezra Pound, John Cooper Powys, Kathleen Raine, Herbert Read, Laura Riding, Eiri Sato, Robin Skelton, and Douglas Goldring.

A complete listing of our archival collections with retrieval aids can be found at [http://library.uvic.ca/site/spcoll/findaids/default.html](http://library.uvic.ca/site/spcoll/findaids/default.html). Other subject areas collected include Canadian military history, early 20th century literary magazines, Northwest exploration, ethnology, art and anthropology, and regional and Southern Vancouver Island authors and literary culture.

**Digital Collections**

The University of Victoria Libraries support a variety of digital initiatives to promote wider access to our unique collections. Our collections fall into a range of topics that you can browse using an A-Z list of our digital collections. These digital collections bring together rich resources for research and enjoyment by the university and the community.

[http://library.uvic.ca/site/digitalCollections/index.html](http://library.uvic.ca/site/digitalCollections/index.html)

**UNIQUE COLLECTIONS | Some Highlights**

**Canadian Military Oral History**

The University of Victoria Libraries Special Collections is the repository for one of the largest military oral history collections in Canada. The Military Oral History Collection contains interviews with over 400 military and related personnel offering individual perspectives from the army, air force, navy and auxiliary forces, covering topics ranging from both World Wars, other conflicts involving Canadian forces, peace-time affairs, and a host of other military-related subjects. The Military Oral History collection at UVic has been used and avidly by all of Canada's foremost military historians since it was made available in the late 1980's. In 2005, Special Collections embarked upon the Military Oral History Digitization project ensuring ongoing access to this unique and irreplaceable collection of military memories.

**Colonial Despatches 1846-71**

The Colonial Despatches of Vancouver Island are the correspondence between the Governors of Vancouver Island and the Colonial Office in London, England. In the first phase of Project UVic Libraries digitized documents from 1858 for B.C.'s 150th birthday. With this year's grants we have collected 317,700 digitized pages for years 1846-75 inclusive. This project was made possible with financial support from the McPhee-Penner Library, the Canadian Archivist Council, the BC Archives, the B.C. Museum of Natural History, and the Victoria Art Gallery. With continued support UVic Libraries can digitize the files from 1858 to 1871. To draw students into the past, The Governor's Letters is a linked website [http://www.govlet.ca/en/index.php](http://www.govlet.ca/en/index.php) containing curriculum challenges designed by teacher educators.

**The Jack Wise Archives**

The Jack Wise Archives are fully available to researchers. Wise (1916-1996) was an artist, calligrapher, poet and teacher. His work from the 1950s consisted primarily of paintings in the abstract expressionist style. Wise became dissatisfied with his art production and immigrated from the U.S. to British Columbia in 1963, where he spent several years farming in the present's interior. Wise, along with Lin Chien-Shih, Emily Carr, and Mark Tobey, is identified with the Pacific Northwest School of Abstract Calligraphic Painting, which combined Kemmerian abstract expressionism with Asian calligraphic tradition and Buddhist philosophy. Wise is also linked to the West Coast Surrealists, or Hermetics, who included Gary Lee-Nova, Greg Simpson and Ed Henry. Although Wise was most obviously influenced by Asian traditions, his art is cited as having a cross-cultural significance resulting from his strong interest in Japanese psychology and its central belief in the universal collective unconscious.

Wise's work is represented in many public, private and corporate collections, including the Scottish Arts Council, Canada Council Art Bank, the Victoria Art Gallery, the University of Victoria's Visual Arts Gallery, and the Smithsonian Institution. His archival fonds consists of correspondence, sales lists, exhibition catalogues and books, photographs, clippings, sketches, poems and calligraphy, scrapbooks and notebooks, teaching materials, curatorial files and biographical documentation, publications, and objects used by Wise in his art practice.

**The Lion and the Fox**

Art and literary works by Wyndham Lewis from the C. J. Fox Collection were presented in an exhibition, *The Lion and the Fox*, to celebrate C. J. Fox's donation of the material to the collection over a thirty year period about Lewis and other non-conformist writers. Cyril (C.J.) Fox collected books, art, and other materials by Lewis and other maverick personalities, accumulating this impressive collection. A one-day symposium, *The Wyndham Lewis and Modernism Symposium*, was part of *The Lion and the Fox* exhibition which took place at the University of Victoria in May 2007. This outstanding scholarly resource will benefit Lewis and modernism scholars for years to come. Browse the C. J. Fox Collection Archives: [http://library.uvic.ca/site/spcoll/findaids/2007-001.html](http://library.uvic.ca/site/spcoll/findaids/2007-001.html)

**University Archives**

Established by the Senate in 1973, the University Archives is the repository for university records of permanent value from executive, administrative and academic offices. The Archives also acquires and provides public access to records of individuals and organizations from the university community and the Pacific west coast region, particularly relating to environmental sciences, women's studies, and arts and culture.

[http://library.uvic.ca/site/archives/default.html](http://library.uvic.ca/site/archives/default.html)

**19th Century Chinese Archives**

From the 19th century, the Archives holds the surviving records of the oldest Chinese cultural organization in Canada, the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, established in 1884 in Victoria. It serves as the main representative body for Chinese people in Canada until 1958 when the national Chinese Consolidated was established. The records include population data, minutes of the Chinese Public School, and donations and fundraising records. A number of files are closed to the public but some are online at [http://multiculturalcanada.ca/node/1534](http://multiculturalcanada.ca/node/1534)

**Digital Oral Histories**

The Archives has just made available digital audio files of the Provincial Normal School oral histories. 19 interviews conducted in 1978 with former instructors and students who attended the teacher training school, which amalgamated with Victoria College, later to become UVic, and now the site of the Camosun College Lansdowne campus. Provincial Normal School Oral Histories: [http://contentdm.library.uvic.ca/DMItem/browse. php?10506011=oral](http://contentdm.library.uvic.ca/DMItem/browse.php?10506011=oral)

**University of Victoria**

Photos from the Uvic Historical Photograph Collection University of Victoria Archives