When UCLA University Librarian Lawrence Clark Powell created the Library’s Department of Special Collections in 1946, he specified that it should collect fine printing and rare books and manuscripts, but he also noted that its collections were “not tantamount to rarity” and should also include photographs, maps, postcards, recordings, printed ephemera and other supporting materials. In following those instructions, the UCLA Library has helped shape the collecting of rare books and research materials at public institutions around the world by collecting in areas not held by more established libraries and by adding new types of materials, such as screenplays and television scripts, architectural plans, and oral histories.

Today, the Library’s rich, diverse special collections are held in four locations — the Arts Library Special Collections, the Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library History and Special Collections, the Music Library Special Collections and the Charles E. Young Research Library Special Collections — and now encompass animation cells, artists’ books, business archives, drawings and prints, literary manuscripts, medical instruments, movie posters, museum objects, personal papers, rare books, printed and manuscript music scores, scripts, and many other unique types of material. The following pages feature images from and descriptions of just a few of the treasures in these special collections.

For more information, visit http://www2.library.ucla.edu/libraries/special.cfm