



Program Report

# Creating the Smithsonian Cultural Heritage Library

---



Smithsonian Libraries



# BUILDING THE SMITHSONIAN digital collection



Smithsonian Libraries is digitizing public domain content from the collections of our history, art, and culture libraries. Now in its third year, the program sends upwards of 10,000 pages for digitization a week through carefully organized workflow that meets rigorous technical and quality standards.

Titles are selected for digitization based on: importance for research and scarcity. Smithsonian Libraries Research Services librarians make selections based on their expert knowledge of important works in their fields and frequently sought-after titles from the collection. Smithsonian Libraries' holdings are also checked against catalog records of major research collections and titles that are held by the fewest libraries are prioritized.

Digitization itself is a multi-tiered process. On the front end, selected items must conform to physical requirements (e.g. linear dimensions, page count, binding type, and condition of the book) of the book digitization equipment. Multiple

scanning workstreams are in place to assure the best care for the collections objects as well as to maximize collections digitization. Smithsonian Libraries currently has three primary workstreams for our collections. The first is the use of the Internet Archive, a not-for-profit organization based in San Francisco with the motto, "Universal Access to All Knowledge." Smithsonian Libraries receives low-cost scanning, processing, and storage from the Internet Archive. In partnership with the Library of Congress, Smithsonian Libraries maintains a twelve unit (termed a "Scribe") scanning facility for general collection and other books suitable for rapid digitization. A single "Scribe" machine is maintained by Smithsonian Libraries at the National Museum of Natural History for more fragile or rare materials or for rush scanning requests.

The Smithsonian Libraries' Pennsy Drive facility houses the SIL Imaging Center where two scanning machines are dedicated to extremely rare, fragile or oversized materials.



# CULTURAL HERITAGE LIBRARY

## ...in this report

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Collection Profile.....    | 3  |
| User Feedback.....         | 7  |
| Collection Highlights..... | 9  |
| User Requests.....         | 13 |
| User Spotlight.....        | 15 |

The descriptive metadata about each item is drawn directly from the Smithsonian Libraries' SIRIS Catalog. This metadata, augmented by item specific information or intellectual property notes is attached to the digital surrogate. Smithsonian Libraries staff perform a series of quality assurance measures to maintain the quality of the digital collection and the handling of the physical items.

The Cultural Heritage Library (CHL) collection includes popular and hard-to-find items from the Smithsonian American Art Museum/National Portrait Gallery Library, Cooper-Hewitt National Design Library, National Air and Space Museum Library, National Postal Museum Library, Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Library, National Museum of American History Library, Smithsonian Institution Libraries Research Annex, The Vine Deloria, Jr. Library, at the National Museum of the American Indian, and the Warren M. Robins Library, National Museum of African Art.

Currently at over 3,500 volumes, the CHL collection continues to grow. Though Smithsonian Libraries actively requests permissions for in-copyright material and performs due diligence work on selected titles that may be in copyright, legal restriction remains a major impediment to more digitization. Additionally, to avoid duplication of effort and expense, Smithsonian Libraries staff monitor other large scale digitization efforts in the humanities and work with our colleagues in the library community to maximize our mutual investments in digitization.

[library.si.edu/departments/web-services/cultural-heritage-library](http://library.si.edu/departments/web-services/cultural-heritage-library)



# COLLECTION profile

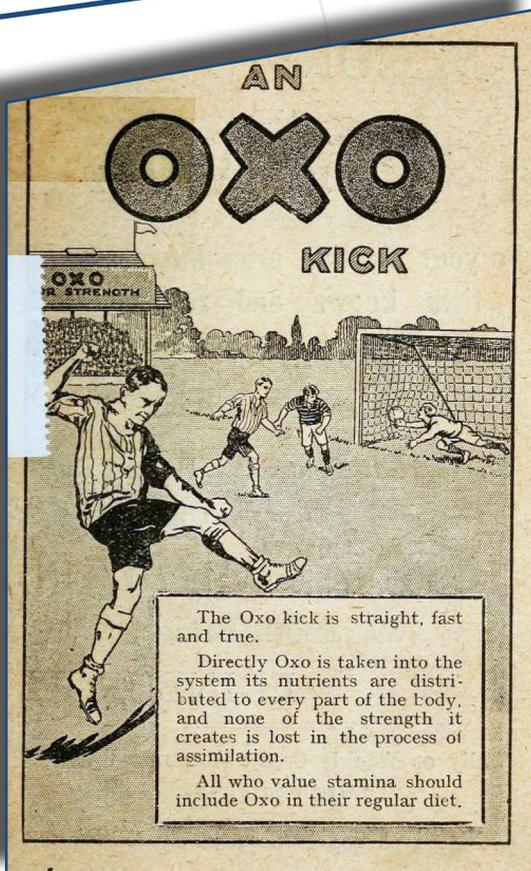
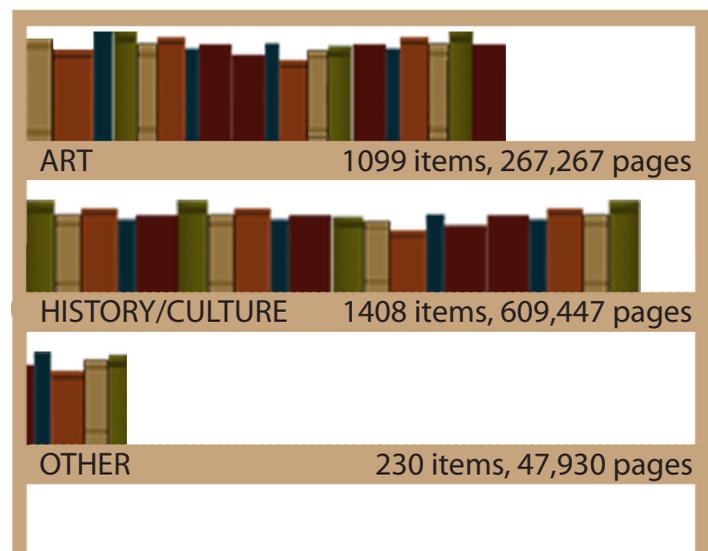
## total collection

3,524 items

1,189,418 pages

3,311,195 downloads

## ...by subject area

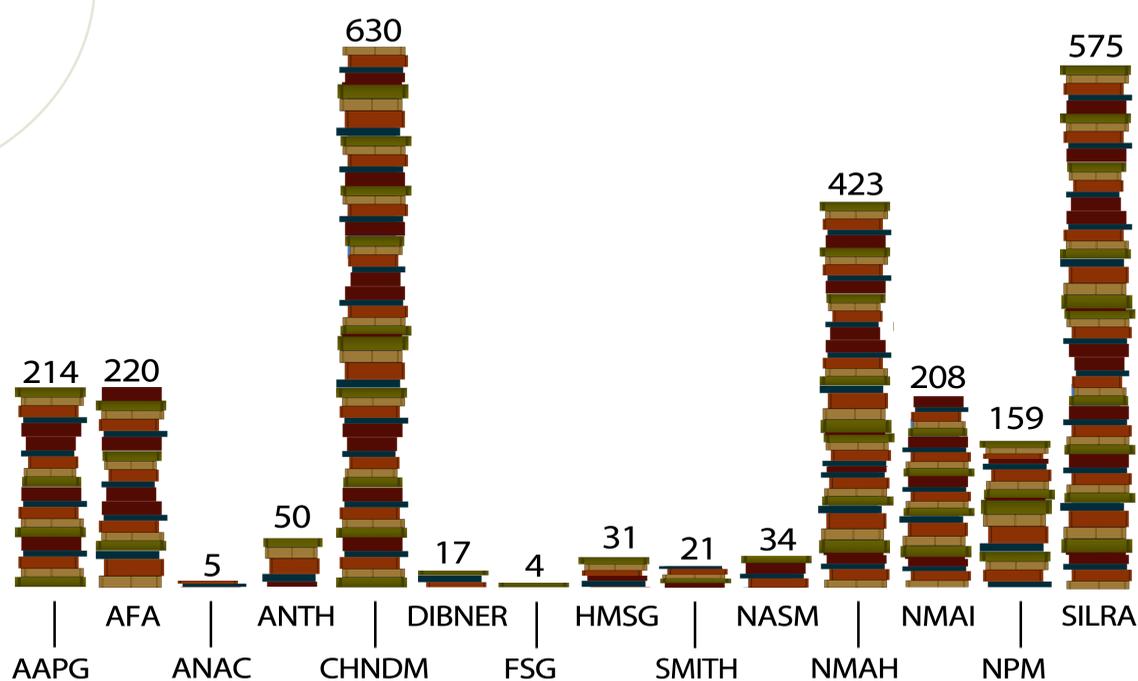


"Being able to digitally access our museum's publications has changed how I do my job and how I am able to help others learn about our collections. I'm grateful for the service!"

Jennifer Cohlman, Cooper-Hewitt  
National Design Museum Librarian



## ...by museum



| Location Code | Full Name  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>AAPG</b>   | Smithsonian American Art Museum/<br>National Portrait Gallery Library  |
| <b>AFA</b>    | Warren M Robbins Library, National<br>Museum of African Art            |
| <b>ANAC</b>   | Anacostia Community Museum Library                                     |
| <b>ANTH</b>   | Anthropology Department, National<br>Museum of Natural History Library |
| <b>CHNDM</b>  | Cooper-Hewitt National Design<br>Museum Library                        |
| <b>Dibner</b> | Dibner Library of the History of Science<br>and Technology             |
| <b>FSG</b>    | Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler<br>Gallery Library          |

| Location Code | Full Name  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>HMSG</b>   | Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden                                    |
| <b>SMITH</b>  | Smithsonian  |
| <b>NASM</b>   | National Air and Space Museum Library                                    |
| <b>NMAH</b>   | National Museum of American History<br>Library                           |
| <b>NMAI</b>   | The Vine Deloria, Jr. Library, National<br>Museum of the American Indian |
| <b>NPM</b>    | National Postal Museum Library   |
| <b>SILRA</b>  | Smithsonian Institution Libraries<br>Research Annex                      |

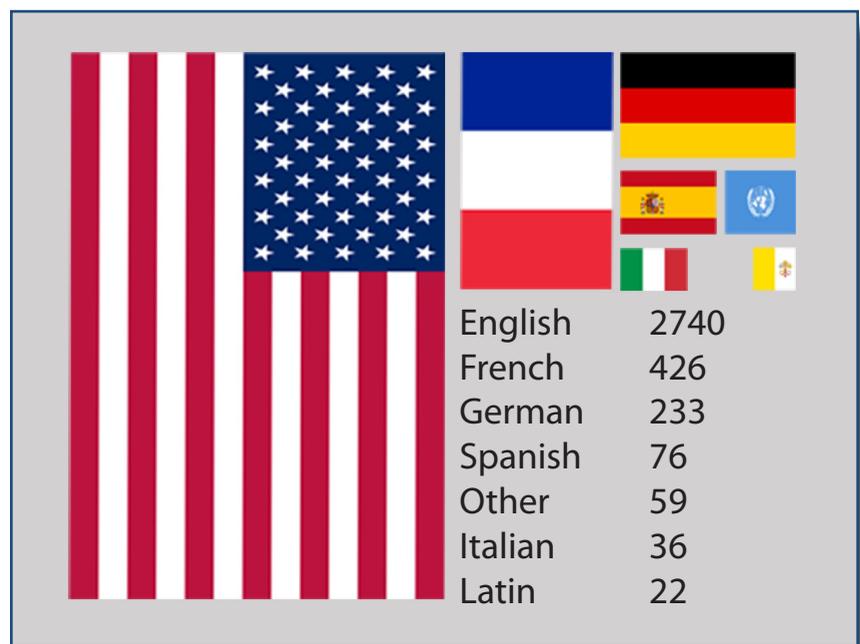
[library.si.edu/departments/web-services/cultural-heritage-library](http://library.si.edu/departments/web-services/cultural-heritage-library)



# COLLECTION profile



...by language



## Did You Know?

The amount of pages a scanner can scan in a day varies according to the condition of the books being digitized. On average, a scanner working at a high production facility scanning non-fragile materials can scan about 5,600 pages a day. Scanners working at satellite facilities scanning fragile and rare materials, like the one located within NMNH, can scan an average of 4,000 pages a day.



# USER feedback



“As Curator Emeritus of the Aeronautics Division and a specialist on the pre-history of flight, aerostation (ballooning) and the history of pre-World War I aeronautics, I fairly regularly consult many of our earliest aeronautical serials. But I have found it immensely convenient to have *Aeronautics*, what might be regarded the premiere aviation serial of its day, immediately available whenever I want to delve into its pages in search of information on a myriad of subjects.”

■ *Dr. Tom Crouch, Curator,  
Aeronautics Division, NASM*

“The curatorial staff and the Research and Publications Committee of the Philatelic Council were highly appreciative of our efforts to scan our materials and make them more accessible. That was always heavily applauded in our meetings.”

■ *Paul McCutcheon, NPM*

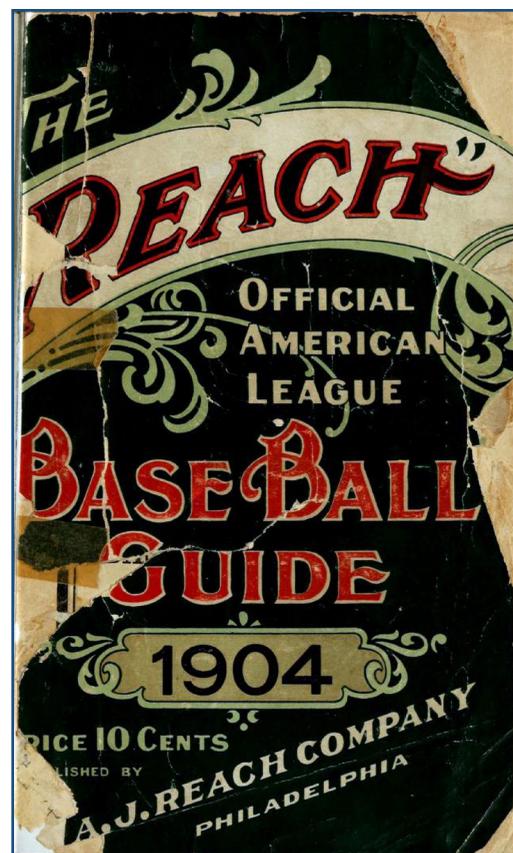
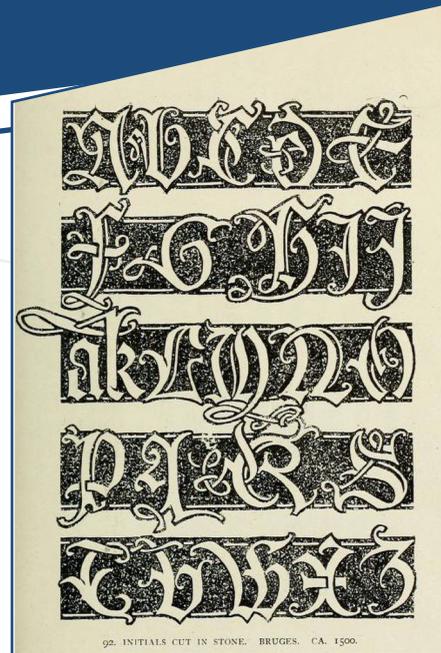


“The first visitor I had at our new location was a 72-year-old retired Canadian naval officer from Nova Scotia, whose specialty was training helicopter search and rescue teams from the U.S. and Canada. His hobby, since age 14, is collecting head lamps from turn-of-the-century bicycles. He was writing an encyclopedia on the subject and had collected two of every type/ model of these lamps ever made in North America— except one; he was still searching for one more of a particular lamp. He spent the better part of week with the serials.”

■ *Mike Hardy, PennSIL  
(Smithsonian Libraries' off-Mall facility)*

“This is the third (and last) edition of the book, which is the most comprehensive. Thanks to the Smithsonian for sponsoring this scan.”

■ *Internet Archive User, regarding Alphabets of Old and New: For the use of Craftsmen*





# COLLECTION highlights

## USAGE

### 1 Handbook of Marks on Pottery & Porcelain (1909)

With 3,299 downloads, this British publication is the most popular title in the CHL collection. Digitized in January of 2011 and contributed by the library at the Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum, *Handbook of Marks on Pottery and Porcelain* features a comprehensive guide to the identification and origin of authentication marks found on pottery. Accessible for the expert and novice alike, this title also includes details on the distinctions between basic pottery, faience, stoneware, and porcelain. Simple, comprehensive, and well organized, it's not hard to see why so many have found this information valuable!

### 2 Physikalische Apparate (1893?)

This Max Kohl catalog has 2,712 downloads and over 900 pages of laboratory equipment. These early trade catalogs are replete with stunning technical drawings now rendered obsolete by photography.

### 3 Preis-verzeichniss uber Chemische Apparate und Gerathschaften, Chemische Preparate und Reagentien (1898)

The third most popular title at 2,139 downloads is a German price-list for scientific instruments. At over 300 pages of inventory, this early C. Gerhardt laboratory equipment catalog is quite comprehensive!

### 4 39th Annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival : Food culture USA : Forest Service, Culture and Community ; Nuestra Música: Music in Latino Culture ; Oman: Desert, Oasis and Sea

Internet Archive visitors seem fond of the Folklife Festival! They downloaded the 2005 Festival catalog highlighting a wide array of cultures and activities 1,989 times.

### 5 The Silk Road : Connecting Cultures, Creating Trust : the 36th Annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall, Washington, D.C., June 26-30, July 3-7, 2002

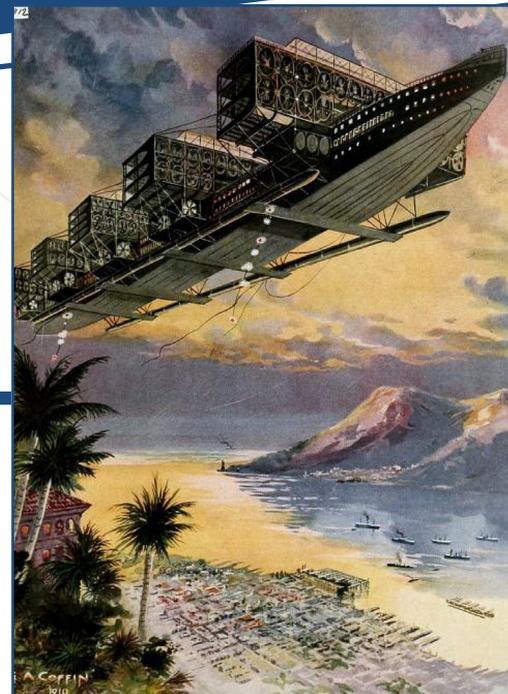
With 1,888 downloads, the catalog commemorating the 2002 Smithsonian Folklife Festival highlights the ancient exchanges of ideas, cultures, and luxury items between Asia, Africa, and Europe.

# National Air & Space Museum

As a precursor to more official involvement in World War I, The US Air Force sent a volunteer squadron to France, the Lafayette Escadrille. The *Journal des marches et opérations pendant la campagne du 14/8/16 au 9/9/17* chronicles their activities. The first log in the two volume set, beginning August 24, 1916 and continuing to September 9th, 1917, follows their day-to-day exploits through 288 hand-written pages. The time of each patrol is neatly recorded along with the names of each pilot who flew. Often "Avions Abattu" -airplane crashed- is penned next to an entry and then carefully underlined in straight blue pencil.

A few pages into the log on September 3rd, 1916, the original paper telegram from the American pilot Raoul Lufbery is pasted to a page. In an episode told and re-told about the Escadrille, the American Lufbery has written to his French commander, Capitaine Georges Thenault, "JE SUIS RETENU DANS UN LOCAL DISCIPLINAIRE PLACE DE CHARTRES" or I AM RETAINED IN A LOCAL JAIL..." Lufbery was imprisoned after he assaulted a railways employee who refused him passage aboard a train.

A call from the captain of the squad ensured his release and a few weeks later on September 23rd, 1916, a rehabilitated Lufbery was preparing for patrol with another pilot, Kiffin Yates Rockwell. But Lufbery had to turn back due to potential life-threatening engine trouble while Rockwell flew alone into mortal combat with the German two-seater which eventually shot him down. Words recording the loss of the Escadrille's beloved "Kif" are set down on paper by Capitaine Georges Thenault, the keeper of the Journal, who outlines the entry with a thick black box in ink, signifying the death in combat of a pilot. The box had not appeared in the journal until that point but it will appear again and again as the war progresses; men die and the *Journal des marches et opérations* unfailingly records it all.



# COLLECTION highlights

## National Museum of the American Indian



The American Ethnological Society's 1860 description of an event has all the elements of a great Hollywood heist movie: likable protagonists, the quest for riches, and a lesson on the importance of secrecy, especially when the loot is within arm's reach of a town full of likable protagonists with their own quests to fulfill.

In 1858, two farmers discovered gold while tending corn crops in the Chiriqui province in Panama. Remarkably, they excavated the source undetected for nearly a year before word of the site spread into the populace of nearby towns and villages. Mining the cache in concealed fits and spurts, they reportedly lifted about 130 pounds of gold in the form of idols and relics which occupied the tombs of the ancient graveyard or Huacal. But not every tomb in the graveyard contained the gold that fueled their search. Many simply housed pottery or other, less marketable, tokens.

*The Antiquary's Magazine: or, Relics of Past Men, Tribes and Nations*, reports the farmer's reported ability to distinguish between the profitable tombs and the cheaper versions laid in the divining power of one farmer's son. He constructed an apparatus from a steel rod and a wire while chanting until the rod showed him the way. The report goes on to debunk the swindle but never offers an explanation for the farmers' luck in finding so many valuable pieces.

By May 1859, the public had discovered the farmers' secret and in the weeks following, nearly 1000 pounds of gold are reported to have been taken from the ransacked graveyard.

## National Museum of American History

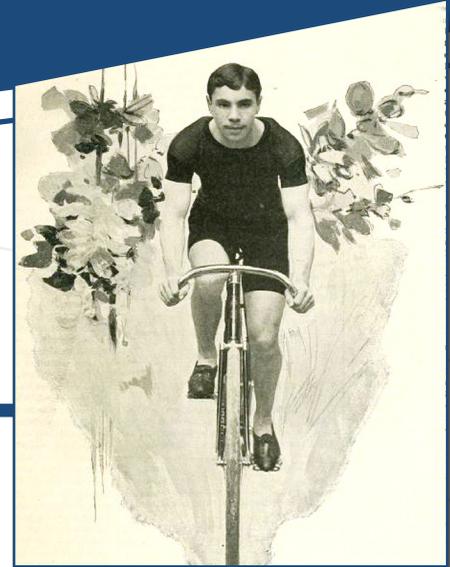
By any definition, the centerpiece of our digitization efforts at SILRA are the bicycling-related serials. To date, we've scanned over 100 items spanning titles like *The Wheel World*, *The Bearings*, and *The Bicycling World and Motorcycle Review*. Bicycling was at the center of a craze which hit its zenith in the 1880's. These titles are replete with fascinating contributions from enthusiastic lovers of the sport.

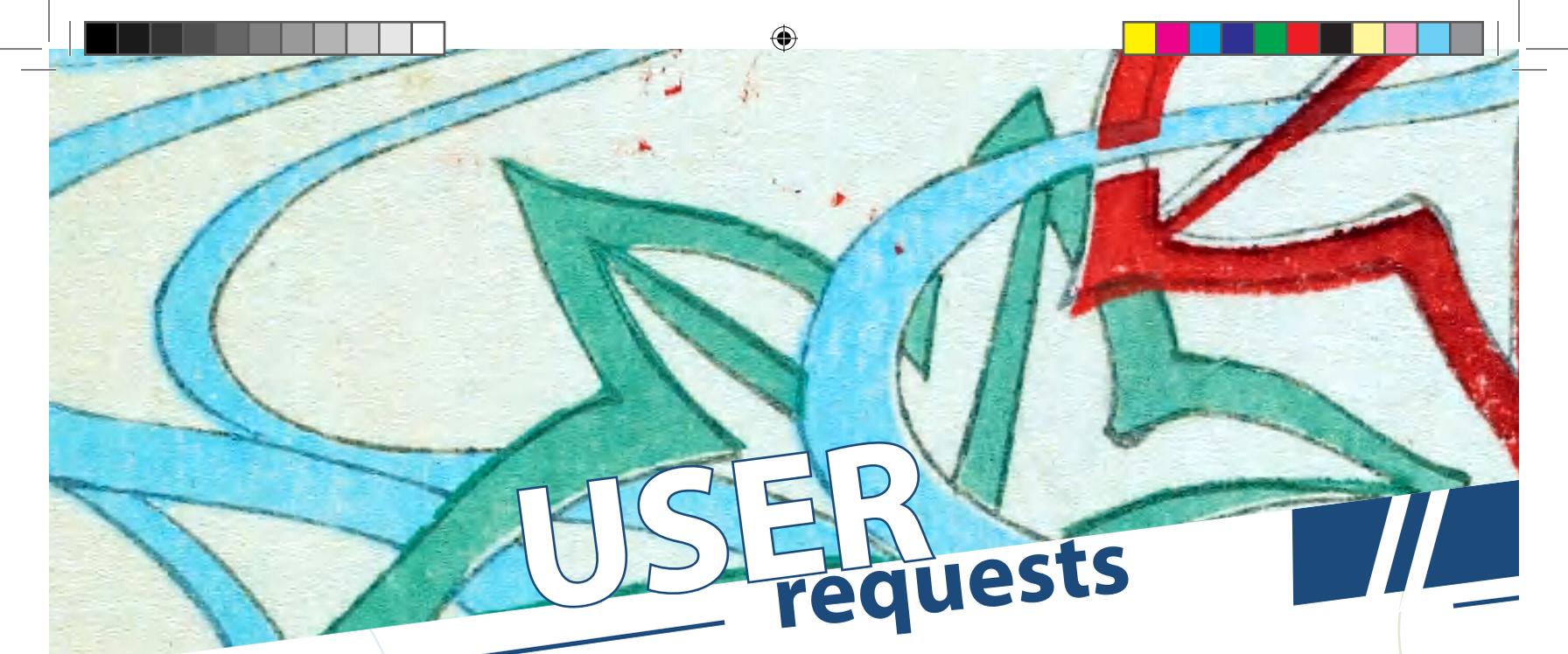
These magazines have it all. Everything from cycling-themed prose and poetry, to cartoons, to announcements and minutes of conferences and meetings. Even the advertisements for the latest technological advances in bicycle engineering provide clues to the intensity of the bicycling craze of the era. And contemporary interest in these titles is just as fervent, if not as widespread. The Libraries holds the most comprehensive runs of serials on the subject and according to Mike Hardy, Branch Chief at PennSIL (Smithsonian Libraries' off-Mall facility), "these are the most heavily used titles in the collection. Nearly every visitor wants to use one or more of these titles."

## Spanish Language Collection

In 2011, the Digital Services Department received funds from the Latino Initiatives Pool Fund to digitize Spanish language materials and convert the files to ePubs. A Latino Studies intern was hired to make selections both from our own Anthropology collection as well as significant titles already digitized and online. The project successfully converted 50 items and over 6,000 pages which are now available for use online or on mobile devices.

[library.si.edu/departments/web-services/cultural-heritage-library](http://library.si.edu/departments/web-services/cultural-heritage-library)





# USER requests

## Digitization Requests

| requestor  | items requested  |
|--|--|
| Tom Lera, Research Coordinator, to fill a request from the Royal Philatelic Society for inclusion in the Global Philatelic Library Union Catalogue | Lewes, Thornton and Edward Pemberton. <i>Forged Stamps and How to Detect Them</i> . Edinburgh: Colston & Son, 1863.<br>Pemberton, Edward. <i>Stamp Collectors Handbook</i> . London: Gibbons, 1874.<br><i>Stamp Collectors Review and Monthly Advertiser</i> . v. 1 (1862) – 2 (1864). Liverpool: Edward Moore & Co. |
| requestor  | items requested  |
| The Victorian Society<br>New York  | <i>Illustrations of Iron Architecture, Made by the Architectural Iron Works of the City of New York</i> (1865)   |
| requestor  | items requested  |
| Anonymous  | <i>Personal Identification in Mass Disasters</i><br><i>Dakota Odowan :Hymns in the Dakota Language, with Tunes</i>   |

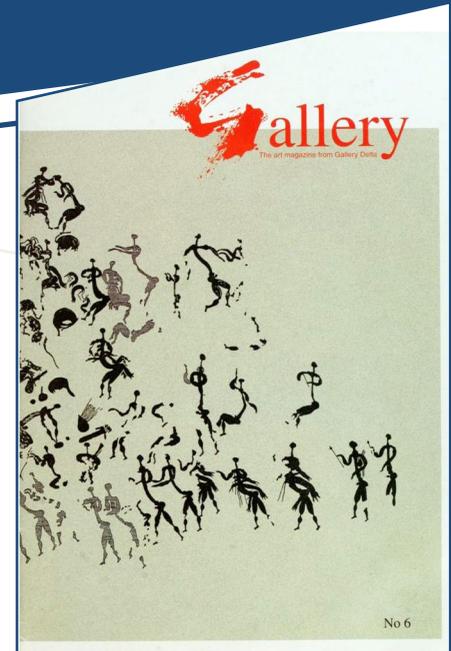
## smithsonian staff requests

Request from Janet Stanley, Librarian AfA

13 issues of *Gallery : the Art Magazine from Gallery Delta*

Request from Martin Kalfatovic, Digital Services Director

America's highways, 1776-1976 : a history of the Federal-aid program



## Through the Blogosphere

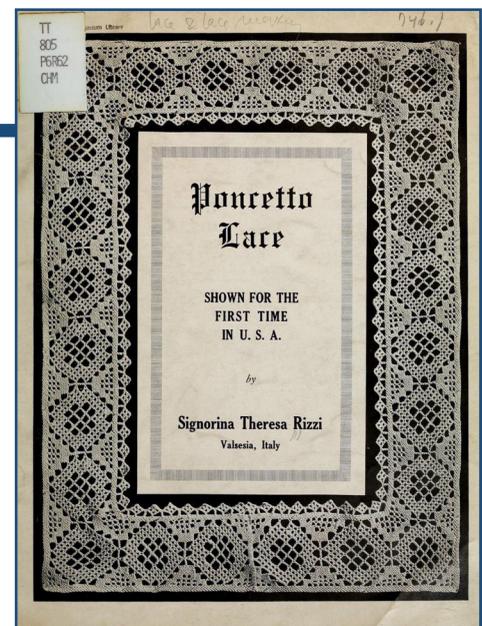
Outside account of a patron requesting a title from an unnamed "curator" and it's inclusion on Internet Archive.

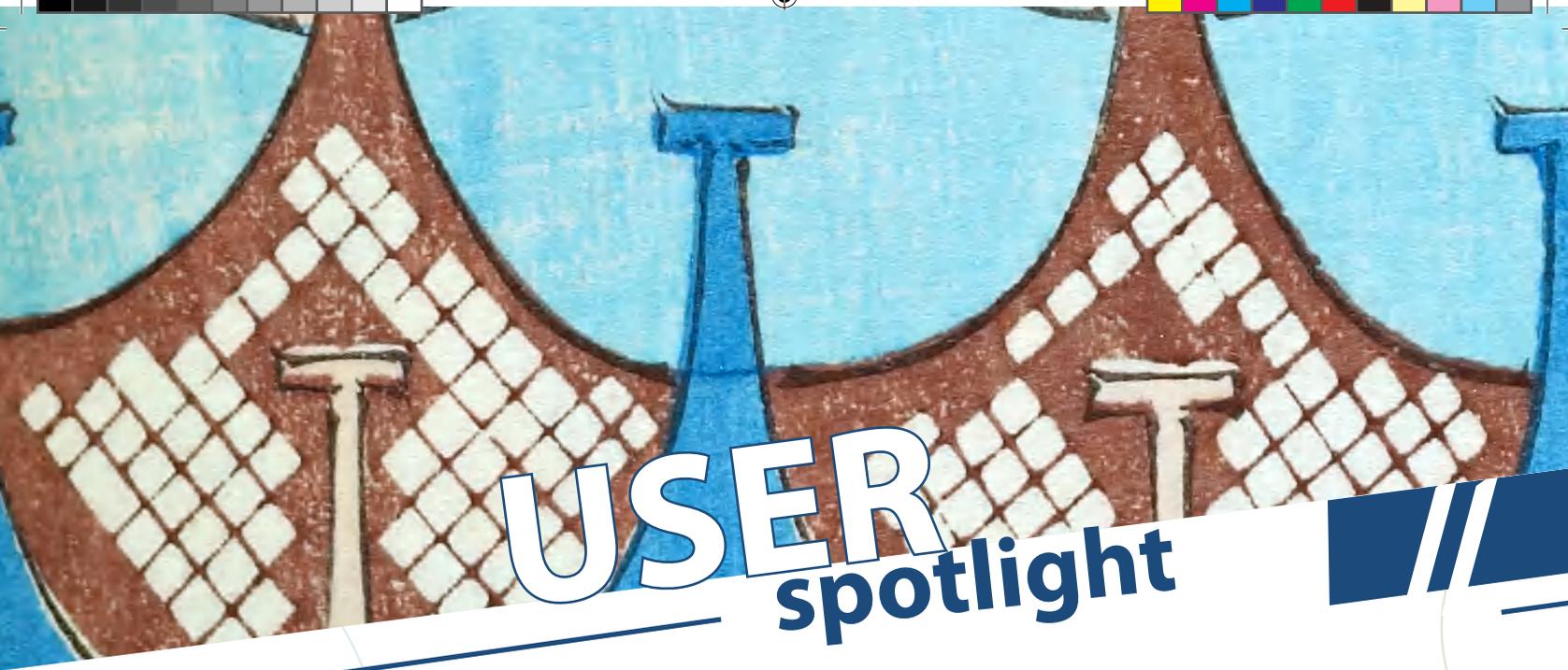
### *Old Poncetto Needle Lace Book in English*

"Some years ago while searching in the World Catalogue, I came across a book published in 1917 by Theresa Rizzi. It was called: *Poncetto Lace*. I wrote to the curator of textiles at the Smithsonian Museum where the book was held and asked if it was possible to obtain a copy since the text was old enough to be out of copyright. The curator sent me some scans of the text and asked that I not circulate them as they were part of the Smithsonian's collection. She also said that the Museum had future plans to start publishing scans of the texts in their collection on the Internet Archive and at some future date this book would be there in the public domain.

I'm excited to tell you that it has now been added to the Internet Archive and you can download it yourself."

[library.si.edu/departments/web-services/cultural-heritage-library](http://library.si.edu/departments/web-services/cultural-heritage-library)





# USER spotlight

## African Art, Janet Stanley, and Gallery Delta

**“With the wave of your wand you make magic and an immense obstacle disappears.”**

We digitized *Gallery* at the request of Derek Huggins, the director of Gallery Delta in Harare, Zimbabwe:

“*Gallery*’ magazine was an extraordinary achievement covering the growth and development, through the nineties, of a new Zimbabwean African contemporary painting movement, and a contra to ‘Shone Sculpture.’ The magazines were given to schools and libraries gratis, sold to a few overseas subscribers, and the public at home. Presently, the vast majority of the issues are out of print. This means that along the years we have given and disbursed some thirty thousand copies. But there are few complete sets in existence today, yet the magazines are sought still as resource material, particularly by students and researchers.

Thus, we come to the Gallery Delta web site. It was slow to evolve for a number of reasons. But last year, we decided to undertake it. In our planning we were intent to include digital copies of the magazines. But, the original files are now corrupt. We do not have a good scanner and it would take a long time, with our means, to do this and it would be of lesser quality. Hence, we wondered if the magazines had been digitized at the Smithsonian, or the Library of Congress? If we are able to include the magazines and link artists with articles we shall achieve a remarkable and highly informative web site, important for the art history of the country, and accessible and of interest to many. Already we are receiving enquiries



asking for more information about artists than exists on the web site. The magazine articles, which were always accompanied by the best pictures are not duplicated on the site, would help satisfy such curiosity.”

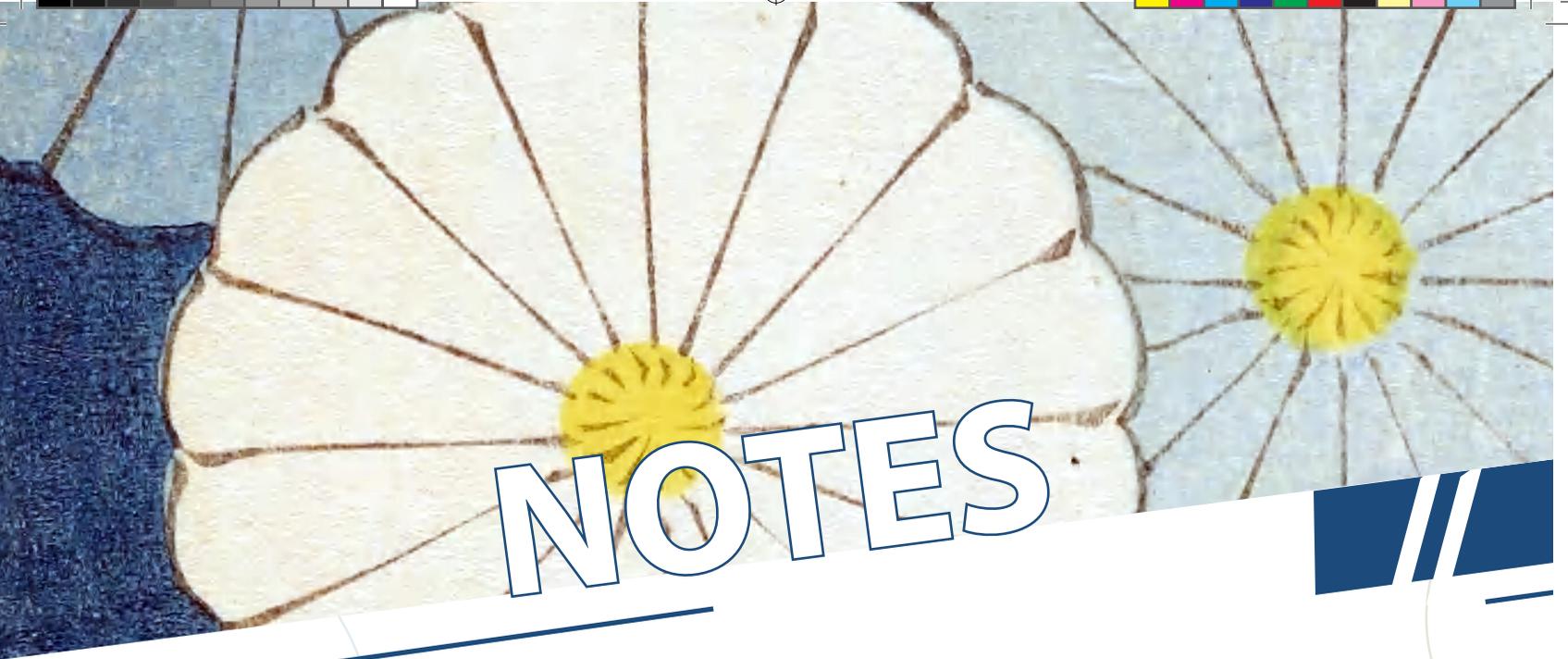
After SIL agreed to scan *Gallery* and make it available through the Internet Archive, Janet Stanley, African Art Museum Librarian, received another message from Derek Huggins, Director of Gallery Delta:

“When I joined Nigel [Gallery Delta’s web master] and Myrtle [graphic designer] for supper on Thursday evening last, they told me of your intent to digitize. You cannot know the extent of our relief and joy your news brought us. That is wonderful. We shall have a very meaningful web site in the end. A fillip to our spirits such as you have given us lasts long. Thank you so very much. With the wave of your wand you make magic and an immense obstacle disappears. It will be a great asset to have the magazines posted to the web site. I am perpetually asked by students and researchers for information pertaining to articles in the magazines which are out of print.”

More recently, in a 2012 reference query, Janet Stanley pointed the patron to two articles among the *Gallery* magazine scans. She replies:

“Thanks for your message. Yes I had found those articles and downloaded the digital scans of the *Gallery* magazine that contain them. I understand that the Smithsonian was involved in helping to do the digital scanning, what a great help to have them online. . . I am working on a book about Yvonne Vera and am trying to put together a comprehensive bibliography of Yvonne Vera’s work, including her less-studied non-fiction and art criticism. I notice that you have two other articles by Vera there at the Smithsonian that don’t seem to be available elsewhere in the USA...”

[library.si.edu/departments/web-services/cultural-heritage-library](http://library.si.edu/departments/web-services/cultural-heritage-library)



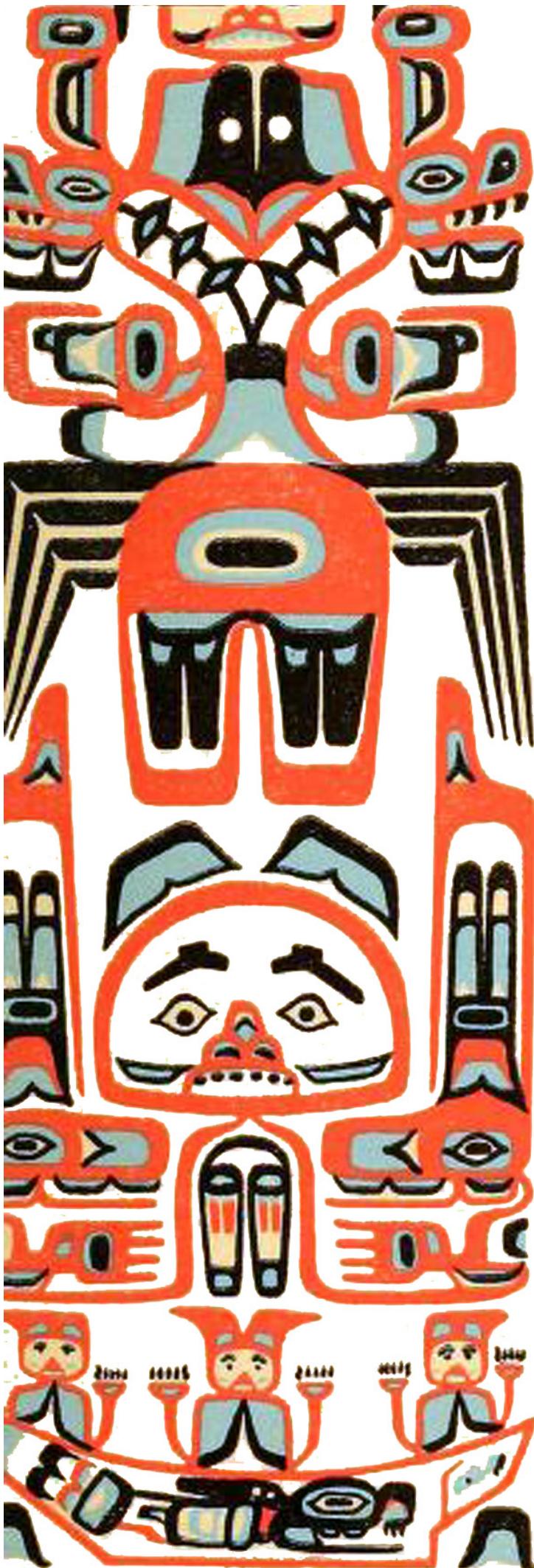
# NOTES





[library.si.edu/departments/web-services/cultural-heritage-library](http://library.si.edu/departments/web-services/cultural-heritage-library)

18 



Smithsonian Libraries

Report by Erin Thomas  
Design by Grace Costantino  
Graphs by Richard Naples

## Images:

- Pages 1-2:  
*Shin-bijutsukai*, v. 1 (1901).  
*Fashion Plates in the Collection of the Cooper-Hewitt Museum* (1982), pg. 23.
- Pages 3-4:  
*Shin-bijutsukai*, v. 1 (1901).  
*The Sporting Chronicle Annual*, v. 38-39 (1914-15).
- Pages 5-6:  
*Shin-bijutsukai*, v. 1 (1901).  
*Fashion Plates in the Collection of the Cooper-Hewitt Museum* (1982).
- Pages 7-8:  
*Shin-bijutsukai*, v. 1 (1901).  
*Alphabets Old and New, for the Use of Craftsmen* (1910).  
*The Reach Official American League Base Ball Guide* (19004-05).
- Pages 9-10:  
*The Wright Flyer : an Engineering Perspective* (1987).  
*Aircraft*, v. 1 (Mar. 1910 - Feb. 1911).
- Pages 11-12:  
*Shin-bijutsukai*, v. 1 (1901).  
*The Goldsmith's Art in Ancient Mexico* (1920).  
*The Referee and Cycle Trade Journal*, v. 18 (Nov. 1896-Apr. 1897).  
*The Bicycling World and Motorcycle Review*, v. 64 (Sept. 23 1911-Mar. 16 1912).
- Pages 13-14:  
*Shin-bijutsukai*, v. 1 (1901).  
*Gallery*, no.6 (Dec. 1995).  
*Directions for Making Poncetto Lace* (1917).
- Pages 15-16:  
*Shin-bijutsukai*, v. 1 (1901).
- Back Cover:  
*Contemporary American Indian Paintings from the Margretta S. Dietrich Collection* (1900).