

Collection Update for January 2021

130 new items were added in January

Hosted

- Boston Public Library - Boston Redevelopment Authority Collection (130 items)

Harvested

- No harvests in January

209,048 Item views 904,737 Total item-level records 350,850 Total hosted items

The Politics of Collections



Digital Commonwealth 2021 Conference

Online on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, 9am-4pm

Support the Conference Committee and register for the Annual Conference which will take place online on Tuesday April 13 from 9am-4pm. The lineup includes distinguished speakers from all over the US. This will be Digital Commonwealth's 15th conference! The schedule for the day can be viewed online from the button below (and may be subject to minor changes before April), along with the session abstracts and speaker bios.

[View Conference Web Page](#)



The Conference Committee is delighted to announce that Amelia Wilson will be joining Roberta Dougherty and Amber Kanner Clooney on Panel C: "[The Challenges of Non English Language Collections](#)".

Amelia Wilson is of Tlingit and Irish descent from the village of Hoonah, Alaska, and a member of the Chookaneidi brown bear clan. She serves as Executive Director for Huna Heritage Foundation; a non-profit affiliate of Huna Totem Corporation established to foster and support educational and cultural opportunities for current and future generations. Amelia is responsible for the oversight and administration of the Huna Heritage Library and Archives; scholarship program; and Our Way of Life community programming. Prior to her current position, she served as the Archivist for Huna Heritage Foundation and was instrumental in the development of the Huna Heritage Digital Archives, an online Mukurtu CMS web portal hosting audio and visual content that is of cultural and historic value related to Hoonah. Largely due to Amelia's work on the digital archives, in 2019 Huna Heritage Foundation won the International Guardians of Culture and Lifeways "Archives Institutional Excellence" Award from The Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums. Amelia is a motivated service-to-community oriented professional who enjoys volunteering at the local level as a city council member, vice mayor of Hoonah, member of the Alaska Native Sisterhood, the Hoonah Liquor Board, the Hoonah Veterans Committee, a Big Sister through the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, and the Tlingit dance group the Gaawx Xaayi Dancers. Amelia provides consultation, gives lectures and presentations, and teaches classes on numerous topics of cultural, historical, and contemporary value in local, regional, and international venues. She is personally and professionally committed to the ongoing development of her cultural knowledge and is honored to share it with others.

Registration is \$10 for individuals from Digital Commonwealth member organizations; \$20 for non-members.

Not sure if your organization is a member.... check [here](#).

IMPORTANT CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND ZOOM INFORMATION...

You will be registering through the Digital Commonwealth Membership & Programming website. We will send you your unique Zoom login information approximately 1 week before the conference date.

Thank you to Preservica for being a conference sponsor



Wheaton College Students Study Digital Commonwealth Collections

This past January, Outreach & Education Committee member Leah Niederstadt worked with Digital Commonwealth collections in her Wheaton College course ARTH 298: *Museums in the Digital Age*. During the intensive, four-week Winter 2021 semester, the students studied how museums and cultural institutions use digital media and technologies to care for their collections and engage with their audiences. In addition to reviewing online exhibitions and critiquing the social media presence of cultural institutions, each student explored a Digital Commonwealth collection for their final project.

Before choosing a collection to research, they received an introduction to Digital Commonwealth from Kate Boylan, Wheaton's Director of Archives & Digital Initiatives, who also serves on the Digital Commonwealth Board of Directors. Next, Niederstadt's students drafted blog and Instagram posts exploring a wide range of Digital Commonwealth collections. Finally, after a round of revisions, they presented their research in class. Their work will be highlighted on our social media channels in the coming months. The following Digital Commonwealth collections are included in the project:

- [Blind in Art Collection](#) from the Perkins School for the Blind
- [Japanese Prints Collection](#) from Boston College
- [19th Century American Trade Cards](#) from the Boston Public Library
- [Billerica, Massachusetts: History Captured on Glass](#) from the Billerica Public Library
- [Eddie Germano Collection of Political Cartoon Drawings](#) from the Newton Free Library
- [Mural Cycles at the Central Library in Copley Square](#) from the Boston Public Library

In January, two excellent posts by Wheaton student Jeanne Bedard also appeared on Digital Commonwealth's blog and Instagram accounts: [Along the Elevated: Photographs of the Orange Line](#) and a deep dive into [Stereoscopic Photography](#). We are always excited to see Digital Commonwealth's records being used in the classroom, and we're looking forward to additional posts exploring the collections! Here are a couple of images selected by two of the students from their chosen collections.....



[Adult who is blind guided by sighted child, unknown location, Perkins School for the Blind, Blind in Art Collection](#)



[Doctor and Madame Strong's corsets. Madame Strong's Comfort corset. Dr. Strong's Health corset. These corsets relieve the delicate and vital organs of all injurious pressure, Boston Public Library, 19th Century American Trade Cards](#)

"Expanding Your Digital Horizons"

Online Event Series

March 9, 2021, 1-2pm

"Part II - Sacco-Vanzetti: The Impact on Art and Literature"

Presented by:

Massachusetts Appeals Court Justice, Judge Peter Agnes (ret.)

In the second of his presentations on the Sacco-Vanzetti case, Judge Agnes will discuss the body of art, literature, music and movies that has been inspired by the impassioned reactions to the plight of these two individuals.

Peter W. Agnes, Jr. grew up in Somerville, Massachusetts. He graduated *cum laude* from Boston University in 1972 and from Suffolk University Law School, *cum laude*, in 1975. During his distinguished career, he served as Chief of Operations for Governor Michael Dukakis until 1991. Judge Agnes is very active as an educator for both the courts and the bar, assisting organizations like the Flaschner Judicial Institute, MCLE, CPCS and various bar associations. He has also taught at the Massachusetts School of Law as an adjunct professor for the last 20 years. Judge Agnes was appointed to the Appeals Court by Governor Deval Patrick in 2011. In 2017, he was appointed the chair of the SJC Committee on Archives and Records Conservation. One of that committee's recommendations led to an agreement between the SJC and the Secretary of the Commonwealth which enables the SJC to store the judiciary's most historic permanent paper records in vault space at the state archives. In 2019, Justice Agnes was appointed chair of the SJC Advisory Committee on Archives and Records. The SJC's Archives hold an extensive collection of documents relating to the Sacco-Vanzetti case. Aware that the Boston Public Library and Digital Commonwealth had already digitized their own extensive holdings on the case, Judge Agnes wanted the SJC's materials to be digitized and also held by Digital Commonwealth. Digitization of the SJC's materials was recently completed. Judge Agnes had planned to hold a conference on Sacco-Vanzetti in 2021, but unfortunately the event had to be postponed due to COVID-19.

There is no charge for this event, but registration is required.

The number of attendees will be limited for each event.

Don't miss this exciting event with Judge Agnes!!

[Register for Part II - Sacco-Vanzetti: The Impact on Art and Literature](#)

[Register for Part II - Sacco-Vanzetti: The Impact on Art and Literature](#)

There will be no event in April because of the Conference.

Coming in May.....**"Should it stay, or should it go?"**

Anke Voss, Curator, Special Collections, Concord Free Public Library

Jessie Hopper, Assistant Curator, Special Collections, Concord Free Public Library

The William Munroe Special Collections at the Concord Free Public Library has been collecting material of significance to Concord's local history since the opening of the Library in 1873. The Special Collections hosts a considerable number of digital exhibits and collections on its website, with much of the content generated beginning in the early 2000s. The exhibits are a combination of physical exhibits migrated to the on-line environment, and exhibit portals developed for the virtual viewer. For nearly two decades, the online content grew organically and no standards were set to present the material, with metadata applied in an inconsistent manner. Unfortunately, the exhibit platforms are now dated and content is cumbersome to access and view. The exhibits themselves are also text heavy and can feel more like an article rather than a fully realized curated exhibit. The staff of Special Collections also recognized that the on-line content was not discoverable in a meaningful way nor was it helpful for managing the large amount of digitized material. Anke and Jessie will discuss their experiences developing new collections and migrating old collections onto Omeka Classic.

DPLA News

DPLA's newly redesigned [DPLA Exchange](#), the only library-owned ebook and audiobook marketplace, now contains more than half a million ebooks and audiobooks from over 1,000 publishers. DPLA's offering includes titles from publishers like Hachette, Harper Collins, Macmillan, and Simon and Schuster as well as hundreds of mid-sized and independent publishers. DPLA Exchange allows libraries to select from more than 450,000 titles, offering a broad selection beyond the bestsellers. Their growing inventory of diverse titles includes well over 100,000 non-English books, with more than 40,000 in Spanish. DPLA Exchange also offers more than 15,000 audiobooks, including popular new titles. Over 6,000 free open access titles are available through DPLA's [Open Bookshelf](#), and their partnership with Bibliolabs offers libraries access to more than 16,000 simultaneous use titles.

Member News

Welcome New Members!

African American Cambridge Community Archive
Lee Historical Society
United States Naval Shipbuilding Museum
Uxbridge Historical Society

Welcome Back Returning Members!

Bedford Public Library
Berkshire County Historical Society at
Herman Melville's Arrowhead
Brookline Historical Society
Cambridge Historical Commission
Emmanuel College
Franklin Historical Museum
Griffin Museum of Photography
Historical Society of Old Yarmouth
Jacob Edwards Library
JOHN F KENNEDY LIBRARY & MUSEUM

Lawrence Public Library
LEICESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY
Longmeadow, Richard Salter Storrs Library
Mass. Library System
Newton Free Library
North of Boston Library Exchange (NOBLE)
Peabody Essex Museum
Public Health Museum In Massachusetts
Sandwich Public Library
Stoughton Public Library
The Walden Woods Project's Thoreau Institute
Town of Boxford Office of the Town Clerk
Worcester State University

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Digital Commonwealth, 210 Park Avenue, #311, Worcester, MA 01609-2246

Phone: 617-431-3933

email: membership@digitalcommonwealth.org

Digital Commonwealth BLM Statement