

Liber

*A Newsletter for the Friends
of Special Collections*

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Liber Returns

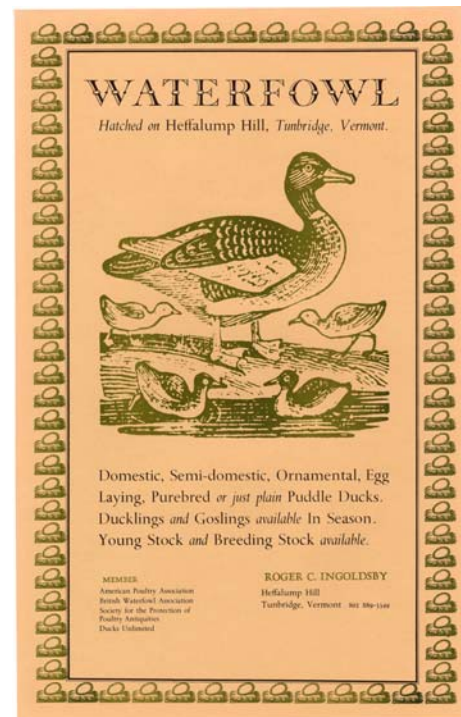
With this newsletter we resume our conversation with the Friends of Special Collections in a new style, but with much the same content. Our goals for *Liber* are to keep you informed, to encourage your participation in Special Collections events, and to earn your support for our ongoing activities.

Those activities include experimenting with new methods for introducing students to the rich resources of Special Collections. Last spring, Prudence Doherty and Chris Burns worked closely with History professor Dona Brown in her graduate seminar, "Adventures in the Archives." Using original letters, diaries, and other materials, the students explored the possibilities and limitations of primary source research. In the Classics course for first-year students called "From Letters to Literature," which I co-taught with Professor Robert Rodgers last fall, students learned about printing, book illustrations, and bibliography using the Rare Book collection.

Our public programs over the last year included a number of intriguing presentations by book artists, historians, and others. In conjunction with an exhibit of our medieval manuscripts, medievalists Daniel Williman and Karen Corsano delighted a large audience in December with their research on the Chronicle of Guillaume de Nangis, an important late thirteenth-century history of the world. Spring activities included reflections by Middlebury College professor John Elder on the cultural significance of maple sugaring, and a panel of speakers who addressed the history and documentation of the Long Trail and its Green Mountain Club founders, in commemoration of the club's one hundredth anniversary. The latter two events were held in conjunction with the launching of new digital collections, Maple Research and Long Trail Photographs, on our Center for Digital Initiatives website. Recently, we hosted book artist Peter Thomas for his talk on "The Literary Book as a Work of Art."

It is a great time to be involved in Special Collections. I hope you will attend our upcoming events and stay in touch!

Jeffrey D. Marshall, Director
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Broadsides on Display. This summer Sharon Thayer and Prudence Doherty created two exhibits using examples from our extensive broadside collection. One exhibit featured posters produced by the Acorn Press for events and businesses in Chelsea, VT during the 1970s and 1980s. The other display featured illustrated literary broadsides from fine presses that celebrate or meditate on the natural world and our place in it.

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A Mountain and an Eclipse in the Life and Career of Consuelo Northrop Bailey: An Introduction to Her Papers

Travis Puller

In *Leaves Before the Wind: The Autobiography of Vermont's Own Daughter*, Consuelo Northrop Bailey remembered a climb to the top of Jay Peak.

After months of semi-suffocation in Washington, I wished to breathe the clear cold air of the mountain tops. Consequently, my sisters, a friend and I decided to climb Jay Peak, for which I always had a fondness because of its nearness to Fairfield. Jay is in the northwest corner of Orleans County, close to the town of Montgomery.

On a glorious summer day, Mother left us on the Westfield side of the mountain. The trip up Jay was a much easier climb than the ones we had taken on Mansfield, Killington and Camel's Hump. We found no signs of a hotel, which history places on Jay at the time of the Civil War.

After we climbed the thirty-eight hundred and sixty-one feet, we found ourselves at the top of the mountain and the sight from that point was worth every foot of ground we had covered....The climbing of Jay was a wonderful and never-to-be-forgotten experience.

When Consuelo Northrop (later Bailey) made this climb, she was at one of the peaks in her own political career. The parallels of her experiences outdoors during the summer of 1932 and of her public service experiences during the decades preceding and following provide an interesting perspective on her life and the record she kept of it. Consuelo had been in Washington, D.C. during the 1932 Congressional session as personal secretary to then U.S. Representative Ernest Gibson, Sr. She had taken this position at the end of the 1931 session of the Vermont Senate, during which she represented Chittenden County.

By this time, Bailey was well known around the state as attested by the many articles in the *Burlington Free Press* and other newspapers about her appointment, with headlines like "Miss Northrup [sic] Leaves To Take Up New Duties: Prominent Woman Lawyer, Ex-State's Attorney and Senator Goes to Washington" from November 27, 1931 and "Consuelo Northrup [sic] Is Attracting Attention at Washington Capitol: Well-Known Local Lawyer-Senator Is Secretary to Congressman Ernest Gibson—Interviewed at Washington" from January 16, 1932.



Consuelo Northrop Bailey on Jay Peak.

However, in a letter dated two days later, her friend Val Johnson cautions Bailey about interviewing for these articles:

Your remarkable accomplishments in Vermont look like the life work of an exceptionally able man in a larger state to one who takes the large state point of view toward those accomplishments. Your matter of fact statements therefore would be taken with a lifted eyebrow by some. Be conservative in interviews. Give this Beth Furman ____ [sic] next time you see her, for to my knowledge she is the first to have given you the raspberries, mildly to be sure, but still raspberries.

He sent her a copy of the article, and in her diary entry for January 19, Bailey writes, "Found a clipping from Val at night which disturbed me frightfully."

Bailey retained many examples of the difficulties she faced as a younger woman in public office, including a poem sent to her during her campaign for a second term as State's Attorney in 1928:

We Wonder

We wonder who's kissing her now.
Walter Farnsworth? Judge Sherman? George Howe?
We wonder if we, in her graces could be,
If we helped furnish her office for her.

We wonder why flowers are sent,
When the money at home could be spent,
Why the Judge spends his time

In her office, that's fine,
If he's not forgetting his wife.

We wonder who's doing her work,
And why it is he does not shirk,
We wonder if she, States Attorney could be,
If the Judge spent his time with his wife.

Bob Austin for States Attorney.

In May, 1932 a similarly anonymous note, which reads "Congratulations on your new mamma! Foxy Papa!" –A Vermonter (voter, 2nd dist.), was sent to Ernest Gibson's office along with a clipping entitled "Senator is Clerk: Representative Gibson has Eminent Aide." Even favorable notice of her accomplishments was often cast in patronizing language, as in a 1933 news announcement in the *Boston Post* entitled "Girl Lawyer in High Court: First Vermont Woman Before Supreme Court," even though Consuelo was 34 years old at the time.

During the 1932 session, Bailey organized Rep. Gibson's office, answered some of his correspondence, helped move his office, supervised others in the office, and answered queries for Gibson at his office when he was sick. She also spoke a great deal at public and private events on behalf of Republican candidates and policies. A typical day's diary entry from this session reads, "Good day which to me means crisp and cool. We got out 119 pieces of mail. Worked til after 6 p.m. which is not an uncommon event. In even. Stayed in—read papers and made up diary" (February 15, 1932). As soon as Congress adjourned, Bailey moved her work back to her Burlington law office at 182 Main Street. Gibson's campaign for re-election was underway, and much of the summer's correspondence involved collecting petitions and answering letters of support from many of his political friends and allies. Her account book from her legal practice shows that in addition to her work for Gibson, she had five clients during the months of July and August.

When possible, Bailey would escape with her mother, Katherine, and younger sister, Frederika, to their family farm in Fairfield. Her older sister, Mary, joined them while her husband, Everett Wallis, continued his work in the chemistry labs at Princeton University. From 1924 to 1926, Mary taught English at the Portland (Connecticut) High School, where she met Carl Valdemar Johnson, whom she introduced to her sister Consuelo. Johnson was the friend mentioned in the first paragraph of Bailey's account of the climb. He began corresponding with Bailey in 1926, and by 1932 their friendship had become quite close. In a letter from late July or early August, 1932, Johnson asks, "Can you have a few days of relaxation at your family farm during the last 15 days of August? After all my Vermont trips are primarily for the purpose of being with you. I love you, Val."

Bailey met Johnson at a friend's house in St. Albans on Friday, August 12, and the next day they went to the farm in Fairfield. Bailey spent much of the next week working at her office and attending the Redpath Chautauqua in Burlington.

The evening before the climb, Bailey records that she "...read *Great Expectations* to everybody." The next morning, a Monday, they drove to Montgomery, stopping in Enosburg so that Bailey could purchase groceries and some food for the climb. Her account book lists the purchases: cheese, bacon, coffee, eggs, sugar, peaches, cups, and *Free Press* for \$2.92. In a letter to Everett dated August 24, 1932, Mary Wallis describes the day of the climb:

Mon. we went up Jay peak. Con gave the treat, and Freddie did all the work of getting us ready. I bloomed with 2 large cold sores, and felt too rotten to do anything but take myself up to the top. It was a fine day for the trip, and the climb is easy, 3,861 feet....Mother went with us to bottom and waited from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. for us to return.



Consuelo Northrop Bailey (front), her sister Frederika, and Val Johnson.

The following evening, Bailey records in her diary that she and the rest of the party "went to Manor Lafayette and danced with Val. In bed of course late." Johnson left for Connecticut on the morning of Friday, August 26, and in a letter to Bailey dated August 28, he rhetorically recalls the evening's activities:

"Remarkable! another letter so soon!" she exclaimed. "Why, my dear, I've known him for six years, and it was only last week he danced with me the first time. Of course, the dancing did not include any waltzing, and we did not indulge within the limits of the United States, and he had consumed four or five glasses of Sauterne to bolster up his courage, and we only had two dances."

In a letter of the day before, Johnson asks, "Wherefrom are you going to view the Eclipse? Do not miss it. As a natural phenomenon it can't be beat." The eclipse of the sun occurred a little after 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 31, 1932. Bailey describes it in detail in a letter to Val the next day:

Following your departure, I stayed in Burlington and worked which course has been religiously followed except when at the farm yesterday for the eclipse. I do wish you might have been there and you might have been. It looked very discouraging here yesterday morning but by 2:30 at the farm the sun was shining brightly. The following were there—Mr and Mrs Geo Wallis, Otis Wallis, a Miss Webster with the Wallis family, Mary, Everett (who came up from Princeton to see it) Mr and Mrs Howell (professor from Princeton) Arthur Wallis of the Wallis household; Franklin Howell (15 year old son of the before mentioned professor), and of course Mother, Fred and Consuelo. We saw the whole affair very plainly and really were most fortunate. The crickets sang and it became very dark. The lighting effect along the horizon was as beautiful as any part of it. We went onto the highest hill back of the house. You know the large rock. Well, we were on the hill next west. It was a mighty good place. We saw the beads, corona and red lights very well. It surely was an event. If the pictures of the group prove to be of any consequence I shall be glad to send them to you.



Group gathered at the family farm in Fairfield to view the 1932 eclipse.

Bailey's climb to prominence in the Vermont political world, from law school graduate in 1925 to city grand juror of Burlington, state's attorney for Chittenden County, and state senator for Chittenden County in 1931—all in the course of six years—was extraordinary. Along the way she became the first woman to prosecute an accused murder in Vermont, the first woman to secure a divorce for her client in Vermont, the only woman prosecutor in the East at the time, the first

woman lawyer to serve in the Vermont Senate, and the first woman to preside over the Vermont Senate. However, in her tenure as secretary to Ernest Gibson, Bailey was heading into a period of eclipse. After five years in this rather fruitless position, she and Senator Gibson reached an impasse, and in 1937 she resigned her post and returned to Burlington to resume her law practice. In a short editorial in the *Rutland Daily Herald*, October 13, 1937, Howard Hinley writes, "Consuelo's experiences in Washington were not particularly happy. She is a first-class, competent, efficient person, fully as capable of being a member of Congress as her late employer, Senator Gibson. That was probably one reason why she and Gib didn't stick."

That might have been one reason. Gibson gave another reason, according to a letter his son Ernest Gibson, Jr. wrote to his father on December 10, 1936:

Dear Father:

Got your telegram about the secretaryship. The Monday after you left I saw Miss Northrup [*sic*] at Montpelier and told her definitely what you desired, namely, that she not spend the winter in Washington. I said that your health was poor and that one of the contributing causes of your nervousness was the conditions of your office and that you were forced to make sweeping changes and to insure freedom from worry. I told her that you had nothing against her in any way and that you were awfully sorry to take the step, but that it definitely had to be taken.

She was quite upset about it and quite angry and finally took the position that since you had hired her it was up to you to fire her.

It is also quite possible that the estrangement occurred over the circumstances and persons involved with the Merchant Marine Act of 1936 and the establishment of the U.S. Maritime Commission in 1937, in which Gibson played a contributing role. (See correspondence between Bailey and Paul Williams, 1936-1937, in the Secretary to Ernest Gibson, Sr. subseries of the Consuelo Northrop Bailey Papers.) Another cause of estrangement was that Bailey and Gibson, though both firmly Republican, were very different in their political loyalties. Senator Gibson and Governor Aiken (later Senator) represented the more moderate wing of the Republican Party in Vermont, while Representative Plumley and Senator Austin were promoting the more conservative wing of the party. Bailey's correspondence during this time makes it clear that her allegiance lay with the conservative wing, as it would for the rest of her life.

Continued on page 6

Billings Project Update

Plans for moving Special Collections into a renovated Billings Library are rolling forward. Fundraising for the project is now the top priority of UVM's development officers, and we are working closely with them to create a campaign case statement. Schwartz/Silver Architects of Boston recently completed a set of sketches of the proposed renovations, thanks to the generosity of J. Brooks Buxton (UVM '56). Although the project has no timetable yet—that will depend partly on fundraising trends over the next twelve months or so—we expect that the years to completion can be counted on one hand rather than two.

What will the new Billings Center be like? Imagine entering the Great Hall through the arched doorway. One encounters conversation as groups of students, faculty, and guests lounge in front of the magnificent stone fireplace. A greeter at a small desk directs visitors to offices and events. In the Marsh Room, behind the fireplace, a class of undergraduates gets a hands-on look at artists' books, undisturbed by all the activity in the adjacent rooms. Tonight the Marsh Room will host a lecture by a visiting professor.

Under the conical roof of the Apse, with its spectacular carved wooden beams, quiet study space is available for much of the day, although the room remains a perfect location for occasional receptions. Numerous recessed exhibit cases, individually controlled for climate and security, encircle the room.

The long hall of North Lounge is now the reading room for Special Collections. Book shelves have been restored to the alcoves along the east and west sides, and a center alcove serves as a reference office and service area. Most of the collection, however, is stored two floors below, accessible to staff by elevator. The ground floor of

the Billings addition of 1986, designed as office space for student activities, has been completely cleared out to make way for compact shelving units, work areas, and staff offices. Combined with the below-ground level of Ira Allen Chapel, this area more than doubles storage capacity for Special Collections. More important, it features state-of-the-art climate control and security for rare and unique collections.

Above the North Lounge reading room, the east and west balconies are occupied respectively by the Center for Research on Vermont and the Center for Holocaust Studies. The two centers share a small conference room at the north end of the storey. Both of these programs collaborate with Special Collections to build collections, provide public programming, and offer opportunities for scholars to conduct research.

In short, Billings is a dynamic academic center, a crossroads and meeting place for the campus community, for visiting scholars, and the general public. It is an intellectual center, a place for scholars of all levels, for those who are inspired or just curious. For Special Collections, it is a place not only to showcase important collections, but an active locus for research, teaching, and programming, blending unmatched historical ambience with state-of-the-art technology. The move to Billings provides an opportunity for Special Collections to improve and expand its services, and at the same time take better care of magnificent and important resources under our care.

We think this project will prove irresistible to those who love libraries and appreciate the kind of work we are engaged in. Stay tuned for information on how you can help!



One of eight drawings for the Billings Library Renovation Project produced by project architects Schwartz/Silver, with generous support from J. Brooks Buxton. Library users will once again retrieve books and study at the tables in the restored reading room.

More of the drawings can be viewed on the firm's web site at <http://www.schwartzsilver.com/>. The original drawings will be deposited in the University Archives.

Kara Walker Donation

John Henry Donner

In 2009 Special Collection received a generous donation from J. Brooks Buxton in the form of three books by the artist Kara Walker. Walker is one of the most well-known and controversial figures in the art world today. Her work deals with issues of race, gender, sexuality, and identity. She uses silhouettes of black paper cut-outs to create scenes of her vision of the antebellum American South, replete with humor, violence, and sex, all displayed through a racial lens. Although most well known for her large-scale installation pieces, her work on the page provides a different outlet for the exploration of her preferred themes as well as an illuminating view into the artist's process.

Kara Walker was published by the Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago to accompany her show there in 1997. The book, printed by the Stinehour Press, consists of color photos of the exhibit along with Walker's distinctive writings and illustrations that recreate her large black paper cut-outs on the page. However, the volume is more than a mere catalogue of the show. It allows the reader to spend more time with Walker's writings. Also, it allows the artist to experiment with different images and typographies in addition to her usual source material taken from the antebellum south. These portions of the book function as tiny glimpses into Walker's sketchbook, allowing the reader a view of her creative process and train of thought. Published in an edition of 1000, each book is signed by the artist and embellished with gold leaf on the cover.

Freedom: A Fable is a pop-up book written and illustrated by Walker. The book was commissioned by the Peter Norton Family as a Christmas gift in 1997 and includes a holiday card from the family. Walker's story tells of a female slave and her strange and harrowing journey after emancipation. The edition distinguishes itself from most pop-up books not only by its racially- and sexually-charged content but also by its production and construction. Rather than the usual method of die-cutting the various pieces of paper to make the pop-ups, these were cut by laser, allowing for much more precise and intricate designs. The book also uses a distinctive "broken serif" font that recreates the feel of many of the broadsides produced at the time in which the story is set, and complements the artist's sensibility and preferred subject matter.

The third book represents a collaboration between two of America's foremost commentators on racial and gender issues. *Five Poems* combines the verse of Toni Morrison with five illustrations by Walker. The power and subtlety of Morrison's words are wed with some of

Walker's most restrained and haunting silhouettes in an exquisite work of book design by Peter Koch. Walker's silhouettes here are no longer the paper cut-outs but are block-printed onto the page. They beautifully complement the letter press-printed text. Both give the book an incredible materiality. The book is numbered 158 of 399 and is signed by Morrison, Walker, and Koch.

The three books demonstrate Walker's adroit use of the book as a medium of communication for her unique voice in the world of contemporary art and also show the wide range of voices in which she is able to communicate. What may at first seem blunt and antagonistic can at the same time be subtle and beguiling. What may be shocking and horrific may also be humorous and playful.

John Henry Donner worked in Special Collections while attending UVM. He graduated in 2009 with a BA in Art.

A Mountain (continued from page 4)

Reading Bailey's diary entries during these years, though, one discovers the state of fatigue and general frustration that she had reached by this point in her position as Gibson's secretary. It is probable that the lack of any progress towards her Washington-related ambitions, whatever those were, as much as any other factor contributed to her decision to return to Burlington.

It would be another thirteen years before Bailey would again venture into the world of state government, as representative for South Burlington in 1951. She became the first woman Speaker of the House in Vermont in 1953, and then became the first woman Lieutenant Governor in U.S. history in 1955. The pattern in her career of a rapid climb followed by an enigmatic eclipse would repeat itself, leaving people wondering why she never attempted to become Vermont's first woman governor or congresswoman.

During the last days of her life, Bailey recalled her early successes as she did her early climb of Jay Peak, with aplomb, pride, and wonder, and this is how her successes often appear from a distance. But her feelings in the midst of her work were different, as her diary entry for the day of the Jay Peak climb recounts, "Bot food in Enosburg and then started climbing at foot of mt. A very good view. But the climb was rather too strenuous for me. My knees very weak. Was glad to get back home" (August 22, 1932).

Travis Puller is a processing archivist in Special Collections. Building on the work of other staff members, he completed arrangement and description of the important Consuelo Northrop Bailey Papers.

More Special Collections Materials Now Available Online

Under the direction of librarians Robin Katz and Sibyl Schaefer, UVM's Center for Digital Initiatives (CDI) has added a number of new collections over the last year. Four of the new collections make material from our Rare Book and Wilbur Collections more widely accessible to users near and far.

Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts



Processing archivist Travis Puller scanned and described 31 manuscript items from the Rare Book collection to create the Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts Collection. The manuscripts were written in various locations across Europe

and the Middle East, and date from the early 12th to the 17th centuries C.E. Many of the texts are religious in nature, including examples from Vulgate Bibles, the Koran, liturgical books, books of private devotion, handbooks for confessors, and a book of church law. Others include works by Cicero, Terence, Eberhard Hicfelt, and Ascanio Savorgnano and contain topical works on medicinal herbs, the island of Cyprus, and the laws of Carpeneto, Italy.

Long Trail Photographs



UVM Special Collections holds several collections of glass slides that document construction and use of Vermont's Long Trail during its first three decades. Over the years, images from the collections have been used to illustrate publications about the trail, but the obsolete format restricted general use.

This year, the Center for Digital Initiatives greatly improved access by creating the Long Trail Digital Collection with over 900 digitized glass lantern slides from the Theron Dean and Herbert W. Congdon Papers. The collection was launched in March to coincide with the Green Mountain Club's centennial celebration. The image collections chronicle the views and landscapes seen by early hikers and provide a record of people associated with the Green Mountain Club's formative years. The slides were scanned by UVM's Landscape Change Program with the generous support of the National Science Foundation. Visitors to the Long Trail web site can use the Google Maps feature to look for items by location.

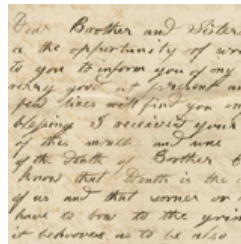
Maple Research Collection



The Maple Research Collection documents the history of maple research at UVM. It includes research reports, product labels, and brochures from Special Collections, in addition to photographs and other items from the Proctor Maple Research

Center. The digital collection is part of the Maple Research Website, a comprehensive subject guide created by UVM librarian Elizabeth Berman in collaboration with a number of UVM departments. The project was funded in part by the Agriculture Network Information Center (AgNIC), in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture and the National Agricultural Library.

Fletcher Family Collection



The Fletcher Family collection includes family correspondence and photographs that date from 1826-1903. The 139 letters in the collection come from the Fletcher Family subseries of the extensive Consuelo Northrop Bailey Papers. The correspondence

describes the experiences of several family members who moved west to New York, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, and California. The correspondents recount in great detail the work of creating and managing farms in these new states and territories. There are a few letters from the Civil War, and several letters refer to the war and its effects on their communities. The collection includes an account of the St. Albans Raid by Andrew Craig Fletcher, who was working in St. Albans at the time. The collection also includes Katherine Fletcher's correspondence with family and classmates when she attended Johnson State Normal School from 1885-1887.

This fall, first-year students in Dona Brown's seminar "Vermont, New England, and the World: Turning Points in Regional History" are working with the Fletcher Family digital collection.

Forthcoming Collections

Over the next year, additional collections that use materials from Special Collections will be launched, including the Prospect Archive of Children's Work and Vermonters in the Civil War.

View these collections and more online at <http://cdi.uvm.edu/>

Wandering Book Artists Visit Vermont

On August 27, 2010, bookmakers, printers and papermakers Peter and Donna Thomas, also known as the Wandering Book Artists, parked their brightly painted caravan in front of Bailey/Howe Library while they visited with Special Collections staff in the afternoon and gave a presentation to a very enthusiastic crowd of educators, bookmakers, and musicians in the evening. The musicians particularly appreciated Peter's ukulele book tunes and the unique *History of the Accordion Book* (2009), made out of an old accordion.

Their visit was a great way to celebrate the end of summer and the beginning of the new school year, and it provided a very welcome opportunity to add new books to our collection. We selected *Not Paper* (2010) and *The History of Papermaking in the Philippines* (2005) to complement the artists' other books on papermaking already on our shelves.

We chose two miniature books with musical themes, including *Happy Together* (2010), with its double scroll presentation of the Turtles' 1967 hit, and *Don't Fence Me In* (2010), which illustrates the lyrics of Cole Porter's famous cowboy song with vintage printer's cuts. We also selected several small books that reflect the Thomases'

connection with the western landscape, including *Grand Canyon* (2007), an accordion book that presents John Wesley Powell's 1875 observation that the Grand Canyon cannot be adequately represented in symbols of speech on one side and Donna Thomas's watercolor paintings of canyon locations on the other. We could not resist the flap book *Time I\$* (2003), which summarizes two very different views of the relationship between time and money.

