**Beloit College Archives Collection Highlights**

**General**

1) Many diaries by faculty and students, ranging primarily from the 1840’s to the 1960’s. These include personal, travel and student life diaries. Examples include a series of diaries by Beloit’s first president, Aaron Lucius Chapin; the 1910 “trip around the world” by Professor George Collie; an illustrated diary by student Theodore Chrischilles, and a diary of daily life in Beloit during the 1880’s by faculty wife, Talma Rowlands.

2) Thousands of letters, some predating the college. Among the most important collections are the Chapin correspondence, the Porter family correspondence (including courtship and travel letters), letters to and from one of the early women students, Ethel Bird, and a large collection of letters by Professor Carl Welty during his time in Koblenz Germany as a post-war relief worker for the American Friends Service Committee in 1946-47.

3) Countless photographs and slides on all topics relating to the college and city. From what I’ve heard, we have a particularly rich photograph collection compared to many other colleges.

4) Institutional records – these include official correspondence of the presidents and deans, Trustees and Faculty minutes and complete runs of campus and student publications, in some cases dating back to the founding of the college.

**Specific**

1) **The Civil War** – Materials include documents about the college during the Civil War, correspondence by student-soldiers, handwritten obituaries, diaries at the battlefront and on the home front, and book and newspaper accounts.

2) **T.C. Chamberlin collection** – In 1909, Thomas Chrowder Chamberlin and his son, Rollin, traveled to China as part of the Oriental Educational Investigation Commission. T.C. Chamberlin was a member of the class of 1866, a prominent educator and famous geologist. He and Rollin wrote extensive, closely observed diaries about their explorations. A gifted photographer, Rollin took dozens of photographs of China’s diverse landscape and people. Our holdings include their diaries, photographic negatives, prints and leather-bound scrapbooks. As an exercise for the History Workshop class, students transcribed and annotated small portions of the diaries. A special Archives display currently features many of the photographs.

3) **Emerson family** – Hundreds of letters dating to the late eighteenth century relating to this New England family. They include correspondence with numerous prominent figures of the early to mid-19th century, a group of letters from world-wide missionaries, and much colorful family correspondence, both with immediate family members and with cousins in Cuba, pioneer Illinois, and Mobile, Alabama, among other places. There are also extensive travel letters from Professor Joseph Emerson’s trips in 1870-71 covering Turkey, Egypt,
Lebanon, Greece, Italy and other countries as well as letters and a diary from an extended trip to Greece and Italy, 1888-91.

4) **Tracy Peck** – (prominent Yale philologist, Latin scholar and student of Roman Antiquities, father-in-law of Beloit alum, Wilfred Rowell) – hundreds of letters from 1860s-1920s, describing his work and observations, many from Rome where he eventually retired.

5) **Beloit College Museums** – The Archives holds rich collections of materials regarding the Logan and Wright museums, from the “College Cabinet” reports of the 1840’s to extensive correspondence about anthropological and archaeological expeditions, to a collection about the World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893 which helped jump-start both museums.

**Special Collections Highlights**

1) **Beloitana** – Works by or of the people and places of Beloit and its College.

2) **Beloit College Diary Repository** – a growing collection of original handwritten diaries and published diaries – domestic, travel, war, and more

3) **Martin Luther King Collection on Non-Violence** – Assembled over a period of more than thirty years by former library director, H. Vail Deale, the collection includes books and pamphlets by and about Mohandas Gandhi, Henry David Thoreau, Martin Luther King, and other leaders connected with the philosophy of non-violence and pacifism. The collection also includes a bound file of *Fellowship Magazine*, the foremost magazine of American pacifism in the 20th century. Rare and out-of-print items from India, memorabilia of Dr. King's assassination and funeral, and an extensive number of books by and about Mohandas Gandhi highlight this collection, now referred to as "The Martin Luther King Collection on Non-Violence."

4) **Joseph C. Rheingold Collection** – This collection deals with the era of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and includes books and magazines by and about Roosevelt, and volumes written by numerous members of his cabinets.

5) **Rare books and facsimiles** – The Archives maintains a small, but useful collection of rare 18th and 19th century books of literature, art and history. Our rarest volume is the *Nuremberg Chronicle*, the illustrated history of the world printed in 1493. In recent years we have added a growing collection of facsimiles of rare hand-written books originally produced and decorated during the European Middle Ages. Highlights include high quality reproductions of *Tristan and Isolde* by Gottfried von Strassburg, the *Ashmole Bestiary*, and the *Rouen Book of Hours*. 