

History.1: Timeless Treasures: Exploring Cornell's World-Class Teaching Collections

Faculty: Corey Ryan Earle '07, Visiting Lecturer in American Studies, University Historian

Faculty: Evan Fay Earle '02, MS '14, Dr. Peter J. Thaler '56 University Archivist

Week One: July 6 – 12, 2025

Schedule: Monday - Friday, 9-12 and 1:30-3:30, except Wednesday afternoon.

Location: Olin Library, Rare & Manuscript Collections

June 25, 2025

Dear CAU Participants,

Get ready to discover a wide array of unique collections in “Timeless Treasures: Exploring Cornell's World-Class Teaching Collections.” We’re thrilled to be back for a fourth summer with CAU, digging into the Rare and Manuscript Collections of Kroch Library with you to showcase the fascinating teaching materials across disciplines and periods of Cornell’s history.

As the de facto university historian and the university archivist, we both have spent many hours exploring collections at Cornell, and we each bring different perspectives to historical research and storytelling. Cornell has some of the best special collections in the country, and they are part of the broader story of Cornell’s pioneering history. With our focus on collections, we’ll also be considering the challenges involved with collecting and curating, including preservation, security, ethics, and other issues.

Our primary location will be at the heart of campus, underneath the Arts Quad, in the Rare and Manuscript Collections of Kroch Library. This space is tightly climate-controlled, so even on a hot day, be prepared for cooler temperatures and dress appropriately. Throughout the week, we’ll also take “field trips” to visit other collections around campus, collaborating with fellow curators and content experts to enhance your learning about the richness of Cornell’s collections. Be prepared for walking, although we don’t expect to travel more than a 15-minute walk (each way) from the library on any given day. Given Ithaca’s unpredictability, you may want to bring an umbrella.

Lunches are on your own, but we plan to make ourselves available to eat lunch with the class for anyone interested in “office hours.” We’ll identify nearby lunch locations to maximize convenience in coordination with our field trips.

While you won’t need to study for any exams, we hope you each bring your own experiences and perspectives, as well as plenty of questions to foster engaging conversations about the material and topics. We look forward to interesting conversations and providing a one-of-kind experience with some of Cornell’s and the world’s most special treasures.

See you soon,

Corey Ryan Earle '07

Visiting Lecturer, American Studies Program

Evan Fay Earle '02, M.S. '14

Dr. Peter J. Thaler '56 Cornell University Archivist

Class Schedule

While our specific course schedule is subject to change and will be updated based on the interests of participants, we plan to highlight the following collections, among others:

- Blaschka Invertebrate Models Collection
 - Center for Historical Keyboards
 - Cornell University Archives
 - Eastern Wine & Grape Archive
 - Fashion + Textile Collection
 - Fiske Icelandic Collection
 - Hip Hop Collection
 - Human Sexuality Collection
 - Huntington Free Library Native American Collection
 - Insect Collection
 - Johnson Museum of Art
 - Kheel Center of Industrial & Labor Relations
 - L. H. Bailey Hortorium
 - Macaulay Library at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology
 - Museum of Vertebrates
 - Plaster Cast Collection
 - Rare Book Collections
 - Restaurant Menu Collection
 - Reuleaux Collection of Kinematic Models
 - Samuel J. May Anti-Slavery Collection
 - Witchcraft Collection
- ...and more!