

Gift of the Kurdish Heritage Foundation

by Jean L. Green

The Libraries recently received the Vera Beaudin Saeedpour Kurdish Library and Museum Collection from the Kurdish Heritage Foundation at the recommendation of her family. This outstanding collection contains more than 3,000 books, journals, and newspapers in Kurdish and other languages. It also includes artifacts, costumes, maps, photographs, artwork, and other unique materials: a nineteenth century traveler's account of Kurdistan; jewelry including necklaces, headpieces, bracelets, and belts; musical instruments and recorded music; and weavings, crafts, carpets, and other textile art. The collection originated in a Brooklyn Prospect Heights townhouse where Dr. Beaudin Saeedpour, a scholar on Kurdish studies, created "The Kurdish Library" in 1986.

Born in Vermont in 1930, Dr. Beaudin Saeedpour earned a master's degree in philosophy from the University of Vermont and a doctorate in education from Columbia University. While working on her dissertation, she met Homayoun Saeedpour, a Kurd from the city of Sanandaj in Eastern Kurdistan, whom she later married. Although Homayoun lost his battle with leukemia in 1981, Dr. Beaudin Saeedpour's inspiration to learn and educate others about Kurdish history, culture, and current events became her life's work until her passing in 2010.

In 1986, Dr. Beaudin Saeedpour started the Kurdish Heritage Foundation of America along with the Kurdish Library and in 1988 opened the Kurdish Museum as well. Here journalists, scholars, students, politicians, and others came to research Kurdish culture and history under her guidance. Working with Cultural Survival, a nonprofit organization dedicated to defending the rights of indigenous peoples, she initiated the Kurdish Program. Her scholarly publications, *The International Journal of Kurdish Studies*, featuring scholarly articles on Kurdish culture, history, and contemporary affairs, and the quarterly, *Kurdish Life*, a documented chronicle and analysis of contemporary events and issues, can be found in the collections of leading university libraries. A tireless researcher and activist, Dr. Beaudin Saeedpour also wrote extensively and lectured both domestically and internationally on Kurdish affairs.

Dr. Beaudin Saeedpour once told the Associated Press, "I know the Kurds better than any Westerner living,"¹ and, indeed, this is the most significant collection of materials dedicated to the Kurds in the United States. It is telling then

that, when speaking of Dr. Beaudin Saeedpour as a scholar, an author, and an outspoken activist, the Kurdish American Education Society (KAES) stated that "...it would not be an exaggeration to call her the mother of Kurdish cultural studies in this continent."²

The Libraries are truly grateful to the Foundation and the family of Dr. Beaudin Saeedpour for this significant and unique collection of materials documenting Kurdish culture and life. We are committed to preserving this treasure of information for future generations of researchers in the tradition of Dr. Beaudin Saeedpour and her Kurdish Library and Kurdish Museum.



Vera Beaudin Saeedpour, founder of the Kurdish Library and Museum Collection, which is now gifted to Binghamton University Libraries.



Materials from the Vera Beaudin Saeedpour Kurdish Collection.



Shoes from the Vera Beaudin Saeedpour Kurdish Collection.

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Bookeye 4 Scanner, How Do You Spell Digital Preservation? R-o-s-e-t-t-a, FindIt! - Libraries' NEW One-Word Scholarly Resources Search Engine, Professor Donald Quataert Turkish and Ottoman History Collection Acquired

¹Martin, Douglas, "Vera B. Saeedpour, Scholar and Archivist of the Kurdish Culture, Dies at 80," *New York Times*, June 8, 2010. <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/08/nyregion/08saeedpour.htm>.

²"Remembering Dr. Vera Saeedpour," The website of VOKRadio, accessed July 26, 2011, <http://www.vokradio.com/content/view/1207/44/>

Recent Gifts

Gifts of the Kurdish Heritage Foundation



Kurdish clothing from the Vera Beaudin Saeedpour Kurdish Collection.



Vase and detail from the Collection.



Bracelets from the Collection.



Hat from the Collection.



Books from the Collection.

Searchable Electronic Documents Created on Bookeye 4 Scanner

by Juan Denzer



Binghamton University Libraries' staff (Juan Denzer, Jesslyn Shafer, Caryl Ward, and Angelique Jenks-Brown) with Bookeye 4 Scanner.

As portable computing devices become smaller and easier to carry, students increasingly use them to access digital content. There is also increased demand for tools that convert traditional print media to digital formats.

In order to meet these demands, the Libraries have recently purchased a state-of-the-art walk-up document scanner called the Knowledge Imaging Center (KIC) also known as the Bookeye 4. The scanner is completely intuitive, using touch screen controls for interaction. Documents can be saved digitally as searchable PDF, JPEG, TIFF, or PNG files to a USB thumb drive or emailed to oneself, allowing users to read the documents electronically without the need to print them out. They can even save scanned documents as MP3 audio files, which can be played back on any portable digital audio device.

The Bookeye 4 has a unique design. Unlike traditional desktop scanners and copiers, it does not use a conventional glass surface. Rather it uses a V-Cradle scanning bed allowing books to be scanned in a more natural state.

This feature helps to preserve the book's binding, especially when dealing with older fragile books. The scanner is capable of scans up to 17 X 24 inches and as small as a postage stamp. It can scan in crystal clear color or black & white. It is 10x faster than a traditional copier and 4x faster than a desktop scanner.

The KIC kiosk is wheelchair accessible and is a UDSA compliant digitization system.

How Do You Spell Digital Preservation? R-o-s-e-t-t-a

by Bern Mulligan

Recently, we became the first university library in North America to implement Rosetta, a highly scalable, secure, and easily managed digital preservation system.

The Libraries have begun utilizing this powerful preservation tool for several digital collections:

- 500+ scanned images of the history of the institution from The University Archives
- 5,000+ scanned images from The Edwin A. Link, Jr. Digital Archives having to do with the Links and various projects they were connected with over the years
- Digital photographs of the museum pieces, clothing, jewelry and other miscellanea associated with the Kurdish collection (see left)
- 360,000+ digital images from the University photographer
- A “dark archive” (which would be accessed only in case of disaster) of 700 Braille books stored on DVDs

We also plan to work with University faculty members to preserve their scholarly activities, including papers, research notes, and correspondence. Our first project of this sort is working with Ralph Garruto, Professor of Biomedical Anthropology and Neurosciences, to digitize and preserve the original hand-written field notes and bleeding lists associated with a collection of serum samples from populations in the Pacific Islands, Asia, and the Middle East collected by various investigators during their field studies.

For all of these projects, preliminary work is done to set up templates so that metadata (identifiable information about the items that allows them to be searched) can be created and stored with the items. You can access these rich collections by using our new search tool *Find It!* and limiting to “Rosetta” under the Collections facet.



John Meador, Dean of Libraries, with Edward Corrado, Director of Library Technology, at the Rosetta Advisory Group Meeting, Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich, June 15, 2011.

We look forward to working with the University community on projects to ensure that past, current, and future scholarship as well as digitized special collections will continue to be accessible.

Find It! – Libraries’ NEW One-Word Scholarly Resources Search Engine

by Erin Rushton

Where does one find peer-reviewed articles about Margaret Atwood’s novel, *The Handmaid’s Tale*? Not so long ago, there was only one place to look – the physical library. Nowadays, largely because of the Internet, students have a plethora of resources to consult. Often overwhelmed by this vast array of choices, students turn to Google because it’s convenient, fast, and easy to use.

To attract students back to the Libraries and make it easier to discover and locate scholarly resources, Binghamton University Libraries recently implemented *Find It!*, a single search box that provides access to the Libraries’ catalog, digitized collections, and a mega-aggregate of millions of scholarly resources. By typing a few keywords into the search box, students will have immediate access to books, articles, and

other relevant scholarly material on their topic. Subject, date, and author facets can help narrow and refine results. Items that are available full text through the Libraries’ collections and journal subscriptions are easily identifiable. Interlibrary loan is available to order items not owned by the Libraries. Other helpful features of *Find It!* include the ability to tag items, write reviews, and save results to an e-shelf.

Find It! has also grabbed the attention of graduate students and faculty because of the ability to simultaneously search across the Libraries’ collections of scholarly resources.

Having launched *Find It!* in early August, the Libraries are excited to share this powerful new tool with new and returning students.

Professor Donald Quataert Turkish and Ottoman History Collection Acquired

by Edward J. Shephard

In July 2011, the Libraries received a generous donation of approximately 1,700 books from Professor Jean Quataert of the Binghamton University History Department in memory of her late husband, Professor Donald Quataert, a SUNY Distinguished Professor, also in the History Department. Professor Quataert passed away in February 2011 after a long and eminent career which earned him, in the words of the University, "... an international reputation as a scholar of Ottoman economic, labor and social history." This gift is a tremendously important and valuable addition to the Libraries' collection on Turkish and Ottoman history.

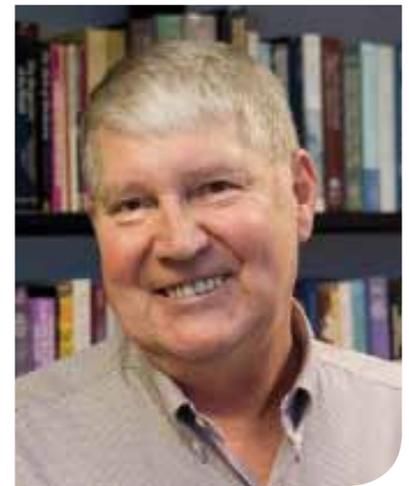
Professor Quataert received his PhD in history from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1973 and joined the Binghamton faculty in 1986. He was promoted to the rank of Distinguished Professor in 2009. Professor Quataert was a well-published and internationally recognized scholar in his field. He authored six scholarly monographs and edited or co-edited five volumes on the subject of Ottoman history during his career. His status as a leading scholar of Turkish history is demonstrated by his co-authorship of the 2003 publication *Turkish Studies in the United States*. His book, *The Ottoman Empire, 1700-1922*, has been translated into Turkish, Greek, Portuguese, Korean, Arabic and Italian.

Professor Quataert built a program that focused on "history from below," a perspective that he felt had been missing from previous work on the Ottoman Empire. This vision attracted many graduate students to the University, even from Turkey itself, as he became known internationally as an expert on Ottoman labor and peasant history.

That focus on archival research was evidenced by Professor Quataert's deep interest in building the Libraries' collection to support the study and teaching of Ottoman history. It was my honor and pleasure to work with him during his tenure at Binghamton in my capacity as subject librarian for the History Department. In that time, we built a strong collection on Ottoman history, both in terms of scholarly research publications as well as primary source material in English, Turkish, and other foreign languages. Professor Quataert's dedication to scholarship at all levels was expressed in his success in building a collection of primary research materials that could be used not only by graduate students under his mentorship but also by undergraduates. As a testament to his undergraduate teaching, one of his former students remarked, "I had Professor Quataert for his course on Mid-East History back in the fall of my freshman year. It was by far the most enjoyable, most exciting and mentally stimulating course I've taken at this university. I was on the edge of my seat for each lecture!!!! My friends and I will miss him dearly."

Professor Quataert was a valuable friend to the Libraries in other ways. He generously lent items from his personal collection of Ottoman and Turkish artifacts for use in a Special Collections exhibit showcasing a valuable nineteenth century map of the Ottoman Empire, which Professor Quataert himself was instrumental in helping the Libraries acquire.

Professor Quataert's private library is of high scholarly value and an extremely rich addition to the Libraries' resources on Ottoman history. The material is about one-third Turkish and Arabic language and two-thirds English and other languages. However, it also adds to the Libraries' recognized strength in the broader context of resources on Middle Eastern studies. As his colleague, Professor John Chaffee, spoke of Professor Quataert's contribution to the University, it was "... a very important leadership role in the History Department in terms of moving toward a more global perspective and into non-Western history. He and [his wife] Jean were pioneers in creating a world history course that is now one of the department's mainstays." Future students and scholars will be forever grateful to Professor Quataert for this generous gift.



Dr. Donald Quataert. Photo by Jonathan Cohen, 2007.

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