



The reading room of the Ryerson and Burnham Libraries at the Art Institute of Chicago

tured fine tailoring, bright colors, and elaborate decorations, were worn by scores of Hollywood cowboys, popular country singers, and well-known celebrities. Included in the collection are customer clothing files dating from 1955 to 1970, boot patterns, photographs, correspondence, and financial records.

The first installment of a multiyear gift of comic books, graphic novels, and other materials related to comic art in popular culture has been acquired by the Brown University Library. The collection was amassed by Michael J. Ciaraldi, an independent computer consultant and comic art enthusiast. The entire collection is estimated to contain 60,000 items. Included are extensive runs of major "superhero" comics: nearly 300 graphic novels, including an edition of Anne Rice's *The Vampire Lestat*; the first issue of *Action Comics* (June 1938), in which the character of Superman was introduced; and compilations of newspaper strips such as *Prince Valiant* and *Terry and the Pirates*.

A manuscript by William Styron of his most recent book, *A Tidewater Morning: Three Tales from Youth*, has been donated to Duke University's Special Collections Library by the

author. In addition to the manuscript, Styron donated more than 5,000 pieces of correspondence, including letters from fans, agents, editors, publishers, family members, and fellow literary figures, among them John Updike, Kurt Vonnegut, Joseph Heller, Lillian Hellman, Arthur Miller, and Eudora Welty. Dates of the letters range from the 1940s to the present. Also included are audio- and videotaped interviews with Styron, as well as awards and photographs.

A Samuel Beckett manuscript notebook

dating from the early 1950s has been acquired by the Ohio State University Libraries' Division of Rare Books and Manuscripts. The notebook contains Beckett's manuscript draft for *Fin de Partie*, differing markedly from the published text; a complete early draft of *From an Abandoned Work*; an early draft of an untitled short story in French; an aborted attempt by Beckett to translate his *Molloy* from French into English; and a brief unpublished fragment from *En Attendant Godot*. The notebook will be added to the libraries' Beckett manuscript collection, one of the world's major repositories of original Beckett materials. ■

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