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Fun with Civil War Sheet Music

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Abstract

One project I haven't blogged too much about yet is the Civil War Sheet Music exhibit for the Main Floor. Initially, Meggan only asked me to come up with a tentative list of pieces to display from the resources available; now, though, I'm finding myself assigned to the task of organizing, mounting, and labeling the exhibit. It's a cool assignment, because it's so different from everything else I've been working on this summer. [*excerpt*]

Keywords

Musselman Library, Gettysburg College, Exhibits Intern, Civil War Music

Disciplines

History | Library and Information Science | Museum Studies | Music | United States History

Comments

The Interns at Gettysburg College's Musselman Library captured their internship experiences since the spring of 2011. Over time the blog has featured Fortenbaugh, Smith, and Holley interns. They shared updates on semester long projects, responded to blogging prompts, and documented their individual intern experience.

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Blogging the Library

The Interns @ Gettysburg College's Musselman Library

Fun with Civil War Sheet Music

Friday, July 20, 2012

By: Emily Francisco '14

One project I haven't blogged too much about yet is the Civil War Sheet Music exhibit for the Main Floor. Initially, Meggan only asked me to come up with a tentative list of pieces to display from the resources available; now, though, I'm finding myself assigned to the task of organizing, mounting, and labeling the exhibit. It's a cool assignment, because it's so different from everything else I've been working on this summer.

I loosely based my display plan off of the exhibit that was in Special Collections last semester, and I also decided that each case would have a different category/theme regarding Civil War sheet music. There are four cases available for the display, so based on what was available I came up with the following four categories: 1.) Song Sheets, 2.) Marches, 3.) Cover Art, and 4.) Ballads. Knowing the space constraints, I estimated that I could include about five song sheets, three cover pages, and two marches/ballads in their respective cases.

I'm most drawn to the cover art that I decided to feature in this exhibit—I suppose it's because I'm an Art History major. It appears as if the cover pages were all printed in a lithographic fashion. Some are more detailed and complex than others; there are a few with just text, whereas others feature elaborate, decorative illustrations. I love the ornate detail on these ones, and the colors and compositions are stunning, too. If I had complete freedom, I'd probably focus the entire exhibit on these cover illustrations, but, alas, the exhibit is supposed to be about the music itself.

I started the process of trimming the reproductions I printed yesterday, but ultimately I had to stop myself and decide to continue on Monday, when Jim will be in. I find that I'm in need of a few more X-acto knife tips... some of the edges I cut were less than perfect. Maybe I was holding it wrong again.

I'm excited to move forward and get started on some of the other installations—next week will be busy, Meggan told me today. I'll make sure I post photos of our end results!

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