SPECIAL COLLECTIONS READING ROOM

THE GOTTESMAN LIBRARIES
TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
Welcome to the Special Collections Reading Room, dedicated to the advancement of scholarly research through thoughtful servicing of the special collections held by the Gottesman Libraries. Gothically designed Russell Hall was built in 1924 to accommodate a growing resource of pedagogical materials that were relocated from an over-extended one-room library downtown at 9 University Place. As prized collections took safer haven two floors below ground on the 120th Street campus, Russell 104b was restored in 2021 as a unique space that showcased beautifully bound, archival publications reflecting institutional history and development on national and international levels.
In 2020-2021 the Gottesman Libraries completed a significant project to bind important historical serial publications of Teachers College, Columbia University. Shelved in the reading room are select volumes from Teachers College Record, our official journal dating back to 1900; Yearbook of the National Society for the Study of Education, the seminal publication of key scholars, educators, and policy makers, many of whom emanated from the College; The Social Frontier, containing articles by major educational and social thinkers, from John Dewey to Robert Hutchins and Harold Rugg, 1934-1943; Educational Yearbook of the International Institute of Teachers College, which provided special instruction and advice to foreign students, acquainted American students with best foreign practices, and gave direct educational assistance to foreign countries that sought the Institute's help; and lastly, the Yearbook of Education, which addressed a wide range of important educational topics throughout the world.
The reading room and adjoining suite feature restored oil portraits by renowned artists of leading faculty and administrators of Teachers College, Columbia University. The following artworks were conserved in recent years through the generous support of the Myers Foundations:

Mary DeGarmo Bryan, Professor of Home Economics, by Raymond Neilson, 1950

Lyman Bryson, Professor of Education, by Howard Simon, 1959

Norval Luther Church, Professor Emeritus of Music Education, by Marcia Howe (date unknown)

Lawrence Cremin, seventh President of Teachers College and eminent historian of education, by Everett Raymond Kinstler, 1985
Peter William Dykema, Professor of Music Education, by Louise Charlotte Blass, 1939

Edmund Gordon, Richard March Hoe Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Education and Founder of the Institute for Urban and Minority Education, photographed by Bruce Gilbert, 2018

Patty Smith Hill, Professor Emeritus of Education, by Eric Maunsbach, 1935

William Heard Kilpatrick, Professor of Education and progressive educator, by Charles Hopkinson, 1938
Paul Monroe, Professor of History and Director of the International Institute of Education, by Ellen Emmet Rand, 1936

Mary Swartz Rose, Professor of Nutrition, by Ivan Olinsky, 1936

James Earl Russell, first President of Teachers College, by Ellen Emmet Rand, 1925
The refurbished Hammond Typewriter (Model 26, circa 1923), is a gift from Mr. James Tyler, whose father, Henry Teller Tyler, typed his Ph.D., The Bearing Of Certain Personality Factors Other Than Intelligence On Academic Success: A Study Of Tests Made at Teachers College, Columbia University. Dr. Tyler's work was published in 1931 as a volume in the Teachers College Contributions to Education series which comprises doctoral dissertations and research monographs with wide scope on scholarship.

A Lenox china commemorative plate in cream, blue, and gold of Russell Hall, dated 1932, was gifted to the Gottesman Libraries in 2022 by Ms. Catherine Nellist, whose parents received it as a wedding gift.
Used in the 1920s as the executive office of the College, 104b Russell continues to serve as an occasional meeting space for College Leadership and senior staff, with reservations granted by the Gottesman Libraries.

Appointments for researchers are arranged through the Gottesman Libraries’ room reservation system, for most weekdays between the hours of 10am and 4pm.

The reading room best accommodates a maximum of 8 persons for research and 16 persons for meetings.
To ensure the integrity of space and safe handling of special and archival collections, the following usage guidelines are provided:

1. All items must be handled with care and should be rested on the table, or in a book cradle or on foams, at all times.

- Research tools, including paper, pencils, cell phones, and laptops, are allowed in the reading room, while all personal belongings must be neatly stowed.

- All material must remain on the table, and never in the researcher's lap, on the floor, on a chair, or other locations off the reading table. Staff will assist and may direct researchers in the proper handling of materials.

- Special weights are available to keep tightly bound books open. Researchers should not force open tightly bound books.

- No marks may be added or erased. No tracings or rubbings may be made without specific permissions.
• No books, papers, or other objects (except weights specially provided for holding books open) may be laid on or affixed to the material.

• The arrangement of manuscript pages must not be altered. Only one folder may be removed from a box at a time and original order of the box must be maintained.

• Manuscript and archival materials must lie flat on the tables; do not place items in your lap or hold them up. Do not rest objects or take notes on top of materials.

• Nitrile gloves may be required to handle some of our materials, particularly negatives, photographs, metal objects, and prints. A staff member will provide a pair for you. Our gloves are both latex and powder free.

• Photography is allowed; however, there is a strict protocol for following procedures which will be explained at the Reading Room desk.

• Personal copiers and scanners are not allowed.

• Researchers are allowed to view two books in the reading room at one time.
• Researchers are allowed to use one box and one folder from the box at a time. Please take care to keep the documents in the file in the order in which you found them.

• The use of cell phones (other than for photography) is prohibited.

2. Special Collections materials do not circulate. Paging of materials may be requested through Educat+, the definitive record of holdings at Teachers College, Columbia University.

3. No smoking, food, or drink is permitted in the reading room, including chewing gum, and lotions are to be avoided before handling materials as they contain harmful residues.

4. As a courtesy to other researchers, please refrain from loud conversations or dictation, and silence all electronic devices. Researchers must leave the reading room to make or receive telephone calls.

5. The special collections reading room at Gottesman Libraries is ADA accessible. However, we encourage researchers needing special accommodations to coordinate with the Office of Access and Services for Individuals with Disabilities (OASID) - https://www.tc.columbia.edu/oasid/.

6. Special exceptions may be made by the staff on a case-by-case basis and are not applicable to other researchers or future visits.
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