



### Rare pleasures

Book bargains at the Salvation Army store in Altoona first turned Charles Mann's interest to old literary works. As curator of the Rare Books Room, Mann still pursues his first love.

Photo by Chris Newkumel

# Books Room holds rare treasures

By SUE FITZGERALD  
Collegian Staff Writer

Charles Mann makes it his business to know books; but more important, he makes it his pleasure.

As curator of the University's rare books and special collections, Mann enjoys talking about the more than 45,000 volumes housed in the Rare Books Room located on third floor of Pattee.

Walking into the Rare Books Room, an immediate sense of uniqueness is apparent. Dark, heavy Chinese furniture, made of teakwood and inlaid with marble, occupies the entranceway.

Moving further into the room, long glass bookcases filled with strange-looking volumes line the walls. Display cases artistically display one of the Rare Books Room's many collections.

Mann takes fondly of the books in this room, making them each seem a personal part of himself.

"There's a sense that I reach the personality of the people in the books," he said.

The Rare Books Room contains an excellent collection of books on science fiction, utopia, American and English literature, aerospace and German culture, according to Mann. The room specializes in three American writers: John Updike, Conrad Richter and John O'Hara.

Mann's eyes were lit with pride as he spoke about the most unique feature of the Rare Book room. Housed within its confines is the John O'Hara study, containing all the original furnishings and memorabilia.

Mann explains that when O'Hara, master of the short story, and a native of Pottsville, died in 1970, his wife donated the study to Penn State.

The Rare Books Room also contains the original manuscript for Joseph Priestly's autobiography, a Divine Alphabet printed in 1466, and one page of the Gutenberg Bible, printed in 1455.

The Rare Books Room even has some clay tablets dating back to 2400 B.C.

Mann said that a rare book is any book that because of "special interest, cost of production, limited production or age, has become looked upon as rare." He valued the University's rare book collection at half a million dollars.

Mann's enthusiasm for books is not new. He said that he first got interested in books as a little boy when he made frequent trips to the Salvation Army store and the library in his home town of Altoona.

**"We welcome people coming in. We oppose censorship in any form, and to deny the use of a book is censorship."**

This interest for books led him to earn a master in English from the University in 1954.

While working on his master, Mann held a job at Pattee acquiring rare books. In 1957 he became the curator of the Rare Books Room.

"I realized somewhere along the line that I was as interested in books as I was teaching English," Mann said.

So in 1961, Mann earned a master of library science degree from Rutgers University.

Mann said that the acquisition of new books still pleases him.

"I don't tire of books and what I do," he said. "I get the same excitement now when I find a book as I did when I started."

Mann travels to Europe every eighteen months in search of new books for the Rare Books Room. He said that England, Italy and New York City are his favorite hunting spots.

Close contact with dealers also keeps Mann in tune with the latest finds in the book world.

Mann's enthusiasm for books is also carried over to his dealings with people.

Mann quickly negated the idea of the Rare Books Room being a museum, and stressed that the room is open to anyone.

"We welcome people coming in," he said. "We oppose censorship in any form, and to deny the use of a book is censorship."

Mann is more than willing to donate his time to visitors in the Rare Book Room.

"Since the University's Rare Books Room is not under the same kind of pressure as those in New York and Philadelphia," he said, "We are able to give more individual attention to those coming in."

As a further invitation to anyone interested or just plain curious, Mann said that the front door is always open. "In many rare books rooms, you must ring to get in," he said.

With 45,000 books to choose from, is it possible to pick a favorite? Smiling, Mann took a 1478 pigskin-bound Bible with illuminated letters from the shelf, and named that his choice.

"The book is going to be 500 years old in 1978," he said. "I'm planning a party for its 500th birthday." Now that's some party.

## the daily Collegian living

A weekly look at the life in the University community

Friday, September 10, 1976-5

# Battle of the bands



Photo by Barry Wyshinski

### Hamming up

Members of the Stanford Band, along with their version of pom-pom girls—the "Dollies"—entertain dorm residents as a traditional part of their visit to Penn State.

## Stanford: individualized insanity

By BERNADETTE MANSI and CATHY BARNETT  
Collegian Staff Writers

If insanity is your style, chances are you'll forego those refreshments Saturday until after the halftime antics of the Stanford University Marching Band.

The band, better known as the Incomparable Leland Stanford Junior University Marching Band, named after the University's founder, prides itself on its zany reputation.

Speaking from the Band Shak East, the luxurious accommodations commonly referred to as the HUB ballroom, band manager Kent Blumberg said, "The nonchalant, superinformal band is very popular with the students."

Most of the Band's popularity stems from their improvisations used on the field. Unlike other marching bands, who rigidly march onto the field, Stanford's band casually strolls onto their stage as if awaiting cues from the audience.

One peculiarity of the band's 169 piece band is the absence of music majors. The only prerequisite of the members

seems to be an appetite for insanity.

One hundred band members and five dancing girls, known as the "Dollies" strutted their stuff for the dorm residents Wednesday night. The serenade, Blumberg said, is a tradition at Stanford. The Band, he said, likes to get students excited about the game. "We areham enough to enjoy the applause," he said.

Carrie Teagle, one of the "Dollies" said "The band looks forward to coming to Penn State all year because they know they are going to have fun."

The informal attitude carries over to the band's practice sessions, which consume about six hours a week. Blumberg said Monday is spent on music practice, Wednesday and Friday nights on marching, and Saturday is spent "fooling around."

In fact, this week's halftime routine will be discussed tonight over a case of beer, Blumberg said. He added, "Of course, all those discussing the plans will be over twenty-one."

The "Dollies," in contrast to the band, spends about five hours a day prac-

ticing. They receive the music from the band Monday night and must arrange their routines for rehearsal Thursday night, Carla Murray, one of the dancers said. "We have to make up the band's lack of uniformity," she said.

Penn State's students may be confused as to whom to cheer for at the game when they see the band's unusual hats, compliments of the Penn State Diner.

The band first donned the hats last year, Blumberg said, when their hats didn't arrive in time for the trip east. While eating at the diner, a student got the idea to wear hats for the game, he said. They were so popular last year they decided to wear them again this year, he said.

Not only have Penn State's students received the Stanford band so well, but the band's fame back home has paid their way here. The trip to Penn State is paid for by a student volunteer fund, Blumberg said.

So if you are lucky enough to have a ticket to the Stanford game, don't lose your seat for the halftime entertainment.



Photo by Barry Wyshinski

### Blow your horn

In their usual unconventional style, the Incomparable Leland Stanford Junior Varsity Marching Band rehearses in the "Band Shak East," otherwise known as the HUB ballroom.

## Blue Band: talented teamwork

By SALLY HEFFENTREYER  
Collegian Staff Writer

Half-time at Beaver Stadium: fight your way to a 45-minute wait at the restroom, hunt for the friend you were supposed to meet at the gate before the game, or stay in your seat so no one will take it.

Whatever you do at half-time on a football Saturday, you're bound to see or hear the Penn State Blue Band. Just who are the people behind the conglomeration of clarinets, trombones and drums? What makes them pump the air from their lungs and put blisters on their feet to entertain the Saturday rowdies?

"Students join the marching band for any number of reasons," Blue Band Director Ned Deihl said. "They enjoy the spirit and comradery involved, and most of them simply love to perform."

"Most of the kids are in the Blue Band just for fun," Joe O'Leary (11th, pre-med.), right guide in the band, said. Since not even music majors are required to be members of the marching band, everyone is in it purely because they like it, he said.

In fact, more than half of the band members are not music education majors, Deihl said.

"There is a fantastic mixture of students from all different areas of interest," he said. "We have people from pre-med to agriculture marching with us."

Sight reading music is the major concern of the director in musical auditions for the Blue Band. "The main thing I look for," Deihl said, "is for the student to be able to struggle through a piece of music the first time he sees it."

"We don't have much time to fool around once the season starts, so they've got to be able to pick up the music quickly," he said.

Deihl directs the Blue Band, with help from an assistant director, a graduate assistant, and directors for the flag unit and majorettes.

About 175 students make up the entire marching unit, including band members, majorettes and color guard, Deihl said. Every Monday, Tuesday evening, Wednesday and Friday they assemble to drill until the field show comes out right.

"When you've got nearly 175 people

and you've got a week and a half to get a show perfected, the hours we practice don't seem like much," Steve Bell (9th, music education) said. "In fact, a lot of times we could use more."

The Blue Band prides itself on producing a quality field presentation, Bell said. The unit works more seriously and longer than bands such as Stanford, which rolled into town this week for the season's first gridiron clash.

"The Stanford band attracts a lot of people when it's here," Jim O'Leary said, "because what they do is different—crazy."

"They carry off their style well. But the Blue Band also does what it does very well," he said.

On Saturday afternoons the Blue Band puts all its ability to the test in front of countless football fans—some sober, some slightly under the influence. The swift drum cadence and run onto the field are Blue Band trademarks.

Once on the field, the band's goal is to entertain, and to entertain well.

"A style like Stanford's could wear thin after a few weeks because there isn't much behind it," O'Leary said.

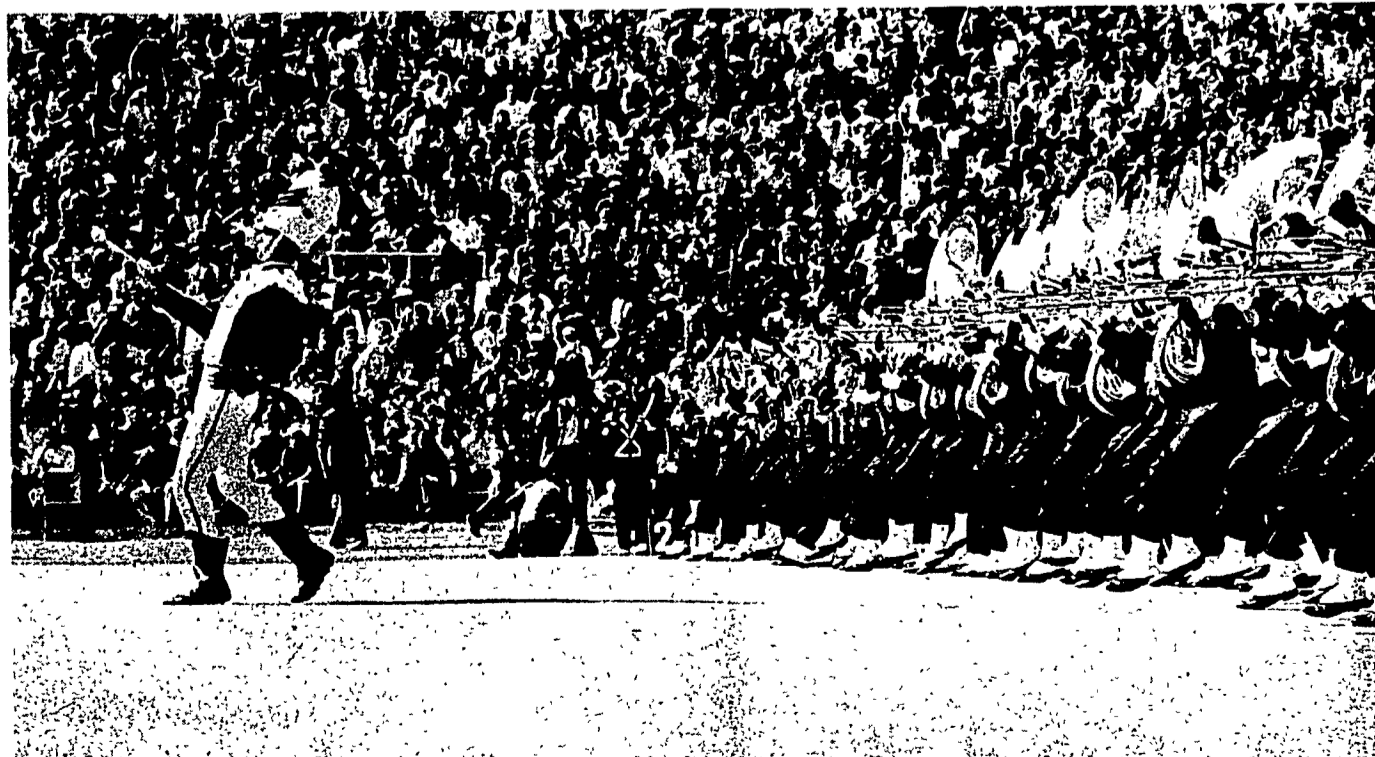


Photo by Julie Cipolla

### Forward march

In direct contrast to Stanford's informality, the Blue Band prides itself on precise drills and discipline.