With the encouragement of and financial support from the Kislak Foundation, the University of Pennsylvania Libraries is pleased to announce the launch of the Kislak Foundation Student Book Collecting Competition. The purpose of the Competition is to encourage and reward full time Penn students, under the age of thirty who have an interest in and passion for book collecting. For purposes of this Competition, the book is broadly defined to include a wide range of genres, ranging from antiquarian books through modern first editions, comics, graphic novels, and literary magazines or zines (see below for more examples).

**PRIZES:**

First Place: $2,500.00  
Second Place: $1,500.00  
Third Place: $1000.00

Prizes consist of a financial prize from our sponsor. There will be three prizes for first-, second-, and third place winners. Winners will be notified by March 15, 2010. Winners will be announced at the annual Rosenbach Lecture Series which takes place on March 23-25, 2010. The winning entry may be published by the Penn Libraries.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY:**

a) The Kislak Book Collecting Competition is open to all University of Pennsylvania students.

b) Entrants must be registered in a full time matriculating educational program at the time of the deadline date for submissions.

c) Entrants must be under the age of 30 (thirty) years of age. Proof of age is required.

d) All entrants must describe materials (see below for Required Submission Materials) that they themselves have collected and continue to own.

e) Entries will not be returned and become the property of the University of Pennsylvania Libraries.

f) Entrants agree to allow the Penn Libraries to publish their essay in full or in part, in print or electronic form. The winning essay (and possibly photographs of the collection) may posted on the Rare Book and Manuscript Library website. A sampling of the winner’s collections may be exhibited in a display case in the Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center.

g) Current Penn faculty and staff are not eligible to enter the competition.

**DEADLINE:**

Entries must be postmarked no later than February 28, 2010.  
Entries should be mailed to:

- David McKnight, Director  
- Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
- Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center  
- University of Pennsylvania  
- 3420 Walnut Street  
- Philadelphia, PA 19104-6206  
- dmcknigh@pobox.upenn.edu
REQUIRED SUBMISSION MATERIALS:

Cover sheet:
- Name
- Street address
- Telephone number
- Email address

Proof of Age (please provide a photocopy of either your drivers license, age of majority card, State identification card or passport).

Additional contact information for the month of March 2009 should be provided if the entrant will be away during this time.

The cover sheet should note the collection’s title, if it has one, or an extremely short indication of its main focus or areas of concentration.

An Essay about the Collection follows the cover sheet:

The Competition requires participants to write a 1,500 to 2,000-word essay on their collection (i.e., no comma) including not only an indication of what drew the entrant to this collecting field or fields but also, where appropriate, bibliographical or other relevant physical description of the books, (i.e., no colon, add comma) which may include discussion of their bindings, cover decorations, illustrations, and bibliographical features (format, printing, and publication data).

Kinds of collections open to consideration (note that the following list is NOT intended to be either exhaustive or exclusive) might include children’s books, illustrated books, artists’ books, flip books, materials concerning the Arthurian legend, collections of Beat or Generation X writers, eighteenth and nineteenth-century literature, serial fiction, graphic novels, a single author, cookbooks, modern authors, travel, horses, astrology, science fiction, physics, experimental poetry, little magazines, etc.

A List of materials constituting the collection follows the Essay:

The list of books must be organized according to some logical principle: most probably, by author or by subject. Each book listed should include at least the following information: author, title, date, place, publisher, format (e.g. hardback or paper), and an indication of condition.

A very short indication of the Collection’s sources (parents, gifts, specialist dealers, general bookshops, comic book stores, the internet, etc.) should precede the List itself.

Full Contest Rules will be located on the University of Pennsylvania Libraries website. These Rules are subject to change.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

The criteria for judging collections include the focus of the collection, method of collecting, progress made in creating the collection, and the quality of the explanation of the collection’s focus. Where appropriate, the quality of the description of the books, that is, of the physical characteristics such as binding, publication details, will be taken into consideration. Collections are not judged either on their dollar value or their size.
Here are some suggested readings all or parts of which may prove useful in answering questions about book collecting and methods of describing books:


