

# Kislak Book Collection Competition University of Pennsylvania Libraries

## RULES

With the encouragement of and generous financial support from the Kislak Family, the University Libraries recently launched a student book collecting contest in 2008 to benefit Penn students. The purpose of the Competition is to encourage and reward full time Penn students who have an active interest in book collecting.

For the purposes of this competition, the book is broadly defined to include a wide range of genres and formats, 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. Prizes will be awarded for the top three entries.

## PRIZES:

First Place: \$2500.00

Second Place: \$1500.00

Third Place: \$1000.00

Prizes consist of a financial prize from our sponsor. There will be three prizes for first, second, and third place entries. Winners will be notified no later than May 4, 2012.

Competition entrants will be asked to participate in a public judging of books from their collections at an event to be held in the Van Pelt-Dietrich Library

Winners will be recognized at the annual Orrery Society Dinner in October 2012. The winning entry may be published by the Penn Libraries.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY:

a) The Kislak Book Collection Competition is open to all **full time** University of Pennsylvania students, who are registered in a full time matriculating educational program at the time of the deadline date for submissions.

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

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

d) 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 be 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.

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

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

**DEADLINE:**

Entries must be submitted no later than midnight March 2, 2012.

Entries submitted electronically via e-mail to: [rbml@pobox.upenn.edu](mailto:rbml@pobox.upenn.edu)

**REQUIRED SUBMISSION MATERIALS:**

1. Online application [URL]
2. Essay
3. List of Books
4. Additional contact information for the month of March 2012 should be provided if the entrant will be away during this time.

**GUIDELINES FOR THE ESSAY AND BOOK LIST:**

The Competition requires participants to write a 1500 word essay on their collection 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, which may include discussion of their bindings, cover decorations, illustrations, and bibliographical features (format, printing, and publication data).

**Book List:**

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.

## **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. Collections are not judged either on their dollar value or their size.

## **SUGGESTED READINGS:**

Here are some suggested readings all or parts of which may prove useful in answering questions about book collecting and methods of describing books:

Carter, John. *ABC for Book Collectors*. 8th edition. New Castle, Delaware: Oak Knoll Press (2004)

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Peters, Jean, (editor). *Book Collecting: A Modern Guide*. NY: R.R. Bowker (1977)

Peters, Jean, (editor). *Collectible Books: Some New Paths*. NY: R.R. Bowker (1979)

Bowers, Fredson. *Principles of Bibliographical Description*. Oak Knoll (1994)

Tanselle, G. Thomas. *Selected Studies in Bibliography*. U. of Virginia (1979)

**Revised (October 2011)**