

JOHN A. BUCHTEL

BIOGRAPHY

John A. Buchtel has been involved in the field of special collections, rare books, and manuscripts for the past 20 years as a curator, educator, and manager. His diverse experiences help him advocate effectively for the ongoing significance of primary sources in an increasingly virtual world, even as he seeks to leverage the use of technology in the service of scholarly discovery of original materials.

Since 2008, Dr. Buchtel has served as Director of the Booth Family Center for Special Collections at Georgetown University, with administrative and academic responsibility for Georgetown's rare books, manuscripts, art collection and University Archives. In this role he manages ten full-time staff, with five direct reports, and a combined \$1.2 million budget. Dr. Buchtel led his department through a three-year, \$5 million renovation, transforming Special Collections into a welcoming, attractive destination with museum-quality exhibition cases, a state-of-the-art secure collections storage facility, and flexible, technology-enhanced instruction space designed to foster the integration of rare materials into the curriculum. He helped to ensure that the renovation was entirely funded through philanthropy, including the library's single largest cash gift to date.

Other accomplishments at Georgetown include leading a restructuring of the department and the modernization of its policies and procedures, improving access through modernized archival and art databases, securing grant and donor funding for cataloging and acquisitions, and working closely with donors and dealers to enhance the collections. During his tenure, the number of class sessions making use of rare materials in Special Collections each year has nearly tripled, with a corresponding increase in students conducting primary source research in the reading room. Dr. Buchtel played a key role in several transformative additions to the collections, most notably the Paul F. Betz Collection of Wordsworth and English Literature, the John Thatcher Collection of Lives of Women Saints and Women Religious, and the papers of African-American composer Margaret Bonds.

In his previous role as Curator of Rare Books in The Sheridan Libraries of The Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Buchtel was responsible for rare book collections totaling more than 400,000 volumes in three locations, two of them housed in historic buildings. During his four years at Johns Hopkins, he collaborated with colleagues across the library to more than triple the number of faculty making object-based learning a part of their students' educational experience.

While earning his doctorate in English at the University of Virginia, Dr. Buchtel worked for Rare Book School (RBS), the nation's leading institute for the history of books and printing, first as Assistant Director for Programs, and then as RBS's first Curator of Collections. He has returned to the University of Virginia every summer since 2002 to co-teach Rare Book School's introductory survey, "The History of the Book, 200-2000." Since 2015, he has co-taught the Special Collections course in the University of Maryland's College of Library and Information Science. In spring 2016 he also co-taught a graduate seminar in the Georgetown University Department of English on early modern British book and manuscript culture.

The topics of Dr. Buchtel's lectures, exhibitions and published articles include early modern British literary patronage and book dedications, education in the Renaissance, the reception history of English literary works, rare book curatorship, book collecting, and library history.

Dr. Buchtel sits on the Council of the Bibliographical Society of America, for which he chairs the New Scholars Committee. He is active in the Grolier Club, America's leading association of book collectors and bibliophiles, and the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries.