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Exhibit: Recollections of a Cartoonist

By David Benjamin

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Special Collections & University Archives' new exhibit, "Recollections of a Cartoonist: The Glenn "Marty" Stein Collection of Cartoon Art, 1955-2013" is now up in the department's fifth floor exhibit area. The exhibit – based on Stein's unpublished manuscript, "Recollections of a Cartoonist: Creating in Different World" – uses sketches, political cartoons, comic strips, and other artwork by Stein to highlight his career as a cartoonist. The bulk of the materials are from his manuscript collection housed in Special Collections & University Archives.

I became interested in Stein's work not long after arriving at UCF. In the fall of 2015, Senior Archivist Burak Ogreten suggested we purchase Stein's book, *Discovering the North-West Passage: The Four-Year Arctic Odyssey of H.M.S. Investigator and the McClure Expedition*, for Special Collections & University Archives. When Burak explained Stein's connection to the Libraries – that he had donated his collection of editorial cartoons to the department – I was more than a little intrigued. A polar historian editorial cartoonist ... not a typical combination! [Ironically, it sounds like something out of a *Far Side* cartoon.]

Stein is a talented and fascinating person. A Florida native who graduated from the University of Florida, he drew editorial cartoons for three Orlando area publications, the *Orlando Business Journal*, *The Apopka Chief*, and *La Prensa*. In addition to this work, he also created a number of short-lived comic strips and "gag cartoons." Stein's editorial cartoons are an important body of work – the topics he tackled over ten years ago are still relevant today. They provide us an opportunity to study the issues our nation and the world were debating at the turn of the millennium – many of which we are still relevant and being debated by today's editorial cartoonists.

In 2009, Stein gave up cartooning to focus on writing and lecturing about polar history, and in 2015, he published his afore mentioned book on that subject. However, on a recent visit to Special Collections & University Archives, Stein brought along a number

of drawings from his most recent trip to the Antarctica. The cartoonist turned polar historian is returning to drawing – combining two very diverse passions into what I am sure will be an amazing body of work.