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"An accurate map of the West Indies" by Emanuel Bowen was originally published in The Gentleman's Magazine in 1740. This map was created for "the curious as well as students" in showing the features of the West Indies.
The mission of the University of Central Florida Libraries Special Collections & University Archives is to provide services to the Library and University community in support of research, teaching and service. Special Collections acquires monographs, maps, photographs, ephemera, and visual and audio material that have a central function to the curriculum and that cannot be replaced and primary sources that support long-term research goals. With these goals, Special Collections has developed six distinct collecting areas to primarily support the University research community: African Americana, Book Arts & Typography, Bryant West Indies, Floridiana, Travel & Tourism, and University Archives.

The Book Arts & Typography collection primarily serves as a research source to support the University’s Book Arts program. Each year, Special Collections sponsors a student Book Arts competition where winners have their books cataloged and added to the permanent Book Arts collection.

The Floridiana collection comprises a variety of books, manuscripts, maps and ephemera all relating to the state of Florida, particularly the Central Florida region. The Travel & Tourism collection is one of the newer collecting areas of Special Collections. Original concept drawings, books, maps and manuscript collections help make up this quickly expanding collection showing how the travel and tourism industry has made such an enormous impact on Central Florida and the world.

Anchored by “African American Legacy: the Carol Mundy Collection,” this collection contains thousands of items relating to African American history. The collection includes books, manuscripts, sheet music, pamphlets, journals, newspapers, broadsides, posters, photographs and rare ephemera which all speak to the black experience.

The Bryant West Indies collection is the largest of Special Collections, containing thousands of items from the Caribbean/West Indies region. These items include art, sculpture, manuscripts, maps, books, recordings, archeological artifacts and ephemera.


Spirits by Roi David Ammery, oil on palm seed pod, c. 1998.

Spirit by Roi David Ammery

Top: Untitled by L’Ouveture Poisson; oil on canvas, 1968.
Right: untitled by T. Didieu; dark stained wood, c. 1972

Left: When played, this mosquito drum sounds like a humming mosquito. This piece was acquired in 1969 from an unknown musician who also was its creator.

Right: This gourd dipper (or also called a ladle) is from the High Jungle of Guyana.

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From left to right: 1926 Christmas greeting from Mulford Foster, Michael A. Spencer Bromeliad Research Collection; Undertaker’s Memoranda from 1920, Carey Hand Funeral Home Collection; Letter by Cora Seaton of the Children’s Home Society of Florida answering a reporter’s questions, Children’s Home Society of Florida Collection; Letter by Henry Nehrling, Michael A. Spencer Collection on Henry Nehrling.

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