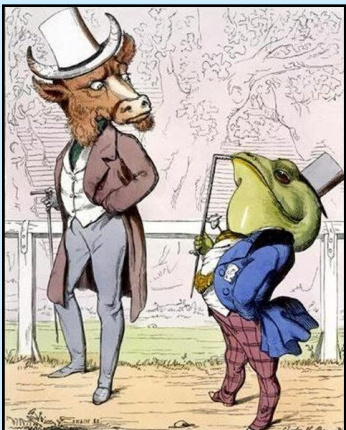


THE CARLSON FABLE COLLECTION

2026

Description

The Carlson Fable Collection is a gathering of primary fable materials owned by and housed in the Reinert Alumni Library at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. The Collection was given to Creighton University by the Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus in early 1996. It grew out of the personal collection of fable materials gathered by Reverend Gregory I. Carlson, S.J. The collection emphasizes primary materials- - books and other objects presenting fables- - rather than secondary materials written about fables. Fr. Carlson remains the collection's Development Agent. The University has continued to expand the collection. There are now 11,200 unique books in 80 languages and perhaps 10,000 objects in the collection. *Contributions are welcome!*



Curious Facts

The earliest book is a 1544 Latin edition from Leipzig, though we also have a single page from an edition done in Antwerp in 1486. Stamps illustrating fables come from 29 different countries. The collection is housed in the Fable Room in Reinert Alumni Library at Creighton. The second largest category in the collection, after books, is cards: 22 kinds of cards, totaling over 3500. The average book costs \$30.19. Over half of the books cost under \$8. 26 books cost over \$1,000. The most expensive single book, a rare 1666 first edition illustrated by Francis Barlow, cost \$4,000. Most copies were destroyed in the Great Fire of London in that year. The collection's greatest treasure is Marc Chagall's edition of 102 etchings of the fables of La Fontaine, valued at over \$50,000.

Director Biography

Fr. Carlson holds degrees from St. Louis University, the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, and the University of Heidelberg. After gaining tenure and directing the Honors Program at Holy Cross College, he came to Creighton in 1979 as an Associate Prof. of Classics to help found the Jesuit Humanities Program. He has been the Academic Director of the JHP and Chair for the then Dept. of Modern and Classical Languages. He held Jesuit chairs at John Carroll and Georgetown. Fr. Carlson has been the Jesuit superior of the communities at Marquette and the Jesuit School of Theology. He is presently an Assoc. Prof. of Theology. LEARN25 has produced three of his DVD lecture series, including: *Fables and Faith: Understanding the Gospel with Aesop's Fables*. The Joslyn Art Museum in 2018 offered an exhibit of the collection with the title *I See That Fable Differently*.

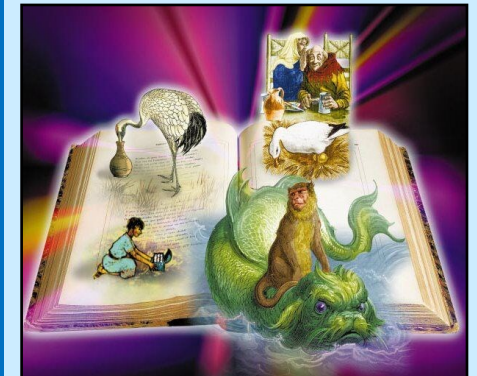
Website

creightonarchives.omeka.net/s/carlson-fables-collection/page/home

Each book's record joins bibliographical data with a personal assessment of its contribution. Many objects are pictured; soon all will be! There are rich search capabilities.

Some Types of Objects in Collection

Advertisements	Matchboxes
Films	Cigar Bands
Handbags	Masks
Playing Cards	Weathervanes
Figurines	Trivets
Baseball Caps	Towels
Clothing	Scissors
Earrings	Cookie Jars
Ashtrays	Cans & Tins
Posters	Advertisements
Menus	CD's & DVD's



Contact

Fr. Carlson is happy to offer tours.
Rev. Gregory I. Carlson, S.J.
Creighton University
2500 California Plaza
Omaha, NE 68178
gcarls@creighton.edu

Credits

Charles Bennett: "The Ox and the Frog"
Nuremberg Chronicle portrait of Aesop.
Window Magazine cover, Spr. '96