SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL LIBRARY COUNCIL

2017 Regional Bibliographic Data Bases and Interlibrary Resources Sharing (RBDB) Program

Binghamton University
Digitizing the Photographic Archive from the Max Reinhardt Collection

Final Report

Binghamton University Libraries proposed a project to digitize and create metadata for a portion of photographs from the Max Reinhardt Archive, held in Special Collections within the BU Libraries and SCRLC generously funded $5,000 for the project.

In the second half of the grant timeline, Jean Green continued to supervise student Hannah Sheridan, a BU senior with a double major in Linguistics/German, as she continued scanning photographs and creating basic metadata for each photograph: Title, Description, Date, Spatial Coverage, Temporal Coverage, Rights Statement, and etcetera. As stated in the Interim Report, creation of metadata, in many cases, involved some research and/or translation to ensure that each image was properly described. Miss Sheridan’s excellent command in the German language was absolutely essential for this work. Laura Evans, Assistant Head of Cataloging Services (and Metadata Librarian), continued to assist with metadata creation to ensure consistency with description in our own library’s catalog and with other grant project metadata creation.

By the end of the project 1100 photographs had been scanned and basic metadata has been created for each. Library of Congress Subject Headings were then created for fifty (50) of the images by Laura Evans. Erin Rushton, Head of Digital Initiatives and Resource Discovery, has ingested the completed files into the Binghamton University Libraries’ digital asset management and preservation system, Rosetta, and they can be searched and publicly accessed via the Find It! Discovery System. These fifty images have also been uploaded into the New York Heritage Digital Collections and harvested into the Digital Public Library of America.

Subject headings will continue to be created and, as the metadata is completed, images will be uploaded into New York Heritage. Ultimately, we hope that all 1100 photographs will go to NYH and DPLA. In addition, in the near future, a Max Reinhardt exhibition site will be created to further bring attention to this extraordinary collection.

Binghamton University Libraries has been so pleased to begin digitization of the photographs in this collection. The Max Reinhardt Collection is heavily used, especially by patrons in Europe, and this will ensure access to a vital part of that collection to researchers all over the world.