When you have mastered numbers, you will in fact no longer be reading numbers, any more than you read words when reading books.

You will be reading meanings.
2018 was a year to remember, a year of anniversaries:

155th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation
150th anniversary of W. E. B. Du Bois’s birth
100th anniversary of the end of the Great War
55th anniversary of Du Bois’s death
50th anniversary of the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert Kennedy
50th (and 170th) anniversary of the year of rebellion

Archives are where the hens of memory come home to roost.
Francis W. Holmes enlisted in the American Friends Service Committee’s short-lived Southern Student Project in 1965, sponsoring an academically gifted African American high school student from Alabama, Deborah Craig, to live and study in Amherst. A member of the Mount Toby Quaker Meeting and faculty member at UMass Amherst, Holmes kept meticulous records of all aspects of the exchange.

Let us begin with Caleb Foote. As Field Secretary for the Fellowship of Reconciliation in northern California, he carried the banner for pacifism and social inclusion during the grimmest days of the Second World War, playing an active role in resisting the internment of Japanese Americans and the persecution of draft resisters. Drafted twice by the military himself, Foote refused compulsory public service, earning eighteen months in federal prison for his choice. Later in life, he drew on this experience to forge a distinguished career in law with an emphasis on safeguarding civil liberties.

“I do not think that violence can eradicate evil. I believe, rather, that active goodwill and understanding, linked with tireless, constructive action, is an infinitely more powerful force. Therefore, I am a pacifist.”
The political fabric of our country and state is woven through with radical threads. SCUA added two small but notable radical collections: the papers of Otis A. Hood, Chair of the Massachusetts Communist Party during the height of the McCarthy era, and Carroll Bush, a Socialist labor organizer who operated in the Northampton textile mills during the 1930s.

The beautiful vision of a new language to promote international and intercultural understanding has led millions to study Esperanto, and since the early days of the Cold War, Esperanto USA has been the movement’s North American hub. This large and diverse collection reveals the linguistic idealism and complex organizational history that has marked the movement. Generous support from the Esperantic Studies Foundation will enable us to fully process and digitize the collection in the new year.

The founder and longtime Executive Director of the Rowe Conference Center, Douglas Wilson, brought together an eclectic mix of activists, seekers, and finders over nearly fifty years in rural Rowe, Mass. Modeled on the Esalen Institute, the Rowe Center offers retreats and workshops founded in Unitarian Universalist principles of equality, justice, freedom, peace, and the respect for the interdependent web of all existence.
The death of Tiyo Attallah Salah-El on June 8, 2018, put a pause in the remarkable journey of a jazz musician, prison abolitionist, and lifer. Tiyo’s many friends and supporters have added to his existing collection in SCUA, donating dozens more letters and new writings by this influential and much-beloved man.

Monty Neill’s 1987 Harvard dissertation was based in part on dozens of oral historical interviews conducted during the height of the busing crisis in Boston, most with members of the city’s Black community. These recordings are currently being digitized and will be available online in 2019.

In the famously tumultuous year 1968, Cheryl Evans stood out. A “Black pioneer” on the UMass Amherst campus, she was a key organizer in the occupation of what was to become New Africa House and a student leader in supporting the establishment of the Department of Afro-American Studies.
In 1968, the Liberation News Service famously splintered into two factions: the Vulgar Marxists of New York and the Virtuous Caucus of Montague, Mass. Adding to our extensive collections for the virtuous side, SCUA received a nearly complete run of packets issued by vulgar New York, along with a small selection of artwork, articles, and materials kept by the alternative Indianapolis Free Press.

The arrival of the records of the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association is welcome news at UMass Amherst, where sustainability has become a thriving focus for research. Founded in 1974, NESEA has been a leader in promoting energy sustainability, particularly in the building sector, where they work to further sustainable energy practices in the built environment by cultivating a community where practitioners share, collaborate, and learn.

From the early 1970s, George Ebert has been one of the most noted figures in the anti-psychiatry and psychiatric survivors’ movements. Radicalized by three periods of involuntary incarceration, Ebert founded the Mental Patients Liberation Alliance in 1978 as a self-help, mutual support, human rights, and advocacy organization. Broad and deep, his collection is a cornerstone for SCUA’s documentation of civil rights movements for people with disabilities.
And now for a musical interlude

The flowering of SCULIA’s partnership with Folk New England has led us to preserve the legacy of folk, blues, and roots music in our region. With a successful concert in the Fall and several new collections in the hopper, a bright future together lies ahead.
Jim Rooney’s stellar career as performer, producer, writer, and pioneer in Americana music has included stints managing Club 47 in the 1960s, Bearsville Sound Studio in the 1970s, and a long run in Nashville. Rooney has produced Hal Ketchum, Townes Van Zandt, Iris DeMent, John Prine, and Bonnie Raitt, among many others, and won a Grammy in 1993 for his work with Nanci Griffith. He is perhaps the sole record producer with a master’s degree in classical literature from Harvard.

Rooney’s college friend and musical partner Bill Keith was an innovator on the five-string banjo, renowned for writing tablatures for Earl Scruggs. Early stints with Bill Monroe’s Bluegrass Boys and Jim Kweskin’s Jug Band led Keith to play with acts as diverse as Ian and Sylvia, Judy Collins, Richie Havens, Loudon Wainwright, and the Bee Gees. He is a member of the Bluegrass Hall of Fame.
Under publisher David Wilson, The Broadside became the indispensable resource for New England folkies, the place to connect, read about the scene, and learn who was performing where. While SCUA seeks to fill in a few missing issues, we have digitized our Broadside run.

An icon of the New England folk scene in the 1960s, Betsy Siggins was a founding member of Club 47—the epicenter of the folk revival in New England—and a close friend and supporter of dozens of musicians over the years.
Johanna Halbeisen founded the New Song Library in 1974, a collaborative resource for sharing music with performers, teachers, and community activists, who in turn shared with a wide variety of audiences. The NSL collection includes organizational and operational records along with hundreds of sound recordings from concerts, music festivals, and song swaps.

Camera in hand, Charlie Frizzell became a fixture in the folk music scene in Boston and Cambridge during the mid-1960s. A regular at Club 47, he photographed many of the luminaries of the day, from Jim Kweskin to Maria Muldaur, Bob Siggins, and Bonnie Dobson.
Sue Kramer and Anna Gyorgy donated hundreds of images taken by them and Tony Mathews from the 1960s through 1980s, offering extraordinary visual documentation of the communes at Montague Farm and Packer Corners. The collection includes a stunning series of images from the famous occupation of the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant in 1977.
Seabrook occupiers playing tag in the armory yard after their arrest, May 1977

Occupation of the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant, May 1, 1977
One of the most published photographers in *Life* magazine during the 1960s, Rowland Scherman’s legendary career included stints as the first photographer for the Peace Corps and for the March on Washington in 1963. He was on the scene for the Beatles’s first U.S. concert, for Bob Dylan’s breakout performance at Newport, for Bobby Kennedy’s presidential run, and for Woodstock. His extraordinary archive will be a bedrock of SCUA’s visual collections.
An award-winning photojournalist, Kathy Borchers began a thirty-year career with the Providence Journal in the mid-1980s. Covering the gamut of assignments from the crime beat and general news to sports and longer-form photoessays, Borchers’s work is visually compelling in either black and white or color.
In the fall of 2018 we lost a good friend and brilliant photographer in Peter Simon. Peter had a preternatural eye for the iconic image, whether shooting a political demonstration in Boston, the Tree Frog Farm commune, a music concert, or the landscape of his beloved Martha's Vineyard, he was there, one with the image. As we care for his photographic legacy, we will miss his warm and smiling presence.
“Get thee to a nunnery,” we were advised, and so we did. Twice. Our fearless correspondent from the land of art history, Sonja Drimmer, inspired SCUA to acquire a lovely late fifteenth-century German book of hours from the Dominican Kloster St. Gertrud in Cologne, along with a book of rituals for the consecration of nuns from the Benedictine San Pier Maggiore in Florence, Italy, ca. 1360 (right).
A New Hampshire writer, Edie Clark proposed an article to Yankee magazine in 1978 on Abby Rockefeller and composting toilets. Somehow this led to a career. By the 1990s, Clark had become a much-beloved columnist at Yankee and the author of seven books. Rooted in her writing, this collection includes a wealth of research and family materials that she mined for her books.

A Vermont poet and writer, Martha Ramsey is the author of Where I Stopped (1995), a powerful memoir of being raped at the age of thirteen, and a volume of poetry, Blood Stories (1996). Her collection includes background materials and drafts, unpublished writings, journals, and correspondence from her teenage years forward; and family papers from her father, Frederic Ramsey, a noted jazz historian, and Ethel Ramsey Davenport, a weaver and member of the artists’ colony in New Hope, Pennsylvania.

Elders Share the Arts and Stagebridge are pioneers in creative aging, a field using the arts as a means to transform the lives of older adults. Founded in New York City in 1979, ESTA has developed participatory programs in the arts for older adults, using storytelling, theater, writing, dance, and the visual arts.

A theater company based in San Francisco, Stagebridge was organized in 1978 “for and of” older adults, and has sponsored workshops, performances, and other opportunities for lifelong learning.
Ben Lewis’s Robert Frost collection was built over sixty years and includes first and variant editions of nearly all of the poet’s works, mostly autographed, along with first appearances of poems in magazines; letters and manuscripts; and rare ephemera such as this 1937 Christmas poem.

Nothing says holidays like a young wretch.

For nearly forty years, Madeline DeFrees lived as a Catholic nun, but in 1975, her talent as a poet pried her into the secular world. For a dozen years thereafter, including six in the MFA program at UMass Amherst, she taught writing at universities, publishing nine books of poetry and two of prose.

An anti-fascist and a major figure in 20th century Italian letters, Cesare Pavese was a novelist, poet, critic, and translator of American authors. Donated by Lawrence G. Smith, this small collection includes several first editions by Pavese inscribed to Constance Dowling, the woman whose rejection allegedly prompted his suicide at age 41.
The seventy photographic postcards donated by Kenneth F. Skinner add important visual documentation for the four Massachusetts towns evacuated in the late 1930s to make way for the Quabbin Reservoir.

When UMass acquired the campus of Mount Ida College, SCUA inherited the college archives—and responsibility for 120 years of memories and educational history.
Over a forty-year career as a labor organizer and peace activist, Gene Bruskin led high-profile initiatives including organizing bus drivers in Boston during the crisis of the 1970s, serving as labor director for Jesse Jackson’s Rainbow Coalition in the 1980s, and unionizing workers at Smithfield Foods in 2006. As co-convenor of U.S. Labor Against the War, he helped found an organization promoting peace and the demilitarization of U.S. foreign policy. To top it all off, Bruskin is a poet, writer, and playwright.

A labor organizer, communicator, and activist for peace and social justice, Rand Wilson played a central role in several noted labor successes of recent decades, coordinating solidarity efforts during the massive NYNEX telephone workers’ strike in 1989 and communications for the Teamsters during the even larger UPS strike of 1997.
Theodore W. Allen stands among the twentieth century’s most important thinkers on race and class. A working-class intellectual, labor activist, and anti-white supremacist, he began to develop a powerful class struggle-based analysis of “white skin privilege” in the 1960s that culminated in his seminal two-volume history, *The Invention of the White Race* (1994, 1997). The struggle against white supremacy, he argued, was essential to creating radical social change in the U.S.

Until her retirement in 2016, Ellen Story represented the 3rd Hampshire District in the Massachusetts legislature for 24 years, advocating for critical issues ranging from pay equity for women and transgender rights to health services.

The extensive collection of American coins, commemoratives, and exonumia assembled by Paul Murphy ’73 forms a deep well for research in public art, memory, and the process of memorialization.
Drafted into the Quartermaster Corps in 1917, Frank Newth served overseas in France for nearly eighteen months. The letters describing his First World War experiences are fully digitized and online.

Surviving Pearl Harbor, the destroyer USS Reid served with distinction from the Aleutians to the Solomons until falling to kamikaze attacks at Leyte Gulf in 1944. Leonard Gardner’s ’49 collection documents his former ship with photographs, oral histories, and other materials.

Samuel Beach of Branford, Conn., served in the nine-month 27th Connecticut Infantry during the Civil War, witnessing the full force of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. In an abrupt change of pace, he went on in civilian life to found Pawson Park, a day resort that reached a peak of popularity in the 1880s.

In a 1977 master’s thesis, James Tibensky examined thousands of colonial-era gravestones in western Connecticut. As part of the Association for Gravestone Studies collections, Tibensky’s papers will allow future generations of researchers to dig as deeply as he once did.
A son of the legendary Bert Bell, a pioneering team owner and former commissioner of the NFL, Upton Bell was an innovative football executive and media figure in his own right. His collection of books and memorabilia documents his career and his father’s and includes world championship realia.

Barton Byg, founder of the DEFA East German Film Archive, has begun to donate materials from his career, including posters and the first ever spatula accessioned in SCUA, part of a small collection of domestic products that complement our extensive library of imprints from East Germany.
William MacConnell aerial survey project (digitizing approximately 40,000 aerial photos of Massachusetts taken from 1950 to the 1990s)

The McCormack Family Foundation provided generous support for digitizing the Mark H. McCormack Papers

The Topol Family Foundation provided funds to process the Theodore W. Allen Papers and to digitize the papers of Caleb Foote

Lloyd Bonfield provided funds to digitize several collections from World War I

Thomas and Barbarie Hill provided support for processing and digitization of Quaker collections

The Esperantic Studies Foundation provided funds to support processing and digitization.

Lorry ’69 and Kathy Bianchi provided funds that helped process the records of Elders Share the Arts.

Conrad and Michiko Totman supported processing of the records of the Clarke School for the Deaf.

Assorted friends of Tiyo Attallah Salah-El have provided funds to digitize materials.

The Council of Library and Information Resources have provided a major grant to support digitization of collections pertaining to disability history. We begin in 2019.
SCUA’s Social Change Colloquium featured a longtime friend, Allen Young, speaking on his new memoir *Left, Gay, and Green,* and Yvonne Daley, author of *Going Up the Country,* a history of back-to-the-landers and other counterculturists in 1960s Vermont. SCUA also supported the MFA program in bringing Rich Benjamin to campus for his talk “The Color of Tomorrow: Community in the Age of Resistance and Trump.”

With our partners in the W. E. B. Du Bois Center, SCUA supported the 24th annual Du Bois Lecture featuring Reiland Rabaka speaking on W. E. B. Du Bois and the emergence of the Civil Rights movement.

A scholar from Kazi Nazrul University in West Bengal, India, Dr. Anindya Sekhar Purakayastha spent the autumn at SCUA researching W. E. B. Du Bois and the Dalit activist B. R. Ambedkar. During his stay, he presented his work at seminars here and in New York, Georgia, and California.

SCUA also supported the 24th annual Du Bois Lecture featuring Reiland Rabaka speaking on W. E. B. Du Bois and the emergence of the Civil Rights movement.
2018 Du Bois Fellows
Juliana Góes (UMass Amherst): Du Bois on Brazil
Marc Lorenc G’22 (UMass Amherst): A World Search for Democracy
Lisa McLeod (Claremont College): W. E. Du Bois, Race
Tom Maughler (UCG): Darkwater as Philosophical Classic
Joshua Myers (Howard University): Of Black Study: A Critique of Disciplinary Knowledges
Benjamin Nolan G’23 (UMass Amherst): Darkwater as Philosophical Classic
Josh Odam ’17, G’21 (UMass Amherst): Du Bois on Brazil

Interns and grant people
Kyle Boyd
Susan Creighton
Theresa Dooley
Paul Fowler
Emma Grinback
Jason Higgins
Meghan McClure
Jack McDonald
Pete Maldon
Nick Neu
Megan O’Laughlin
Victoria Palmater
Jessica Ryan
Michelle Sigiel
Sean St. Marie
Amanda Strakas
Libby Wassmann
Ally Basile-McCarthy
Makaya Done
Calvin Dukal
Isabella Eastman
Nathan Giacalone
Margaret Greenhalgh
Johnny Hudson
Devon King
Joe Liporace
Kathryn Masiensat
Jack Me
Anna Moore
Teisa Napolson
Jovana Nelson
Brian Ngo
Emily Parker
Marena Paniali
Candra Pepper
Kyan Schnur
Nicole Tatsarones
Dariana Young

216,000
1,365
222
63
1,666
106
5
7
2,549
collections in the UMarmot catalog (up from 1,250 in 2017)
new collections
visits by researchers
instruction sessions
courses taught by our archivists
interns interned
cups of coffee consumed