

Illinois Wesleyan University

From the Selected Works of Meg Miner

August 22, 2017

Fall 2017 Report on "Portrait of a Collector"

Meg Miner



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons CC_BY-NC-ND International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/).

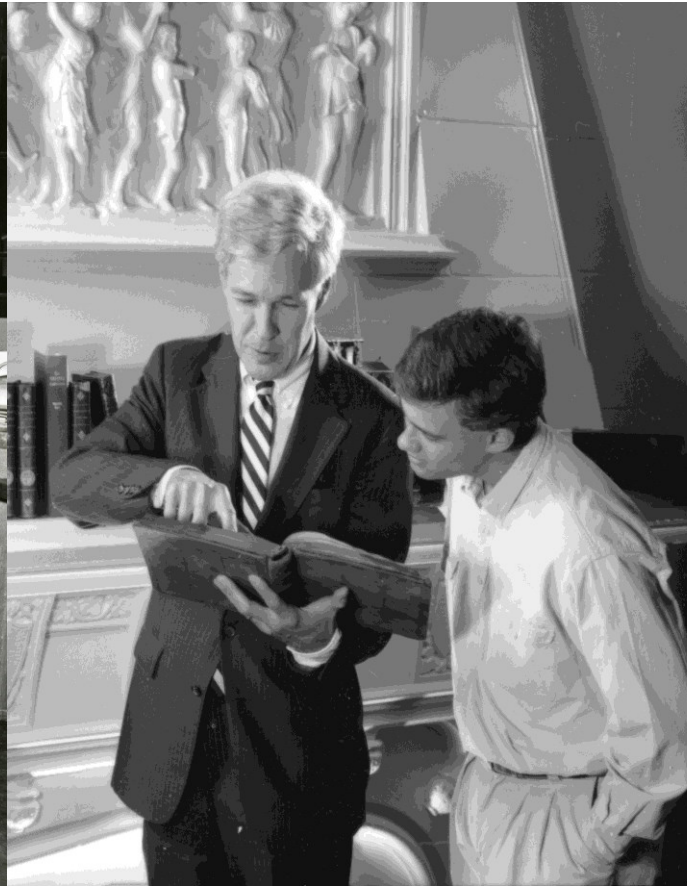


Available at: https://works.bepress.com/meg_miner/32/

*Portrait of a Collector:
A View from the Shelves of Minor Myers, jr.*



Minor Myers, jr. in his Connecticut
College office, ca. mid-1970.
(Courtesy Linda Lear Center for Special
Collections and Archives, Connecticut
College)



Minor Myers, jr. and
unidentified student ca. 1990

President Minor Myers, jr.'s personal book collection contained almost 12,000 items at the time it was purchased by IWU. Records recovered from his home and office files contain lists and descriptions of books acquired during his lifetime. This project brought together documentary evidence and personal recollections of people who knew his collecting interests.

Fall 2017 Report on “Portrait of a Collector”

Meg Miner

Associate Professor, University Archivist & Special Collections Librarian

The outcomes from this project about Minor Myers, jr. are a collection of interviews with people who knew Myers, two essays, and one peer reviewed article. These products make it possible to analyze how Myers’ interests influenced the people around him by creating a record of both his life as a collector and the intersection of that aspect with his activities at Illinois Wesleyan University. An annotated list for these works follows.

Sixty-five people participated in the interview portion of this project. Of these, 58 recordings are available online (see link below), and a list of these participants and abstracts for their interviews is appended to this report. Seven of the recorded interviews are not available for the following reasons: one recording is inaudible due to technical difficulties, one person requested a time limit on his interview’s release, two people asked to have their recordings withheld altogether, and three did not return their interview release form. The latter three may be added on receipt of the release forms.

In my [Spring 2016 Sabbatical](#) report, I anticipated creating a series of podcasts with segments that would demonstrate the kinds of collecting uses people report Myers engaging in. Although I still hope to complete these podcasts, I have not begun the work of editing my selections into aggregated narratives.

Also since the last report, an investigation into the feasibility of using the [Oral History Metadata Synchronizer](#) concluded that this open source indexing tool cannot be implemented and maintained at Illinois Wesleyan University at this time. Therefore, the following should be considered the final outcomes of this project.

Products of “Portrait of a Collector”

Interviews for Minor Myers, jr. Available at http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/oralhist_myers/

The interviews collected for this project are dated 2015 and 2016. Additional recollections of the Myers’ era, and of other aspects of IWU history, are welcome! Contact archives@iwu.edu

“Conflicting Philosophies: Two University Librarians and a Presidential Bibliophile.” *Libraries: Culture, History and Society* 1.2 (Fall 2017): 213-239. [publication expected in September 2017, at which time it will be available at https://works.bepress.com/meg_miner/31/]

This case study explores how one personal interest of President Minor Myers, jr.—that of a life-long book collector—influenced the University’s library collections and its leaders. Myers arrived with a desire to make IWU a nationally recognized, Phi Beta Kappa–affiliated institution. As one tactic for achieving these goals, Myers actively engaged in library collection

development through practices shaped by his methods of book collecting. Bulk acquisitions—through gifts-in-kind and lot purchases—and a prohibition on weeding aided in his pursuits. His vision for the library challenged the style of the first university librarian (UL) who resigned two years after Myers' arrival. The actions of the second UL to serve under Myers demonstrate a successful method for librarians seeking support for professional initiatives who encounter administrators with strong opposing ideas.

“Portrait of a Collector: Reflections on an Influential Bibliophile” (2016). Available at: https://works.bepress.com/meg_miner/29/

The purpose of this essay is to bring together disparate information on Myers' book collecting habits. President Myers used both the objects of his collecting and the intellectual ideas they represent in the course of his presidential responsibilities. This work offers an overview solely of this aspect of Myers' activities, in both written records and oral histories, and is not an attempt to analyze the entire arc of Myers' tenure. The essay contains a summary of themes that emerged from the interviews with appendices containing citations for publications in which Myers discusses his book collections, a list of the interview participants, and a list of comments about Myers and his books from people who did not participate in formal interviews.

“Portrait of a Collector: A View from the Shelves of Minor Myers, jr.” (2016). Available at: http://works.bepress.com/meg_miner/28/

This essay contains an analysis of the collection that IWU acquired from Myers' family and an account of its dispersal. Even though most of Myers' books are no longer at IWU, it is still possible to appreciate the breadth of Myers' book collecting interests due to the cataloging project undertaken by the author after the University acquired the collection. Appended to this work are a list of the titles selected for retention in Special Collections at The Ames Library, the original auction catalog; and a *prices realized* list for the same auction material, but with a complete list of titles and condition notes, grouped by auction lot (see Appendices B-D, respectively). Due to their length, the appendices are accessible as a separate document at https://works.bepress.com/meg_miner/27/). Photographs of the collection as it existed at the time of auction are also available.

Title	Description	Affiliation	Keywords	Collection use categories (relate to https://works.bepress.com/meg_miner/29/)
Sue Anderson	Anderson describes her hiring process and Myers' actions in trying to influence it. Anderson details the changes she intended to make in library services and collections and the difficulties she encountered in achieving these goals. She also recounts instances in planning The Ames Library and her relationships with Provost McNew, Associate Provost Schnaitter and faculty.	University Librarian, 1992-2006; Academic Outreach Librarian, 2007-2017	leadership, management, firings, end-of-life, BOT, auction, book selection	Preservation
Jane Baines	Baines describes the progression of her IWU career with details about changing technology and how it aided the work of Advancement. She also describes Myers' influences on the office's work which included bringing ideas for developing donors and directing specific activities she engaged in.	Advancement, 1987-2014	advancement, technology, personal characteristics	None
Daniel Bassill	Bassill describes his encounter with Myers that led him to believe Myers was a collector of "people who were doing good things." Myers supported his work with Tutor-Mentor Connection (http://tutormentorexchange.net) and was interested in getting faculty and students involved in it. Bassill received an Honorary Doctorate in 2001.	Class of 1968 and H. Ph.D. 2001	libraries, people	Political, passive
Robert Bray	[Transcript available at http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/oral_hist/82] Bray and Myers went on book buying trips in the local area. Recalls that Myers used the word "sickness" to describe himself but with some level of humor. Discusses different ways Myers' collected and differences from his own methods and knowledge of books. Bray also shares views on the effect Myers' personal characteristics had on IWU and individuals.	Professor of English, 1970-2014	collector, collecting techniques, energy, collecting attributes, books, musical instruments, decision making, Phi Beta Kappa	Fascination
Katherine Brokaw	Brokaw is a 4th generation IWU alumna and recalls her first memory of Myers is from when she was in 4th grade and asked to conduct an interview with him. She described Myers' support for her many academic interests and that he invited her and her friends to look at and use books in his home. One memorable title he showed her was an early printing of Dante's La Comedia. He also gifted her books he thought she would like. She observes that Myers was "curious about the world and about other people" and that he seemed to have an interest in everything and everyone.	Class of 2003	books, gifts, dinners, notes, artifact, musical instruments, personal characteristics	Fascination
Miles Buckinghamshire	Buckinghamshire met Myers as an outcome of the research Myers conducted while provost at Hobart and Williams Smith College that led him to Buckinghamshire's ancestor the 2nd Earl of Hobart. As they became acquainted and Myers became IWU's president, Myers asked him to serve as an Honorary Trustee at IWU. He recalls a visit where Myers hosting a harpsichord performance of a composition by Buckinghamshire's family member.	10th Earl of Buckinghamshire and Honorary Trustee	Silver, battle flags/family memorabilia, music scores	Political, passive
M. Blouke Carus	Mr. Carus is a businessman and chemist and lifelong supporter of education. He states that Myers was a supporter of the publishing work he and his wife engage in. Myers admired the family's history of publishing Open Court General Books and admired the literary emphasis of Cricket line of magazines Marianne published.	H.Ph.D. 2003	people, chamber music, art, music scores, publishing, literature, collecting people	Inspirational
Marianne Carus	Mrs. Carus recalls meeting Myers once and touring The Ames Library with him. She speaks of Myers as a supporter of her work in publishing literature for children.	H.Ph.D. 2003	libraries, reading, violins	None
Faizal Chaudhury	Chaudhury recalls a conversation with Myers during a Sophomore year reception at Myers' house about being a Renaissance Man and the value of liberal arts education in achieving that level of knowledge. He also shares memories of living in I-House (the International House, located in Kemp Hall). Chaudhury says Myers had an interest in acquiring a book by Tagore, an Indian poet of Bangladeshi origin but that Chaudhury was unable to make it home to find a copy before Myers' death. Overall, he believes Myers' interests in students was genuine and made a difference in his experiences at IWU.	Class of 1996	renaissance man, home reception, books, I-House, personal characteristics	None
Carol Churukian	Churukian was a friend of a person Myers cultivated as a donor: Pearl Funk, who also possessed book collections. She shares a story of hosting them both for a dinner in her home and recalls that Myers excluded hosts Carol and her husband George from his focus that evening. Churukian recalls that Funk told her later that Myers called Funk from San Francisco to ask if she wanted him to purchase a specific title he spotted for her.	Staff Accompanist, 1992-present	music curriculum, gender discrimination, personal characteristics, management, musical instruments, decision making, donor cultivation, gift	Political, active

Keith Crotz	[Transcript available at http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/oral_hist/89] Crotz recalls Myers visiting his shop once and also doing business by phone and catalog order. He was researching the Phoenix Nursery owners and family. Crotz came to the Myers auction and bought some of the same books back and more. He recalls that Myers was "fun, pleasant, jovial, not serious about books." He characterized Myers as being surgical in his interests, that he was specifically interested in gardening done in the Phoenix nursery. Myers' interests were in quantity and content above more disciplinary-type interests in bibliography.	The American Botanist, founder and owner	books, local history, collecting techniques, 19th Century, horticulture, gardening	Fascination; Scholar
Garrett Davey	Davey recalls a class visit to Myers' home and the many things Myers shared about his collecting; reflects on the meaning he took from Myers' collecting and the influence his personal characteristics had. Davey observes that Myers' passion for his collections was contagious and that Myers' desire to find meaning in these objects was inspirational.	Class of 2004	books, harpsichord, trees, inscriptions, personal characteristics, book as artifact	Fascination; Inspirational
Mike Davis	[Transcript available at http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/oral_hist/91] Davis was WESN manager and reflects on Myers' support for the station. He cites this as an empowering experience, when someone believes in you. Davis is now an academic and has been an administrator and draws on the experiences he had as a student in his interactions with students today. He thinks the administration isn't usually visible on a college campus but that his presences and way of emphasizing the unique qualities of IWU students was intended to make students feel welcome. Davis also describes the condition of Myers' office.	Class of 1998	student support, funding, accessible, student support, personal characteristics, leadership	None
Bob Delvin	Delvin relates the story of Clayton Highum's dismissal and Myers' subsequent offer to have Delvin serve as interim University Librarian. He uses other incidents of Myers' interactions with him and a School of Music faculty member to illustrate Myers' knowledge of music and use of others' knowledge as a means to achieve goals. Delvin speaks of Myers' collecting as artifactual rather than intellectual and recounts how Myers acquired a collection of sheet music.	Fine Arts Librarian, 1980-2017	management, libraries, music scores, musical instruments, decorative arts, trains, piano, organ, artifact, library philosophy, collection development, U-Haul Collection, Myers' collection acquisition	Scholar; Fascination
Joy Doran	Doran recalls the musical interests she shared with Myers, including being founding board members of the Pratt Music Foundation, which sponsors music education in the local community, and that they shared a vision for expanding the preparatory program available through the IWU School of Music. The former was realized during Myers' era but the latter idea did not come to fruition. She and Myers viewed themselves as "philosophers of potential and advocates of opportunity" and Doran was pleased to have support for her ideas even if they were not always success.	Adjunct Instructor, Piano, 1990-present	music scores, violins, pianos, personal characteristics, leadership, management, harpsichord, wine, idea person, Renaissance Man, end-of-life, auction, collecting techniques, languages, intellectual curiosity, polymath	Use; Inspirational; Preservation
Lynda Duke	Duke recalls work involved in hosting the annual book sales that Myers instituted and thinks the sales were well attended but doesn't think they brought much value for campus as a whole. She describes the labor involved by staff time in the Physical Plant and the heavy use of her time in planning, organizing and conducting the sales. She didn't speak with Myers about his interest in libraries but understood he valued all books and recalls there was no collection weeding until well after the move to The Ames Library. Duke also describes instances at events in Myers' home when he shared books with faculty they would be meaningful to. She relates the experience of seeing Myers come into The Ames Library on the morning it opened.	Associate Dean, 2014- and Academic Outreach Librarian, 2001-2013	book fair, libraries, books, personal characteristics, artifact	Fascination; Inspirational; Political, social
Marc Featherly	Featherly describes Myers' input on a series of presidential portraits and other ways in which different backgrounds are used for portrait sittings. He took the Myers portrait that hangs in Bates & Merwin Reading Room, The Ames Library and says it was Myers' favorite. He recalls Myers being very hands on but that it was more about big ideas than about following up on details. Featherly also discusses the affects of technology on his field and comments on how presidents and others influence the atmosphere and student body of IWU. He speaks of working relationships with Myers and Wilson and the dignitaries he's photographed.	Photographer, 1996-2014	books, personal characteristics	None

Sarah Florentine	Florentine recalls Myers loaning her 18th Century cook books from his collection for a History 290 research project she worked on and continued as an intern at the David Davis Mansion. In recalling that incident, she reflects on how Myers' willingness to loan his books "allowed his collection to do something" other than sit on a shelf. It could teach something to people he shared it with. She recalls Myers using his famous "do good" comment at Freshman Convocation. The book title is "Managing Clover Lawn: From Ingredients to Enjoyment: A Guide to the Kitchen of Sarah Davis and the Life that Filled It."	Class of 2004	books, student support, book loan	Scholar
Barbara Ford	Ford remembers Myers as being the key person to getting The Ames Library built and that in and of itself has had a major impact on IWU. She remarks on Myers' commitment to books as physical objects and reflects on research that supports "book as artifact" as still being popular among today's students; however, her own teaching experience shows otherwise. Ford affirms that there is a place for both, and that an emphasis on the quality and relevance of the source is more important than the format.	Class of 1968, Distinguished Alumna 1998, past president of American Library Association	libraries, library importance, Phi Beta Kappa, auction, special collections, book as artifact	Preservation
Princess K. Galloway	Galloway shares the story of how she became a candidate in the Wade McCree, Jr. Scholarship Program as a Middle School student in Detroit. The year she entered the program was the first time a private college out of state became part of the program. She recalls Myers learning about her when she was 14 through an introduction by C. Robert Berg, Class of 1965, and that Myers kept in touch throughout her high school year. They had additional interaction throughout her four years and describes herself as a challenge for Myers. She describes the efforts she led during her time at IWU to make recruitment of underrepresented populations a regular part of IWU's activities and the encounters she had with Myers, including making business cases for speakers she and her peers wanted to bring to campus.	Class of 2002	scholarship, personal characteristics, student support, racism, books	Inspirational; Fascination
Cindy Gendrich	Gendrich shared an interest with Myers in 18th century etiquette books and shares insights into why Myers collected them. She directs Wake Forest University's Performance and the Liberal Arts Center and discusses how she and Myers shared an understanding of the need for education to encompass a knowledge about the world around a particular discipline. Myers loaned her about ten of his books for her dissertation and she describes that encounter and the way some of Myers' books were shelved in his home. Gendrich characterizes Myers as a "walking around president" and reflects on the qualities of presidents.	Class of 1984; Visiting Assistant Professor, 1996-1998	books, silverware, intellectual curiosity, food, multi-talented individuals, eBay, book loans, dinner, personal characteristics, leadership	Scholar; Political, social
Thomas Griffiths	Griffiths recalls that Myers had the "urge to collect" and built collections purposefully, even to the point of paying a higher price to fill a gap. Recalls Myers discarding books, one of which he has, but suspects it was only if Minor had duplicates. Reflects on the influence Myers had on faculty, through emphasis on and support for scholarship, and on students and facilities. Also discusses being present during meetings about the book auction, the last conversation he had with Myers and the one book he received as a gift after Myers' illness. The idea of wearing chrysanthemums at the memorial service for Myers was Griffiths'.	Professor of Biology, 1981-2007; Belling Chair of Natural Sciences, 1996 or 1997; Associate and then acting Dean of the Faculty, 2001-2007	personal characteristics, leadership, faculty support, funding decisions, collector, lots, books, cookbooks, coins, stamps, eBay, collecting attributes, auction, libraries, librarians, weeding, end-of-life, impact, influences, students, faculty researchers	Preservation
Suan Guess-Hanson	Guess-Hanson recalls Myers attending campus and community events and comments on the effects such visibility had with him, and other presidents, on the community. She taught in the same school that Ellen Myers did and mentions seeing her in the years since the time of Myers' presidency. Guess-Hanson shares recollections of changes in campus over the years and notes the positive impact that being able to attend events in different campus venues had on the community. She composed a choral piece in memoriam to Myers and donated a copy it to the archives.	Class of 1964; friend and teaching-colleague of Ellen Myers' at ISU's Thomas Metcalf Laboratory School	community connections, personal characteristics, instruments, collecting techniques, intellectual curiosity, furniture	Political, passive
Ann Harding	Harding shares two book stories: one from her son's visits to the Myers' home and one from an alumni event in Phoenix, AZ. Harding also comments on the effects of Myers' personal touches like handwritten notes and surprise office visits and remarks on the impact of his personal characteristics on people.	Career Center and Alumni Relations, 1988-2014	books, gift, personal characteristics, management, leadership, The Ames Library, end-of-life	Political, active
Fred Hoyt	Hoyt shared an interest in stamps with Myers and recalls the differences in their interests and acquisition methods. He makes the analogy of Myers' personal characteristic being like a lighthouse; meaning, he would focus intently on something for a brief amount of time and then move on to a new interest. Hoyt observes the effect of changes in teaching load on the institution and on other influences Myers had on students and the institution.	Professor of Business Administration, 1987-present	pack rat, stamps, personal characteristics, leadership, collecting techniques, multi-talented	None

Tariq Khan	Khan interviewed Myers for an Argus article and recalls Myers questions to him about his interests and the encouragement he received for choosing to pursue a double major. Khan recalls the influence Myers had on students interacting with different cultures on campus and abroad. Myers believed the purpose of the liberal arts was to give students an advantage in any field they chose. Khan relates a story of Myers' interest in Khan's upbringing in the U.S. and the differences he'd observed between Pakistani and American cultures and how he encouraged Khan to share his experiences with Myers' sons, whom Khan sometimes babysat for.	Class of 1993	personal characteristics, liberal arts, international emphasis, diversity, books, paintings, multi-talented, student support	Inspirational
Art Killian	Killian started on Physical Plant's Grounds Crew five years before Myers and so offers recollections of changes in campus landscaping priorities and operations through four presidencies. He tells a story about Myers showing him a book of English garden plants and how he was unable to explain to Myers that they were not suited to Central Illinois environmental conditions. Killian viewed his work as a craftsman does--more satisfied with ensuring good structures in the landscape on the campus as a whole. He offers views on changes in campus culture, shifting from a community atmosphere before the Myers' era, to a hierarchical or class-based emphasis. His final anecdote describes changes made to the plantings for The Ames Library's landscape plan at his and Ken Detloff's insistence.	Grounds Crew, 1984-2011	books, personal characteristics, gardens, plants, management, leadership	Inspirational
Greg Koos	Koos is a fellow collector who shared an interest in "old things" with Myers. While Myers came to the Museum, Koos knew him more from seeing him at flea markets, antique stores and Babbit's Books. He also states that he shared a friendly competition in acquiring items for a low price. Koos characterized this as bottom-feeding but also knew Myers would pay more if he wanted something enough. Koos believes some of Myers' collecting could have had investment value in mind but that is was not likely a motivation; he later observes that there is little value in bookcollecting since the internet made comparisons across the market possible. He tells a story of Myers and his wife Ellen making cookies from a recipe in an old book. He concludes Myers had a curiosity about the world that was the "fuel" for his activities. Throughout Koos remarks on the nature of collecting.	Executive Director Emeritus, McLean County Museum of History	collector, collecting techniques, personal characteristics, books, furniture, gem stones, Renaissance Man, humanist, Ebay, competition, libraries	Political, passive; Inspirational; Fascination
John Lubrano	[Transcript available at http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/oral_hist/107] Starting in 1979, Lubrano worked with Myers primarily on his collection of scores of instrumental and choral parts of music. Myers had interest in some specific British composers but also enjoyed discovering others. Lubrano tells the story of a 1744 manuscript book by an American composer Peter Pelham and that Myers may have donated it to Colonial Williamsburg. Lubrano does not characterized Myers as a collector-seller; he was an academic collector, preferring content over "individual prizes." He believes Myers wanted a mass of a material that could tell a story in aggregate and may have represented him at auctions. Lubrano relates a story of helping Myers find parts of Vivaldi scores and comments on why they might have been of interest to Myers.	J & J Lubrano Music A	music scores, typography, collecting purpose, collecting techniques, personal characteristics	Scholar
James Martin	Martin felt Myers' greatest influence was by being a positive personality who was present at events. He states that the presences of a positive authority influences students and faculty to want to do well. Martin uses the phrase "ministry of presence" to describe the impact this trait has. Martin felt the campus became more world-minded and interdisciplinary, with an emphasis on curiosity and diversity under Myer's leadership. The fire and passion Myers exemplified influenced the character of IWU.	Class of 1992	music performed in home, musical instruments, personal characteristics, intellectual curiosity	Inspirational
Jim Matthews	Matthews views Myers as a "well-educated liberal arts specialist...who can talk with anybody intelligently about anything that person is interested in." Myers recommended book purchases to Matthews and he summarizes the effect that and conversations about French history had on him. He recounts why and how Myers recruited him to be Dean of Students and describes changes to Student Affairs that followed, what he saw in Cabinet and Board of Trustee meetings about budget decisions, an incidence of racism involving Sodexo (ca 2000), and remarks Myers made on the first anniversary of September 11, 2001 [n.b., there are no recordings or notes of this talk in the University Archives]. Matthews also discusses the Minority Alumni Network, curricular changes, and his work with Student Senate on the Hansen Student Center. He relates the contents of the last note he received from Myers before Myers' death, concluding with reflections on Myers' family and speculations on what Myers would have done next in his presidency.	Associate Professor of French and Italian, 1986-present; Dean of Students, 1998-2005	leadership, book recommendations, personal characteristics, Student Affairs, management, racism, building planning, Hansen Student Center, books, musical instrument, trains, end-of-life	Inspiration

Rebecca Anderson Matuszak	Matuszak recalls the influence a speech about multi-talented individuals had on her life. Myers cited books about and articles about geniuses in this talk that she feels helped her understand herself better and that continued to influence her career path. She relates examples of how the ease of relating to him led her and her peers to go to him first about problems and how he supported student initiatives. Overall, he set the example of what a life-long learner could be. He left the impression that he was listening for what he could learn from you and so when he spoke it made you want to find out what he'd learned.	Class of 2003	multi-talented, student support, personal characteristics	Inspirational
Vadim Mazo	Mazo recalls his first conversation with Myers and the support he felt from him right away for their mutual interests in music and also discusses encounters he had with Myers in his studio and about "Musical Bridges," a program he feels Myers' interest in his work inspired. Mazo feels Myers was a personal inspiration with his example of curiosity. He credits the widening of his interest in bows and batons to Myers' influence. In turn, he is sharing his interests with his students. He speculates that visitors Myers brought in were to improve the intellectual health of the campus and that Myers set an example for the kind of intellectual life that could be.	Head of the Strings Department and Associate Professor of Music, 1987-present	music scores, collecting Prime Ministers and scientists, chamber orchestra, collector, musical instruments, silver, bows, personal characteristics, multi-talented, books, bows, Renaissance Man, performance of manuscripts, support, auction	Inspirational; Political, social; Use
T. John Metz	Metz was a building consultant and was invited to evaluate the IWU library at Myers' request based on Metz's work building Carleton's library. He recalls that Myers and Dean Hurwitz had come from institutions with significantly different libraries. He believes faculty were worried about Myers' presidency because he brought in the U-Haul collection. He recalls the visit being different from other experiences because the librarians were acting more as teaching faculty than as "career librarians." Metz speaks of the difficulties librarians in many institutions experience with faculty wanting grad school research-type collections and of the unsuitability of that material in an undergraduate collection. He believes Myers thought more like a collector than from the standpoint of focused collection development needs. Metz knew one Carleton faculty member who served as interim president who was a book lover and who also intervened with donors as Myers did.	Carleton College Librarian, 1972-1997	library design, U-Haul collection, bows, coins, library building, personal characteristics, collector	None
John W. "Jack" Muirhead	Muirhead begins by telling the story of the home he lived in, which was removed when the Ames Library was built, and how Myers remembered his connection to the site while giving a library tour. He also recalls Myers cooking a special dinner for him and Pam Muirhead after Ellen Myers made a connection with their interests. Muirhead contrasts differences in the physical campus and atmosphere before Myers' era. He also recalls the emphasis Myers brought to the presence of John Wesley Powell at IWU and Myers' support for the Black History Project through the McLean County Museum of History. He closes with a story of Myers joining a group of people who were helping an English faculty member move and then responds to a question about his own teaching career.	Class of 1962	library building, personal characteristics, local history, intellectual curiosity, community connections	None
Pamela Buchannan Muirhead	Muirhead discusses Myers' interactions with students and his appreciation of her fascination with historical collections. In one story, she mentions name tags a student made for a class visit to Myers' home; she donated one to the archives' collections and a photograph of it is available with this interview. Muirhead also covers her role in campus administration and how Provost and Dean Ellen Hurwitz influenced her; she then shares her views on Myers' management of the University and different aspects of his leadership style including perspectives on the dual needs of faculty scholarship and teaching. She offers insights into Myers' attitudes on diversity and religion. Near the end of the interview, Muirhead reflects on the changes in library personnel and the nature of libraries.	Class of 1968 and Professor of English; Acting Dean of the Faculty 1992-1993	leadership, management, personal characteristics, music scores, harpsichord, books, coins, Jazz Age Harlem, changes in campus library generally, library collections, U-Haul collection, auction	Fascination; Scholar
Meghan Murphy-Lee	Murphy-Lee served in Student Senate and so recalls getting to know Myers through Board of Trustee meetings and that he took an interest in her desire to be a contract Russian major. Myers and Dr. Marina Balina helped her achieve her goals and served as models of scholarly behavior for students.	Class of 1993	leadership, scholarship, personal characteristics	None

Minor Myers III	[Transcript available at http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/oral_hist/116] Minor Myers III recalls several experiences with his father's collecting interests and how his father used Minor III's desire to acquire baseball cards to teach him about collecting. His childhood interest in treasures led his father to bury a box of Roman coins in the backyard for him to discover. He makes several observations about his father's intellectual curiosity and the ways his collections both informed and fueled what Minor III describes as a "consumptive joy." He reflects on his father's love of music and the structure and purpose of his father's organization of knowledge.		baseball cards, books, coins, action figures, libraries, collecting techniques, opera, pets, hobbies, teaching, preservation, personal characteristics, auctions, eBay, deaccessioning	Fascination; Inspirational; Preservation.
Ellen Myers	[Transcript available at http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/oral_hist/117] Ellen Myers shares stories about how she and Minor met, their time together before their two sons were born, their relationship with Minor's colleagues, and how her interest in collecting developed due to him. She describes herself as a "savvy collector" of things that have "panache" and discusses the kinds of objects she and Minor collected. She had a family upbringing that emphasized saving and that made it hard to reconcile with Minor's interest in spending. Ellen believes her husband had a life-long ambition to become a college president and, in response to a later question, states that this was not her ambition but that she did not have a choice. She notes that Minor used his engaging personality to meet and connect with Prime Minister Edward Heath and with others; these were purposeful actions. She concludes the interview with reflections on how Minor's collections made it difficult to move after his death. She believes Minor had many more books than the University acquired and is not sure what happened to all of them.		first date, moving, career choices, 18th century, china, furniture, decorative arts, coins, stamps, autographs, books, collecting impulse, presidential aspiration, spoons, silver, auction	Inspirational. Political, active.
Richard Nielsen	Nielsen primarily knew Myers through annual book sales but his wife is an alumna so he also attended some donor receptions. He observes that he and Myers shared a love of bargain hunting for books and frequently saw him at the book fair held on IWU's campus and other venues. He saw that Minor was thorough when going through book offerings and enjoyed comparing finds. Nielsen recalls Myers had a focus on sheet music and does not recall hearing of Myers getting rid of any part of his collection.	Collector of P.G. Wodehouse	collector, collecting techniques, music scores, personal characteristics, auction, book fair	Fascination; Scholar
James Plath	Plath had many conversations with Myers about acquiring and dispersing collections, which Myers didn't understand, and shares observations about collecting generally. He sees Myers' shifting interests as indication of an active, focused mind that was always looking for the next challenge or necessary project. Plath also makes observations on the U-Haul collection, Myers' support for faculty and students and his management style. Plath reflects on instances when he observed people show wonder about old artifacts and compares that to motivations for some people's collecting interests.	Professor of English, 1988-present	collector, collecting purpose, coins, books, leadership philosophy, U-Haul collection, libraries, auction, collecting techniques, silver, furniture, gift, people, collecting characteristics, collecting techniques, student support, management, idea person, condition, book fair, libraries, energy, academic scholarship, multidisciplinary	Political, social; Inspiration
John Platt	[Transcript available at http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/oral_hist/120] Platt recalls working with Myers to send students to Pembroke and also to get the Pembroke dining hall windows transferred to IWU for installation in The Ames Library. Platt encouraged Minor to apply for Head Master at Pembroke in 2001 and he did, although he withdrew from the pool prior to a final decision. Platt also tells a story of Myers as a recipe collector who wanted a particular recipe sent from their chef to ours. When Platt visited IWU in 1998, Myers arranged a concert in his honor with music by a composer from Pembroke.	Emeritus Chaplain of Pembroke College.	recipes, Pembroke College windows, Pembroke College exchange program	

Jo Porter	Porter tells the story of how her position in Corporate and Foundation Relations got started. She recalls Myers as a strategic fundraiser who had good ideas for her to try out and that he follow up on. She shared an interest in cookbooks with him and says he made gifts of books and other things to her. She recalls his lack of interest in condition and remarks on the poor quality of the musical instruments he had. Porter describes going on trips with Myers and how he managed to find book stores, even if it meant staying at a location longer. After learning of her family history, Myers looked further and found out they were related. [n.b., she references a document she brought to the interview that was a report to the Board of Trustees and not an address to faculty as indicated in the conversation.] In response to a final question, Porter makes observations on how Myers might have responded to the book collection's dispersal at auction.	Director of Grants and Foundation Relations, 1989-2011	travel, book buying, library stats, genealogy, gifts, auction, instruments, trains, management, leadership, library philosophy	Political, social
Brian Rogers	Rogers states that Myers was the chair of the search committee when Rogers was selected as Connecticut College Librarian in 1975. Myers was a member of the Friends of the Library and frequently wrote for their Bulletin. Myers also edited the publication for a few years and helped with a book sale that the Friends held to benefit the library. Myers was active in evaluating and organizing materials that were donated or deaccessioned for the sale and Rogers remembers him as a serious collector with a "focus like a laser beam." Librarians did not have faculty status at Connecticut at that time but Myers made a successful case for Rogers to receive faculty rank. Rogers recalls that Myers had a printing press in his home and that he gifted it to the library when they moved to Hobart and Williams Smith. Rogers states that they could not keep it at the library although he would have liked to.	Connecticut College Librarian, 1975-1992	books, libraries, music scores, faculty, sales, collecting, writing, details, printing, personal characteristics	Scholar
Jim Routi	Routi was a member of the Cabinet for 30 years. His comments center mainly on Myers' leadership styles, comparing them with the four other presidents he served under. Routi shares observations on the role of a president and Myers' abilities in fulfilling those functions. He believes Myers' collecting was a life long passion and hobby that got out of hand and may have served as an escape from other aspects of his life. However, he does not feel that collecting had an influence on how Myers conducted his presidency. Routi makes brief mention of the collections he knew about: postcards, coins, books, trains and the harpsichord; and that Myers made purchases through online bidding sites, a coin show in Arizona, and Bloomington's Third Sunday Market (for antiques, crafts and collectibles).	Class of 1963 and Dean of Admissions until 2003	leadership, management, books, eBay, family relationships, fundraising, personal characteristics	Political, social
Fred Schlipf	Schlipf relates memories of his friendship with Myers during their Carleton College years. He does not recall Myers as a collector, but he remarks on Myers' interest in trains, books as important physical objects, and shares insights into Myers' personality. Throughout Schlipf also comments on his own experiences with Carleton and with libraries.	Myers' friend from Carleton College and former Urbana (IL) Free Library Director	personal characteristics, libraries, library philosophy, trains	Preservation
Rober Schnaitter	Schnaitter is a collector of focused, discrete artifacts. He did not talk to Myers about his collecting habits but witnessed some of Myers' collecting activities and expresses opinions about them. Schnaitter describes some of Myers' personal and leadership characteristics and his influences on buying pianos and harpsichords for the School of Music. On reflection, Schnaitter believes Myers' interests in collecting influenced his own and he describes Myers' collecting methods compared to his own.	Associate Provost and Professor of Psychology, 1969-2010	books, musical instruments, personal characteristics, leadership, management, library, meteorites, coins, music scores, trains, baseball cards, collector, auction	Fascination
Steve Seibring	Seibring relates conversations he had with Myers about why Myers came to IWU, why he wanted to be a college president, and how he used his catalog collection to learn about higher education in the U.S. Seibring also recalls times when Myers demonstrated his interest in baseball cards and wanted to highlight stories about alumni who were collectors. He shares ideas on Myers' view about the university and reflects on the kinds of curricular offerings of that time. He relates instances of Myers' involvement in the work of both Admissions and Advancement, including being the impetus for reestablishing the Alumni Office. As a whole, this interview brings together many points made by others that contribute to the theme of what the interviewer describes as Myers' cult of personality.	Major Gift Officer, Director of the Annual Fund and Alumni Director beginning in 1991; Vice President for Advancement, 2017-present	personal characteristics, liberal arts, catalog collection, leadership, baseball cards, donor relations, management	Political, active
Stacey Shimizu	Shimizu shares her thoughts on the purpose of Myers' collecting through a story about a book's inscription he shared. She recalls dinners at the president's home, his philosophy about libraries, what she felt his vision for IWU was, and the effect his personal characteristics, combined with U.S. economy, had on the University.	Adjunct English Faculty, Advancement, Academic Affairs, Director of International Studies 1995-present	collecting purpose, book inscriptions, vision for IWU, cooking, end-of-life, libraries, library philosophy, effect of economic time period, personal characteristics	Political, active

Brian Simpson	Simpson recalls meeting and getting to know Myers and his family as patrons of his store Babbitt's Books. Myers asked him to appraise collections the library received from estates and Simpson reflects on that work. Simpson describes Myers' goal in acquiring special collections for the library not so much for their suitability to undergraduate study but more so that people would come to campus to see these things. Myers understood the value that objects held for research rather than the content but Simpson also recalls Myers' willingness to balance the usefulness of content on microfilm when the original would be difficult to acquire. He speculates that there was some philosophical basis for Myers' collecting but could not name it and compared it to a Citizen Kane-like phenomenon. He describes Myers as a person who "knew what to look for on a shelf" and could identify interesting additions in Simpson's store and he shares his ideas on Myers' methods of organization. Simpson recalls Myers' auction and shares thoughts on what he bought, how the lots were arranged and how the auction was managed. He offers insights into Myers' influence on campus and the way he interacted with others.	Class of 1979; Babbitt's Books owner 1990-2015	collector, personal characteristics, donor acquisitions, collecting techniques, artifactual value, books, stamps, musical instruments, silver, postcards, online tools, psychology of collecting, auction, condition	Preservation; Fascination
Richard Sommers	[Note: This interview was conducted on two different days and the resulting recording was edited to bring together some of the subject's comments that were in audible due to technical problems.] Sommers begins with the story of their first meeting and later becoming Myers' roommate. He asserts that Myers was more interested in history than his declared major of political science. Myers undertook an obscure research project during their Senior year that Sommers judges was graduate level work and uses as an example of the lengths Myers would go to, beyond the minimal requirements of the course. Sommers also reflects on early teaching tendencies in Myers through the publication he created called the Copely Historian. They remained friends afterwards, were frequent correspondents and had several in-person visits with latest being in 1997. Sommers shares specific memories of what he characterizes as Myers' "sense of propriety" and then adds that he observed that same characteristic in Myers' family during the IWU commemoration. Sommers was instrumental in Myers being recognized as Carleton's Distinguished alumnus in 2004. Sommers did not have knowledge of Myers book collecting interests but reflects on his own collections. He concludes with further observations about Myers' character.	Army War College Distinguished Fellow; Carleton College Class of 1964 and Myers' roommate, 1962-64	collector, youth, scholar, student, humor, historian, editor, printer, student group, administrator interest, personal characteristics, commemoration, distinguished alumnus, music scores, instruments	Scholar
Nancy Sultan	Minor interviewed her for her position and she engaged with him on the train collection she saw in his office. She recalls giving him advice on books to purchase for his Classica collection. Myers loaned her a particular book and he expressed anxiety over its safety. She observes that he was not an astute collector of books in her area of expertise but recalls that he kept "want lists" of titles to look for and he would also look for items she was interested in. Sultan believes that Myers' "curiosity about learning" was infectious and important for students, staff and faculty to see. She also discusses Myers' involvement in creating the library and interacting with library staff. Sultan enjoyed the interest Myers shared in her work and feels his vision for IWU was not just to make it an elite institution but a place with intellectual life.	Professor and Director of Greek and Roman Studies, 1993-present	trains, books, coins, eBay, book loan, polymath, Japanese prints, collecting techniques, research, intellectual curiosity, auctions, hoarder, people	Fascination; Political, social
Carl Teichman	Note: this interview is being withheld at the subject's request until 2023.	Class of 1980; President's Office 1986-present	trains, musical instruments, passions, books, travel, historical research, music scores, theatres, libraries, student prank, library philosophy, gifts, baseball, bows, stamps, coins, spending, collecting techniques, decision making, book selection, budget, presidential history, people	Political, active; Political, social

Dan Terkla	[Transcript available at http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/oral_hist/132/] Terkla describes books and other types of collections Myers had and how he loaned them to Terkla to take to classes. Memorable books were Dante's La Comedia, a Mexican Bible and John Speed's Atlas. He also describes an event called "Minor watch," which was a practice he and his students had of waving to Myers as he walked by their window. Terkla includes accounts of events at the President's House in which Myers played music and also of the way Myers displayed his books in his home. Terkla recalls only a few times Myers came to his office but on one visit Myers estimated the date of publication by smelling the glue used in the binding. Myers also didn't understand why Terkla wasn't interested in becoming a collector. The library's collections were also a topic of their discussions and Myers saw no problem if students had to go to ISU's library because IWU lacked journals for some of Terkla's areas.	Professor of English, 1995- present	book loan, furniture, silverware, music, collecting techniques, libraries, Oriental rugs	Inspirational; Fascination
Anke Voss	Voss discusses the origin/creation of the archives in the new library, her early teaching experiences in Illinois and being identified as person to take over at a time when plans to host the Remington Trust exhibit of rare books were under way. Myers gave presentations on those books, encouraging their use by students and faculty. She recalls Myers saying there would be an "archives pedestal" on top of the new library and that he was a "love everything, celebrate everything" kind of person who was rarely idle. Voss recounts Myers' visits to her office and that he did not interfere with her work. Voss does not recall Myers wanting Special Collections to have a specific focus but she also recalls the areas she tried to emphasize: the John Wesley Powell Pottery Collection, working on the campus photograph workflows, and responding to the water disaster in the new building. She describes going through the manuscript material at the president's house and book selection decisions for retention and the auction. Voss concludes with reflections on the purpose of a presidency and Myers' place within that range of work.	University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian, 2000-2005	book exhibit, personal characteristics, collecting, artifact, intellectual curiosity, books, presidential papers, auction, collection development, Renaissance Man, leadership, management	Scholar; Inspirational; Fascination
W. Michael Weis	Weis recalls Myers wanting IWU's niche to be the multi-talented and sold everyone on the idea that IWU was already great and would be better. Prior to Myers there was a "micro university" focus and he supported that. Provost McNew was focused on establishing a liberal arts ideal; Myers didn't oppose that idea but also wanted to keep Nursing. He wanted to expand and grow the University and the faculty supported him. Myers inculcated a love of collecting among people and speculates that collecting helps you think about all the things surrounding the object--time period, materials--that it helps "broaden perspective on how the world operates." Weis recalls the last conversation he had with Myers, the auction, and that had Myers lived, he may have donated his whole collection at a later time. Library micro-managing took place because of Myers' love of books and his desire to manipulate reports to others (US News & World Reports ranking). Weis concluded Myers was a true Renaissance man who loved life, and he is not sure what he would have done next in his presidency.	Professor of History, 1988-present	trains; musical instruments (prior to 20th C); books, stamps, coins, personal characteristics, collecting purpose, collecting techniques, music scores, multi-talented, end-of-life, Pembroke windows, Renaissance Man, libraries, auction	Inspirational; Scholar; Fascination
Jim White	White sold furnishings and other things to the Myers who visited his antiques store frequently. White believes the Myers collected in order to furnish their home and that they had the perfect Liberal Arts house: everything had a story and was meant to arouse curiosity. They were collecting "to create an environment." They were not concerned if an item had imperfections but would do some restoration work; White shares an example of Myers' interest in preserving the artifacts he acquired and he relates instances of seeing artwork Myers created: a watercolor and a wood carving. White invited Myers to speak about antique collecting to others in the classes White hosted. He does not believe that asking a question about why someone collects things is possible to answer and he also doesn't believe that his own collecting interests make it possible to say anything about him.	Asahel Gridley's Antiques, proprietor	collector, furniture, silver, china, music, musical instruments, collecting techniques, motivation, personal characteristics	Inspirational; Scholar; Fascination

Michael Young	Young was on Myers' search committee and the two following. Young began collecting after Myers' death and may have been influenced by Myers' example. Young recalls the so-called U-Haul collection from the Corn Belt library system and a discussion with Myers about their potential value for IWU. He speculates how Myers would have felt about IWU's library changes. Young shares his opinions about libraries and disagrees with how Myers' collection was dispersed. Young recalls asking Myers to keep an eye out for a specific set Young was interested in; Myers called him about a year later when he spotted it in a local store. He tells a story of wanting to acquire a book from the auction that Myers once loaned him and how he couldn't buy the lot then but that he was eventually given a chance to buy it later. Young tells a story of a student researcher that Myers loaned books to (see also Sarah Vales Florentine interview). The interview concludes with several observations about Myers' and other presidents' leadership and personal characteristics over the time he's been at IWU.	Professor of History, 1970-present	personal characteristics, collector, auction, stamp, loans, U-Haul collection, eBay, libraries; leadership	Political, social
Karen Zander	Zander recalls writing to Myers when he was rumored to be considering closing the School of Nursing. Her primary contact with him was when she was selected as a recipient of an honorary doctorate in 2001 and she recalls being a guest in his home and seeing some of his collections. Her interview also includes a number of stories about her time as a student with topics including being a member of Sigma Kappa, Sigma Theta Tau, attending rallies against the Vietnam War and "women's hours," and the 300 level Humanities class she was part of. She closes with a story about an emergency situation she was in while working as a psychology nurse when the teachings of a faculty member got her through it. Zander credits her summer music camp experience as being influential in choosing IWU and shares experiences she's had on more recent visits to campus, including being a speaker for the 2016 Council for IWU Women.	Class of 1970; Distinguished Young Alumna, 1980; Excellence in Nursing, 1995; H.Ph.D 2001	silverware	Political, social