

# Old Books in New Libraries: Treasures of UVic Libraries



A special three part lecture series presented by Dr. Hélène Cazes dedicated to very special collections, and especially the “Seghers Collection”, celebrates this unique 7,500 volume library wearing the name of Bishop Charles John Seghers (1839-1886). Seghers, the second Catholic bishop of Victoria, arrived on Vancouver Island in 1864 and was murdered in Alaska in 1886. The “Seghers Collection” was placed on permanent loan within the Special Collections Department of the McPherson Library in 1976.

In less than 50 minutes, each lecture in the series aims to give an overview, a context, and a taste of an enigmatic collection of classics found in the vaults of Special Collections. Explored as a consistent ensemble, it will then be appraised within its various contexts: its formation, its history as a diocesan and seminary library, and its inclusion within UVic Libraries.



**University  
of Victoria**  
Libraries



**University  
of Victoria**  
French

All lectures are from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.  
and take place in the Special Collections classroom,  
A003, lower level McPherson Library  
These lectures will be audiotaped.

## January 17 The Bishop’s Books

This overview to the unique “Seghers Collection” will give an idea of the complexity and depth of a collection that gathers the classics of ecclesiastical and philological training and Renaissance and Early Modern books and also contains the accumulated donations of more than 150 years from the Catholic community on Vancouver Island.

## February 7 Special Collections, Special Books, and Special Readers

This lecture gives a “guided tour” of a selection of mini-collections within Special Collections: history of medicine, Bibles, discovery of the Americas and Amer-Indian religions, and Aldine editions of modern dictionaries. Leafing through the pages of some of the most precious books in Special Collections will introduce us to scholars, collectors, pious owners, bibliophiles, as well as to bored and undisciplined scribblers using the margins of books for penmanship training.

## March 28 Plantiniana: Humanist Grafts in Special Collections

Christopher Plantin (1520-1589) could be presented as the epitome of Renaissance humanist printers. Born in France, exiled in the Low Countries and settled in Antwerp, he lived at the crossroads of religions and national allegiances. He founded a dynasty of learned editors and publishers. An avid book collector, Charles Seghers secured several publications from the Plantin’s Presses, now kept in Special Collections, McPherson Library.