May 16, 2012

**Sac State collection illustrates theatre history**

Playbills, programs, letters and posters associated with the history of British theatre dating back to the 18th century will be displayed through Aug. 17 in the University Library's Department of Special Collections and University Archives.

The Gerard A. and Georgia B. Larson Theatre Collection, donated to the University in 2011, consists of more than 300 separate pieces of printed material, including floor plans, engraved views of theatres, photographs and other items for the opera and stage.

The collection is noted for its focus on the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, the Haymarket Theatre and other memorabilia of British theatre circa 1700-1878.

Gerard A. Larson (1923-1999) was a professor with Sacramento State's Theatre Department from 1957 to 1994, directing everything from Shakespeare to Shaw. He and his wife traveled widely over several decades, building this valuable collection of British theatre history.

Georgia Larson is a retired high school English teacher with an immense love for and knowledge of the performing arts.

Special Collections and University Archives is on the first floor of the University Library at the south entrance. Exhibit hours are 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information on Special Collections and University Archives, visit http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=553. For media assistance, call Sacramento State's Public Affairs office at (916) 278-6156.

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Sacramento State is making a difference in California’s Capital Region and beyond. We offer a life-changing opportunity for our 28,000 students, preparing them to be leaders in their professions and communities. Our professors are known for their dedication to great teaching. And our location in the capital of the nation’s most populous state allows students to pursue unique internships and research.

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