

# UB Libraries *Today*

Spring 2019 | A publication of the University at Buffalo Libraries



CIVIL RIGHTS at UB, 1960-1975

## REVOLUTION

Silverman Library exhibition highlights the social transformation that occurred in the United States, in Buffalo and at UB in an era of change.

UB Libraries Today is published by the University at Buffalo Libraries for alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends.

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## DID YOU KNOW?



The University Libraries have achieved LEED Silver Certification for the renovation of Silverman Library's third floor, completed in 2016.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), a green building rating system, awards certifications for building projects that ensure healthier and sustainable living and working environments.

from **BETH**

# What will you stand up for?

I recently had the opportunity to visit the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, the only state-funded civil rights museum in the United States. Located in Jackson, Mississippi, the museum gives voice to the history of the civil rights movement in Mississippi via a series of interactive galleries that highlight the struggle for freedom and civil rights. Walking through the museum, I experienced the movement through a lens covering over one hundred years, with each gallery telling its own story.



In the museum's final section, visitors are asked to reflect on their individual sense of tolerance, understanding and equality by considering a number of introspective questions, including, "What will you stand up for?" The walls in this section are covered with questions and answers from visitors near and far, giving me a chance to digest all that I'd seen and to identify how I could put what I learned into action. Since my visit to the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, I have continued to ponder its questions.

Even though Buffalo, New York, is not part of the Deep South, our city and our university were not immune from the civil rights struggles and political turmoil facing our country in the mid-20th century. "Revolution: Civil Rights at UB, 1960-1975," an exhibition on view in Silverman Library through 2019, highlights an era when many prominent civil rights leaders and activists visited UB, inspiring our students and faculty to engage in the struggle for equal rights and social justice.

It has been a joy for the University Libraries to partner with UB's Office of Inclusive Excellence and the University Honors College in developing this exhibition which epitomizes the spirit of the UB community during the civil rights movement. I invite you to visit the exhibition in Silverman Library and experience a legacy that continues to impact our campus, our community and our country. Like me, you may be inspired to think about what you will stand up for.

**Elizabeth Adelman**, interim vice provost for University Libraries  
[eadelman@buffalo.edu](mailto:eadelman@buffalo.edu)



# The Linda Lohr Endowed Fund

for the History of Medicine Collection



JULIE PAVLOCK

“**This is something I’m delighted to be able to do...not for me, but for the future of the History of Medicine Collection.**”

Enter the Robert L. Brown History of Medicine Collection and experience the evolution of medical knowledge. Take, for example, *De Conservazione Sanitatis* by Benedictus de Nursia, a guide to healthy living published in 1493; or the trepanning sets used to open the skull during brain surgery in the 18th and 19th centuries; or the death mask of Dr. Roswell Park, once professor of surgery at the University of Buffalo Medical School and also the founder of what is now the Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center.

It takes a special person to carefully nurture materials such as these *and* to bring their history to life. Fortunately for UB, collection curator Linda Lohr has an incredible knowledge of what lies within this collection, as well as a remarkable talent for sharing its many fascinating stories.

Linda began her tenure as curator in 1997. She credits the collection’s former curator, Lilli Sentz, with introducing her to the world of special collections. “Lilli took me under her wing,” says Linda. “She was a wonderful mentor.” Attending the University of Virginia’s Rare Book School gave Linda an opportunity to explore the nuts and bolts of rare book librarianship. “It was a jumping-off point, and I just fell in love with special collections,” she recalls. “From that point on, I was hooked!”

A tireless advocate for the collection, Linda has given many presentations over the years to campus and community groups interested in the history of medicine, organized programs on behalf of the Friends of the History of Medicine, and assisted students and scholars with research questions. She has also curated numerous exhibitions using documents, instruments and artifacts from the collection to explore topics ranging from the history of diet and exercise to the future of forensic medicine.

Linda recently added another measure of commitment to her legacy by establishing the Linda Lohr Endowed Fund for the History of Medicine Collection through a gift from her estate. “I’ve been thinking about this for some time,” she says. “The endowment will fund materials, staffing and supplies, and will be used to support, at least in part, a curator position. This is something I’m delighted to be able to do...not for me, but for the future of the History of Medicine Collection.”

For more information on how you can support UB Libraries & Special Collections, contact Erin Hartnett at 716-829-2576 or [ehartne@buffalo.edu](mailto:ehartne@buffalo.edu).

UB medical students study in the Medical School Library, located on the second floor of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences in downtown Buffalo.



DOUGLAS LEVERE

## In Support of a Literary Treasure

Dedicated to promoting Irish tradition, history and folklore in Western New York, the Amherst Gaelic League (AGL) recently committed a matching grant of \$5,000 to support the James Joyce Collection, the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of the author's materials.

"James Joyce is acclaimed as Ireland's son and widely recognized as perhaps the most influential writer of the 20th century," states Christopher Flynn, AGL treasurer. "Our goal is to serve as a facilitator, connector and promoter of all things Irish in Buffalo and Western New York. We hope this initiative will inspire others to follow our lead in supporting this outstanding cultural treasure."

Generous donors met the AGL challenge early this spring during UB's annual Giving Day. The donations will support acquisitions and the preservation and promotion of this renowned collection which resides at the Poetry Collection of the University Libraries. To make a gift to the James Joyce Collection Endowment Fund, visit: [buffalo.edu/campaign/supportUBJamesJoyce](http://buffalo.edu/campaign/supportUBJamesJoyce)

## Downtown Digs

### Medical School Library

The Libraries have a new space on UB's Downtown Campus inside the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. The Medical School Library, which is open 24/7 and is reserved primarily for current medical school students, features a quiet study area with seating for 44 people, six group study rooms and a 32-seat computer lab. Our subject librarians are on-site weekdays, assisting with information access, literature searches, publishing, systematic reviews and project planning.

Since opening, there have been over 55,000 visits to the Medical School Library, underscoring the benefit of a devoted area with convenient access for our medical school students. Research is constantly updated in the fields of medicine and health sciences, and with an emphasis on the digital experience, the prognosis is good that these technology-rich spaces meet our students' needs.



*"The people on the Health Sciences Library Services team are the absolute best. They are highly skilled professionals who have worked diligently to partner with their departments (faculty, staff and students) – they make me happy to come to work every day."*

**Donna Berryman**

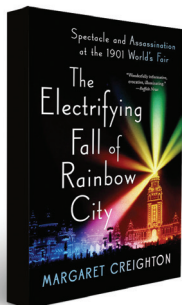
Head, Health Sciences Library Services



## What We're Reading

### The Electrifying Fall of Rainbow City

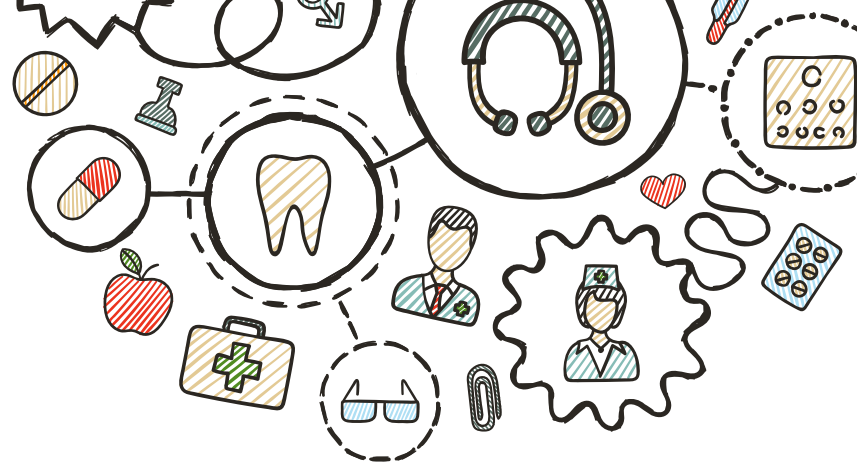
by Margaret Creighton



UB Libraries Book Club revisits the Pan-American Exposition of 1901 with Margaret Creighton's *The Electrifying Fall of Rainbow City*. From the assassination of President William McKinley, to daredevils plunging over Niagara Falls in a barrel, to the spectacular electric lights, this book unveils many little-known stories about our city's historic past.

Creighton's book is this year's "One Community, One Book" selection, an initiative of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library encouraging individuals to share a common reading experience.

As a companion to the book, view the Pan-Am grounds of yesterday and today with a digital "Guide to Buffalo's 1901 Pan-American Exposition," developed by Heidi Dodson and Rachel Starry, UB Libraries' Postdoctoral Fellows in Digital Scholarship, at: [bit.ly/PanAmMap](http://bit.ly/PanAmMap)



## An Apple a Day...

Overwhelmed by the vast amount of health information available on the internet? Pam Rose, coordinator for web services and library promotion in UB's Health Sciences Library, can help. She's the driving force behind "Consumer Health: Finding Reliable Health Information for You and Your Family," a workshop designed to help people ensure that the medical treatment they choose is based on reliable information.

Rose, who earned a Consumer Health Information Specialization from the Medical Library Association, has presented the workshop to several local community organizations in recent months, introducing free, evidence-based online tools which the general public can use to navigate health care treatment options. "When advocating for yourself in our complex, fragmented health care delivery system, it's important to know the current state of research and possible new treatments," says Rose. Anyone interested in arranging a consumer health information workshop can contact Pam Rose at: [pmrose@buffalo.edu](mailto:pmrose@buffalo.edu) or 716-829-5722.

## How Does Your Garden Grow?

The UB Libraries have received a collection of gardening magazines and periodicals from the Rochester Civic Garden Center, a regional education center that closed its library after decades of preserving Western New York's horticultural heritage. From *International Bonsai* to *The Herbarist* to *American Rose Magazine*, these beautifully illustrated and informative magazines and garden catalogs provide a wealth of information and a historical perspective on many aspects of horticulture.

This exceptional collection of over 70 titles of botanical magazines, some dating back to the 1920s, were added to the Empire Shared Collection (ESC) print archive, housed at the UB Libraries' high-density storage Annex. The ESC contributes to the long-term preservation of scholarly print materials by providing expanded and shared access to library collections.



CIVIL RIGHTS at UB, 1960-1975

# REVOLUTION







Shirley Chisholm



Angela Davis



Cesar Chavez



Martin Luther King, Jr.

Long before the University at Buffalo launched its Distinguished Speakers Series, UB was a destination for some of the most powerful figures in the national civil rights and political movements of the 1960s and '70s. Influential guests that ranged from Malcolm X to Muhammad Ali visited UB during these years, speaking to students, faculty, staff and community members about the struggle for equal rights and social justice.

The University Libraries, in collaboration with UB's Office of Inclusive Excellence and the University Honors College, recently launched "Revolution: Civil Rights at UB, 1960-1975," an exhibition revisiting a time during which the struggle for civil rights played out on the UB campus, in the city of Buffalo, and across the nation.

The exhibition, located in the Oscar A. Silverman Library, showcases five transcendent civil rights leaders who visited UB and inspired students and faculty to actively engage in the struggle for social and political justice: Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Angela Davis, Shirley Chisholm and Cesar Chavez. From the Freedom Rides to the Voting Rights Act, from the Vietnam War to Title IX, the exhibition's large-scale timeline highlights many of the social, political, legal and cultural changes that occurred during these years. Images, text and audio recordings chart a period marked by great turbulence and great progress.

Additional exhibits extend the theme across the University Libraries. Large photographs, featuring images of prominent civil rights leaders who visited UB during the 1960s and 70s, are on view in the Health Sciences Library in Abbott Hall on the South Campus; a book display in the lobby of Lockwood Memorial Library on the North Campus offers a wide selection of civil rights-themed titles; and DVDs focusing on issues related to civil rights are featured in the Multimedia Collection.

"As a historian, I am struck by UB's incredibly rich and important history of students, faculty and staff who have fought for justice and civil rights," says Despina Stratigakos, vice provost for inclusive excellence. "The 1960s to '70s for UB was this period of incredible engagement around issues of social justice. UB was known as the 'Berkeley of the East' because of that engagement. Part of the campus knows this history, but there is so much that has been forgotten. It is important that we both learn from and be inspired by our history. We have a responsibility to our legacy

CONTINUED



DOUGLAS LEVERE

and to the people who spoke up to create a better environment for all of us.”

During the ‘60s and ‘70s, UB frequently made national headlines for the protests held by students and faculty. At the time a single campus along Main Street in Buffalo, the university was a hotbed of activism and demonstrations regarding civil rights, women’s rights, politics and the Vietnam War.

“One powerful myth that this exhibit can help challenge is that the civil rights movement was something that happened somewhere else, and that Buffalonians were simply observers,” adds Victoria Wolcott, professor of history and an expert on race and civil rights in the U.S. “Buffalo had its own ongoing racial struggles that directly interacted with the national civil rights and Black Power movements. It was likely these struggles that spurred student groups to invite major movement figures to campus.”

UB undergraduate students were instrumental in creating the exhibit content. A group of Presidential Scholars, academically

“ It is worth mentioning that many of these civil rights champions—including Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr.—came to UB at the invitation of our students. Our students—and, indeed, our entire UB community—have always embraced engaged citizenship as the antidote to indifference. That was true in 1969. And it is true in 2019.”

**UB President Satish Tripathi,**

Opening Reception, “Revolution: Civil Rights at UB, 1960-75”

Feb. 5, 2019



## “AS A HISTORIAN, I AM STRUCK BY UB’S INCREDIBLY RICH AND IMPORTANT HISTORY OF STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF WHO HAVE FOUGHT FOR JUSTICE AND CIVIL RIGHTS.”

Despina Stratigakos, UB vice provost for inclusive excellence

gifted students enrolled in a program within the University Honors College that provides an innovative curriculum and unique opportunities outside the classroom, completed research on UB student activism and the numerous figures to visit the campus during the 1960s and '70s.

The students' final reports will be stored in the University Archives, providing future researchers and scholars interested in student activism with a starting point. “Through this exhibition, we have a wonderful opportunity to strengthen our understanding of and appreciation for the individuals and events that shaped UB and the world we live in today,” says Amy Vilz, university archivist. “We hope that the students who conducted research in the University Archives have gained a deeper sense of place and a stronger connection to our shared past.”

Adds Dalia Muller, associate professor of history and director of the Honors College: “The Presidential Scholars, most of whom intend to pursue careers in STEM, found historical research foreign, yet exhilarating. As a historian myself, I was particularly pleased that my students were able to experience, recognize and value research conducted outside of the laboratory.”

Jatsia Kramer Chen, a nursing student and Presidential Scholar, is motivated by the advocacy of past UB students. “It showed that the student body was very much aware of what was going on in the world around them so that they could figure out

how to change it for the better,” Chen says. “It not only gives me hope for the future, but it also inspires me to be a part of that movement for a better tomorrow, too.”

Students are also taking part in a course this semester that involves collecting the oral histories of faculty, staff, alumni and community members who were engaged in activism locally during the period. The course is led by Michael Frisch, professor emeritus of history, who returned to UB to lead the class. Frisch, who joined UB in 1969, was one of 45 faculty members who staged a sit-in at Hayes Hall that year in response to the police presence on campus after student protests.

Students are conducting long-form interviews, learning to use audio and digital recording technology, and indexing materials for future reference. After the course, the oral histories will be available in the University Archives. “People are archives,” said Frisch. “With good curiosity, if you talk to them and listen carefully, you can learn a great deal about details outside of your own world.”

“Revolution: Civil Rights at UB, 1960-1975” will remain on display through 2019. Programming on themes related to the exhibition will be organized in the UB and Buffalo communities throughout the year.

A companion website, which includes a video and an expanded timeline, is available at: [library.buffalo.edu/civil-rights](http://library.buffalo.edu/civil-rights)



DOUGLAS LEVERE



A Bibliography of  
John Bennett's  
Vagabond Press,  
1966-2005



AMONG THE NEIGHBORS

REMEMBERING  
EL CORNO EMPUMADO /  
THE PLUMED HORN



AMONG THE NEIGHBORS

SKANKY POSSUM PRESS  
A (PERSONAL) GENEALOGY



AMONG THE NEIGHBORS

AMONG THE NEIGHBORS



TISH —  
Another Sense of Things

AMONG THE NEIGHBORS



Poetry in the Making:  
A Bibliography of Publications by  
Graduate Students in the Poetics  
Program, University at Buffalo,  
1991 - 2016

AMONG THE NEIGHBORS



Migrating Ears:  
Kris Hemensley's The  
Merri Creek, Or, Nero  
and HEAR, with some  
brief comments on the  
earlier publications Our  
Glass, Earth Ship, and  
The Ear in a Wheatfield

AMONG THE NEIGHBORS



In Search of Blew:  
An Essential Index of  
Blewointment Magazine  
1963-1977

AMONG THE NEIGHBORS

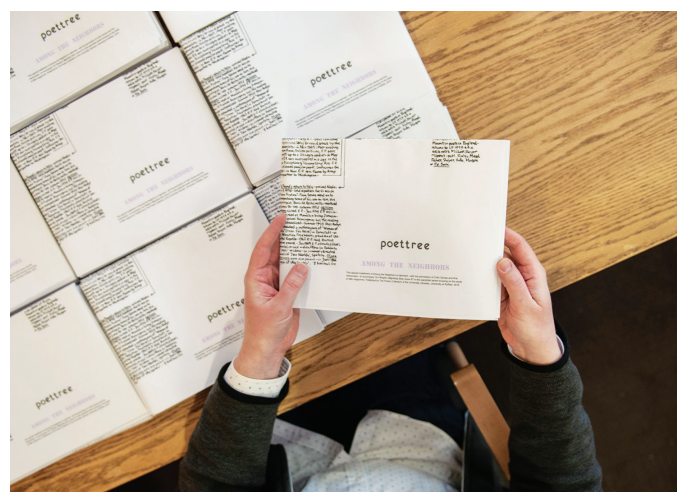


# Cataloger. Editor. Poet.

Poetry Collection cataloger Edric Mesmer would contend that *Among the Neighbors*, an occasional pamphlet series, came about equally to answer and to create a call for conversation on little magazines, noncommercial literary magazines that publish experimental writings by relatively unknown authors. The conversation is as wide-ranging as it is specific. Now entering its fourth year, *Among the Neighbors* has published seven issues, many of which highlight holdings in the Poetry Collection of the University Libraries, home to one of the largest collections of little literary magazines in the world.

While curating a series of talks given by researchers highlighting materials held by the Poetry Collection, Mesmer recognized that the series needed a megaphone. Around the same time, he was assisting on a project giving greater access to small press publications through digitization. Working on this project inspired Mesmer. “I was putting together a little magazine myself, and felt this would be a great direction to go in: a print pamphlet series inviting researchers to look at and discuss little magazines.” He recognized that in this way, the Poetry Collection could help provide a venue for the conversation around these important endeavors.

As editor of the series, Mesmer says that *Among the Neighbors* “is committed to detailed bibliographic work . . . and [is interested] in how bibliographies are made, including oral histories and scholarly interpretation—what is chosen for inclusion, and how we navigate such a trove of information as an archive for modern and contemporary poetry.”



JULIE PAWLOCK

Included with the most recent issue of *Among the Neighbors* is a reprinting of the *poettree*, a 31 x 41 inch map of poetic influences in the 20th century, from Ezra Pound to Robert Duncan to Jonathan Williams to James Joyce.

Part of what makes *Among the Neighbors* an essential publication is that it encourages informal and formal, nonacademic and academic approaches to telling the history of little magazines. He notes that the contributors are scholars themselves or former editors of little magazines, and almost all are poets. In addition to his roles as cataloger and editor, Mesmer is also the author of several collections of poems.



*“I often tell visitors that my favorite part of the work I do is seeing what each person illuminates within the archive—their own particular map.”*

**Edric Mesmer**  
Poetry Cataloger

## The Book of Un with Undex

M. NourbeSe Philip, *The Book of Un with Undex* (Container Press, 2018)



Using the Rolodex as inspiration, *The Book of Un with Undex* unbinds the book as a bound codex with a spine, and transforms the now-obsolete office networking tool into a book of poetry. *The Book of Un* presents a new creation myth predicated on the power of language and the prefix “un,” undoing exclusionary histories that silence the perspectives of immigrants and people of color. The book was created on Caribbean-Canadian poet M. NourbeSe Philip’s kitchen table, where she baked, burned and stained its cards with tea, beet juice and coffee. Edition of 1.

*The Book of Un with Undex* may be viewed in the Poetry Collection of the University Libraries: [library.buffalo.edu/pl](http://library.buffalo.edu/pl)



## The Leyden Jar Project

Karen Randall and Cole Swensen, *The Leyden Jar Project* (Propolis Press, 2018)



This book of poems needs to be touched to be read—or rather, heard. Each of the 12 glass jars is associated with three poems written and recorded by poet Cole Swensen. An electromagnetic current begun by the reader’s touch travels to the microprocessor, and then, depending on how long the jar has been touched, one of 36 poems is played.

Discovered in 1745 and used into the late 19th century, the Leyden Jar is the earliest form of a capacitor, the forebearer of electromagnetic technologies that make radios, computers and smart phones possible. *The Leyden Jar Project* includes a solar panel and transformer cable to recharge the book. Edition of 12.

Purchased for the Poetry Collection with funds generously donated by Stephen Still, BS '76.





Undergraduate education librarian Nicole Thomas teaches students to effectively and ethically synthesize information.

JULIE PAVLOCK

# Team Effort

## Critical thinking, ethical reasoning and reflective discussion

When the University at Buffalo introduced a new general education curriculum in 2016, members of the Libraries' Educational Services Team shifted into high gear. Their goal: "to equip every UB undergraduate student with the competencies necessary to develop into an independent and critical thinker."

Working closely with the director of UB's Academic and Professional Writing Program, university teaching fellows and faculty members, librarians on the Educational Services Team deliver digital, print and media literacy instruction

to the more than 2,000 UB undergraduate students who annually enroll in the university's first-year seminars.

"We introduce students to topics that include developing and revising a search strategy, evaluating and citing information sources, and raising awareness of copyright issues in the digital world," says associate librarian Cindi Tysick, head of the Educational Services Team. "We continually seek out new ideas in order to determine the most effective pedagogical approaches to delivering instruction."

# Library Materials

The Libraries facilitate access to information in all formats, providing many ways to explore research topics and make meaningful connections and discoveries.



**4 million+**

PRINT VOLUMES



**400+**

DATABASES



**950,000+**

E-BOOKS



**190,000+**

E-JOURNALS

# Facts & Figures

The University Libraries offer an outstanding array of information resources, technologies, services and people to support the academic and creative achievements of our students, faculty, staff and community members.



**10 million+**

WEBPAGE VIEWS



**3.5 million**

IN-PERSON VISITS



**3400+**

POWER OUTLETS



**1000+**

USB OUTLETS



**35+**

SUBJECT LIBRARIANS



**1,588**

EQUIPMENT LOANS



**97,947**

HOURS RESERVED IN GROUP STUDY ROOMS

## Study Spaces

There are plenty of comfortable, safe places to study in the Libraries. You'll find silent, individual study spaces that are perfect for working alone, and collaborative study areas where you can work with a group on projects and assignments. For a complete list of library study spaces, visit [library.buffalo.edu/studyspaces](http://library.buffalo.edu/studyspaces).

**35**

Group Study Rooms are located in UB's North & South Campus libraries.

**16**

Study Booths in Silverman Library accommodate groups of six to eight students.

**2**

Grand Reading Rooms in Silverman and the Health Sciences Library are perfect for individual, silent study.





# I'M Thankful

As a UB commuter student navigating a busy schedule, freshman political science major Amanda Bernas has to manage her time well. Between attending classes and participating in a community service project with the University Honors College, Amanda still finds time to work as a student assistant in the Charles B. Sears Law Library.

She finds that working and studying in the Law Library is eye-opening. "I love seeing the books that people check out on subjects that I never thought about before. Working here has even made me consider pursuing a law degree."

One resource that Amanda especially values is our team of skilled reference librarians. "Before coming to UB I didn't know there were librarians you could talk to face-to-face and ask for help. They help me save time when I'm trying to figure out which resources will help me with my assignments."

We couldn't agree more!

Your generosity affirms the vital role the UB Libraries play in learning, discovery and service to society: [library.buffalo.edu/support](https://library.buffalo.edu/support)



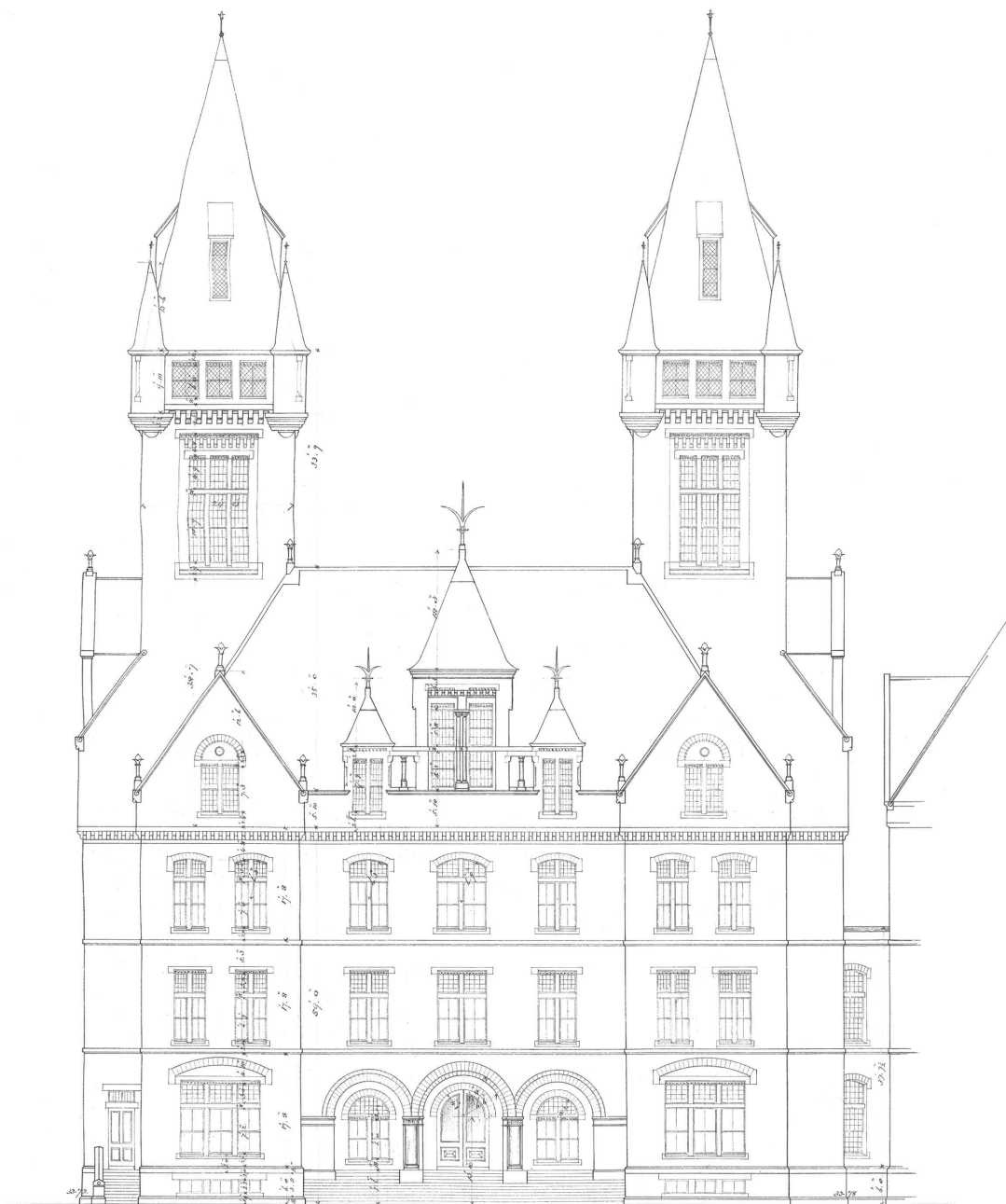
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This late 19th-century pencil and ink illustration by Buffalo engineer Peter Emslie shows the Administration Building of the Buffalo State Asylum for the Insane. The drawing is copied directly from original plans by American architect H.H. Richardson and is one of 21 originals donated to UB's Architecture & Planning Library by the Buffalo Psychiatric Center.