

The MIT Press recently announced that it has received a \$10 million gift from Arcadia—a charitable foundation that works to protect nature, preserve cultural heritage, and promote open access to knowledge—to establish the Arcadia Open Access Fund. The new fund will support the MIT Press’s groundbreaking efforts to publish open access books and journals in fields ranging from science and technology to the social sciences, arts, and humanities. It will also help the MIT Press continue to develop tools, models, and resources that make scholarship more accessible to researchers and other readers around the world. Arcadia is providing an outright endowment gift of \$5 million, as well as a \$5 million “challenge” gift to incentivize other funders by matching their support of MIT’s open publishing activities.

Acquisitions

The Library of Congress has acquired the papers of choreographer Garth Fagan and Garth Fagan Dance, the company founded by Fagan in 1970. Garth Fagan Dance is distinguished by the artistic imagination and polyrhythmic movement of Jamaican-born Fagan, layered with the discipline and strength of ballet training. The company has performed in more than 660 cities in 24 countries on six continents. As widely as the company has toured, many people have encountered Fagan’s name on Broadway through his captivating Tony Award-winning choreography for Disney’s beloved “The Lion King.”

Materials documenting Fagan’s legacy in the collection include photographs, programs, posters, correspondence, audio and visual recordings, creative and teaching notes, and documentation of the activities of Garth Fagan Dance. Highlights include photos of Fagan, from a teenager dancing in Jamaica in the 1950s to footage of him in the creative process from 1990 through 2023; full recordings of seminal works like “Prelude,” “Griot New York,” “Woza,” and “From Before,” and Fagan’s handwritten rehearsal notes from major productions. Under the library’s stewardship, Fagan’s creative and administrative papers will become publicly accessible for the first time and be safeguarded for future generations.

The Hoover Institution Library & Archives has acquired and digitized the papers of Donald Wayne Richardson, an ice-climbing mountaineer and US Army soldier during World War II. In May 1945, Richardson led a patrol that searched the hunting lodge of top-ranking Nazi leader Hermann Göring. The collection, now fully digitized and available to the public through the Library & Archives’ Digital Collections website, contains dozens of candid photographs taken at the hunting lodge and another truly unique item: a pair of leather lederhosen worn by Göring himself while enjoying his country home in the Alps.

After returning home from WWII, Richardson married and attended the University of Denver School of Architecture, graduating in 1950. He settled in Oregon and became an architect known for church design. During his career, he drafted 170 churches throughout Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Wyoming. He was chosen to create the Chapel Addition to the 1853 First United Methodist Church, the first Methodist church west of the Mississippi river. He also designed the Salem Civic Library and the Inn at Spanish Head in Lincoln City, Oregon. ❧