# Libra

## Library Society

#### The Creative Process of Daniel Clowes



Daniel Clowes (left) in conversation with Daniel Raeburn at the exhibition opening for *Integrity* of the Page.

ORE THAN 150 LIBRARY SOCIETY MEMBERS, University of Chicago students, and lovers of graphic novels gathered at Regenstein Library on March 29 for a free-flowing conversation with legendary cartoonist Daniel Clowes, LAB'79.

Clowes visited the Library to celebrate the opening of the Special Collections exhibition *Integrity of the Page: The Creative Process of Daniel Clowes.* Attendees at this Library Society-sponsored event viewed the exhibition, spoke to Clowes as he autographed copies of his books, and learned about Clowes's art directly from the lips of the artist.

Led by author Daniel Raeburn, UChicago Lecturer in Creative Nonfiction, the featured dialogue with Clowes moved fluidly between speakers on stage and the audience. Clowes answered questions about the relationship between words and images in his work (they are "two fighting, competing forms of thinking and notation that don't necessarily correspond to each other") and about his use of blank panels, to be filled in later, while composing a book ("it's like designing a very complicated algebra problem").

Integrity of the Page runs through June 17 and features materials from the Special Collections Research Center's Daniel Clowes Archive, which the University of Chicago Library acquired in 2015. It includes notes, outlines, narrative drafts, character sketches, and draft layouts for three of his award-winning graphic novels: The Death-Ray (2011), Ice Haven (2005) and Mister Wonderful (2011).

"I couldn't be more honored and pleased, and frankly astonished, to have my archival materials included in Special Collections," Clowes said at the time his Archive was acquired. "The University of Chicago, both the physical campus and the institution, was central, almost overwhelmingly so, to my formative life, the first 18 years of which were spent three blocks away from this very site. There could be no more appropriate place for these papers to find their home."

Clowes was raised in Hyde Park. He attended the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools before moving to New York to study at the Pratt Institute. His grandfather, James Lea Cate, was a scholar of medieval history and historiography and a UChicago professor from 1930 to 1969.

Clowes's comics, graphic novels and anthologies have been translated into more than 20 languages, and his work has been the subject of numerous international exhibitions.

The Daniel Clowes Archive adds to the University of Chicago Library's growing collection of materials related to word and image studies. The library holds an extensive collection of contemporary comics, including many comics and zines published in Chicago, as well as the Walter C. Dopierala Comic Book Collection, which contains more than 2,000 popular mid-century comic books. The library plans to add to its comics archive in the years to come.



Character sketches for *The Death-Ray*, ca. 2003-2011. Daniel Clowes Archive. University of Chicago Library. Copyright Daniel Clowes.

### Alma Lach's Kitchen: Transforming Taste

OIN THE LIBRARY SOCIETY TO CELEBRATE this Special Collections Research Center exhibition. In the pioneering era of Julia Child and James Beard, Alma Lach was one of the culinary figures who transformed traditional American cooking by introducing the history and principles of French cooking. As a chef, cookbook author, and food consultant, Lach was widely known for her bestselling book Hows and Whys of French Cooking (1974). She also authored cookbooks for children, co-hosted a cooking show on public television, and invented kitchen tools such as the Curly Dog Cutting Board. And she collected more than 3,000 cookbooks reflecting her broad range of interests in food preparation and dining, from classic French and Chinese cuisine to cookbooks popularizing the foods of American ethnic groups. In exploring Alma's career, this exhibition will display selections



Alma Lach in her kitchen, undated. Special Collections Research Center, The University of Chicago Library.

from her papers and culinary book collection, which were presented to the Library by her daughter and son-in-law, Sandra Lach Arlinghaus and William C. Arlinghaus.

#### SCENES FROM THE CLOWES EXHIBITION OPENING







**UChicago students and Library Society members** attended the conversation with Clowes and viewed the exhibition *Integrity of the Page*. (Bottom right) Judith Wright and Howard Zar. (Photos by Jean Lachat)

For more information about the Library Society, visit lib.uchicago.edu/e/alumnifriends





#### Desiderata

Please consider a contribution to enhance our collections.

Bibliographers are seeking funding for a variety of titles that would be valuable resources for University of Chicago faculty and students. Below is a small sampling of these items.

Glendyne R. Wergland and Christian Goodwillie, eds. **Shaker Autobiographies, Biographies and Testimonies, 1806-1907**. New York: Routledge, 2014. This volume offers first-hand accounts of life in American Shaker communities during the 19th century. **\$495** 

Yann Le Bohec, ed. The Encyclopedia of the Roman Army. Oxford:
Wiley-Blackwell, 2015. This fully searchable online encyclopedia is a comprehensive three-volume reference to the armed forces deployed by ancient Rome during its Early Period, Republic, Principate, and Late Antique times. \$752

John Le Coutour. Letters Chiefly from India, Containing an Account of the Military Transactions on the Coast of Malabar, during the Late War. Bound with: The Defence of Innes Munro, Esq. London: J. Murray, 1790. First edition. \$950

Mark R. Mullins, ed. **Critical Readings on Christianity in Japan**. Brill, 2015. This is a four-volume collection of multidisciplinary scholarship on the history, cultural reshaping, and social impact of a relative latecomer to the world of Japanese religions. **\$1,068** 

Margaret Thomas, ed. Roman
Jakobson. London: Routledge,
2015. This anthology is devoted to
writings about Russian thinker and
linguist Roman Jakobson (18961982). Jakobson's influence extended
into poetics, semiotics, folklore,
psycholinguistics, cybernetics, and
literary history. \$1,465

For additional titles in need of funding, please visit lib.uchicago. edu/e/alumnifriends/libsoc/Desiderata.html.

To support the purchase of one of these titles, please send a check for the full cost, with the title in the comment field, to The Library Society, 1100 East 57th Street, Room 180, Chicago, IL 60637. You may also call Melanie Levy at 773-702-7695. Thank you for your generosity.