

Keeneland Library

Keeneland/Marc Manning



A world-renowned public research institution, the Keeneland Library celebrates its 80th anniversary in 2019. In 1939, Keeneland Trustee and Director William Arnold Hanger provided the nucleus for the Library's collection with the acquisition and donation of the 2,300-volume Turf collection of Robert James Turnbull.

Today the Keeneland Library is one of the world's largest repositories of information related to the Thoroughbred. Located in a 10,000-square-foot building that opened in July 2002, the Library houses nearly 30,000 books, more than one million photographic negatives and prints and thousands of newspaper and magazine articles about all aspects of the equine industry.

Thousands of journalists, writers, college professors, historians, racing fans and others seeking information for articles, books or other projects have performed research at the Library or requested information from its staff. The Library hosts a lecture series, maintains physical and virtual exhibits, engages in outreach and education initiatives and provides services to community, state and national organizations.

Visitors can trace Keeneland's history by examining the Library's scrapbooks, which contain photographs from the track's inception and depict many milestones, including major construction projects; visits by royalty, celebrities and former U.S. Presidents; and beautiful panoramas of Keeneland's grounds. A display area near the Library entrance exhibits racing artifacts and various collectibles. In addition, a portion of Keeneland's equine art collection is on display.

Today, some of the most indispensable resources in the Library include:

- More than 6,000 volumes of *Daily Racing Form* dating back to 1896 that include three editions of the publication. In 2000, the *Form* donated this priceless archive, which included a large run of *The Morning Telegraph*, the predecessor of the Eastern edition of the *Form*. *The Morning Telegraph* touted itself as "America's Oldest Authority on Motion Pictures, Theatre and Turf" and featured headlines from the track juxtaposed with photos of Hollywood and Broadway celebrities. In collaboration with the University of Kentucky Libraries, the Keeneland Library offers access to a growing online archive of the early volumes of the *Daily Racing Form* at drf.uky.edu.
- Approximately 2,500 pieces of humorous caricatures and equine cartoons by Pierre Bellocq, the internationally celebrated artist known as "Peb." He donated the material, representing nearly a half-century of work, in 2009.
- More than 18,000 glass plate negatives of Charles Christian Cook, one of the first photographers in the U.S. to specialize in racing and race track scenes from the early 1900s through the 1930s.
- More than a quarter-million film negatives of racing, finish line and winner's circles shots of the 1930s-1960s from photographer Bert Morgan.
- Some 12,000 slides along with print photographs and track programs of prominent Southern California photographer Katey Barrett. Acquired in

December 2014, the material represents the Library's first collection of color slides that extensively document racing in California from the 1970s to the present.

- A nearly complete run of *The Spirit of the Times*, which provides a weekly discussion about horse racing and breeding in America during the 19th century.
- Approximately 5,000 photographic prints by John Hemment dating from 1890s through 1918 documenting now defunct-tracks such as Morris Park, Benning Racetrack and Sheepshead Bay.

The Library's recent acquisitions include:

- A limited-edition bronze sculpture of Serena's Song by Nina Kaiser.
- Diaries of jockey Ted Atkinson documenting his daily mounts.
- Trophies and trays won by trainer H. Allen Jerkens.
- Silver trophy won by J.O. Keene at the Kentucky Association track in 1916.
- Scrapbooks and other collectibles about Spectacular Bid.
- 1859-1862 broadsides from the Kentucky Association track.

Keeneland Library

Hours:

Open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. ET.

Website:

Keeneland.com/keeneland-library

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