We just got the papers of John A. Simpson, from astrophysics. He designed instruments like for the Pioneer spacecraft. These are his papers since 1980. He had already donated his papers up to 1980; we organized them with help from the Smithsonian.

At the intermediate stage the stuff goes into temporary storage until processing, when the final contents are arranged and described and put into the gray boxes. We compile “finding aids” for the boxes, which list their contents. We just started computerizing this stuff.

These are Harper’s “red books,” where he recorded every thing he did. They’re basically Day-Timers. He wrote out his to-do’s every day and then crossed out in pencil. Here’s June 1, 1898.

You know, there was an earlier university called the University of Chicago. It was founded by Senator Stephen A. Douglas, the one who debated Lincoln. It went bankrupt in 1886. Douglas’s family donated his papers, that deal with that U of C. And we have a piece of his cravat!