

# THE ELIZABETH MILLER VAMPIRE BOOK COLLECTION

## COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Prepared by MLC Collections Management (Anna Krentz with Henry Gomes);  
last updated by hg 20 October 2016

### Dates

1975-2015 (includes new and some rare editions of books originally published as early as 1897)

### Location

Books are located in MLC Archive Room, GER 344.

### Extent

82 Books.

### Scope and content

The collection consists of books donated to the Modern Literature and Culture Research Centre by Dr. Elizabeth Miller, Toronto. This collection of books are related to Dr. Miller's major field of research on Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. The collection includes several editions of Stoker's novel, as well various adaptations, such as picture books and graphic novels, critical studies on *Dracula*, biographies on Stoker and Vlad the Impaler, and other books related to vampires.

### Source of Supplied Title

Descriptive title provided by the archivist based on subject of the collection.

### Arrangement

The collection has been arranged by the archivist.

### Accruals

Further accruals are expected.

### Detailed Description:

"I am all in a sea of wonders. I doubt; I fear; I think strange things, which I dare not confess to my own soul."

— Bram Stoker, *Dracula*

The multifaceted vampire is a subject of great allure to authors, filmmakers, and, increasingly, to academics. Scholarly study of literary and cultural representations of the vampire is today robust. The Modern Literature and Culture Research Centre's recent acquisition of vampire literature, donated by world expert in the field Dr. Elizabeth Miller, offers researchers a significant new

resource for this work. The vampire exerted a particular pull over audiences of the modern period, exemplified by the popularity of the 1897 publication of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. This modern vampire set the stage for decades of representations, reworkings, and subverting of Stoker's archetype throughout literature and popular culture.

Donor Dr. Miller, professor emerita at Memorial University, specializes in this literary and cultural history of the vampire. Her work examines the contexts and creation of Bram Stoker's 1897 classic *Dracula*, as well as the many manifestations of the vampire figure in the subsequent century. In addition to numerous books, articles, and lectures on the subject, Dr. Miller founded the Dracula Research Centre and was founding editor of the peer-reviewed *Journal of Dracula Studies*.

Dr. Miller's donation of over eighty books reflects the diversity of the representation of the vampire in modern literature and culture. One portion of the collection comprises varied editions of Bram Stoker's novel, themselves demonstrating an array of possible approaches. Some are abridged, some illustrated, some modernized, some brimming with scholarly annotation. There is even a graphic novel adaptation of the 1992 film *Bram Stoker's Dracula*, directed by Francis Ford Coppola. Of particular importance is *Dracula. The Rare Text of 1901*, a high-quality facsimile of a scarce 1901 edition of the novel with abridgement done by Stoker himself. This volume is itself rare; only 500 were produced.

These multiple editions of the novel are accompanied by number of biographies of Bram Stoker, including those by Barbara Belford, Harry Ludlam, Daniel Farson, and Paul Murray. A selection of Stoker's own non-fiction writings are included in the compilation, *A Glimpse of America and Other Lectures, Interviews and Essays*, edited by Richard Dalby.

The historical roots of *Dracula* are represented by several biographies of Vlad Tepes ("Vlad the Impaler), the historical inspiration for *Dracula*. These include two hard-to-find academic books: *Vlad III Dracula. The Life and Times of the Historical Dracula*, written by Kurt W. Treptow and published by The Centre for Romanian Studies, and *Vlad Tepes. Prince of Walachia*, by Nicholae Stoicescu, published in 1978 by the Historical Library of Romania. Historical context is further provided by a rare reprint of *Varney the Vampire*, a penny dreadful from 1847, offering a glimpse into pre-*Dracula* fictional conceptions of the vampire.

Another portion of the collection represents literary manifestations of the vampire in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, particularly the last forty years. Some of these works take *Dracula* for a major character, while others draw from the image of the vampire more generally. Demonstrating the malleability of the vampire's connotations, these works range from horror (*The Vampire Tapestry* by Suzy Mckee Charnas; *Dracula's Demeter*, by Doug Lamoureux), to romance (*The Newfoundland Vampire*, by Charles O'Keefe), to literary fiction (*Fledgling*, by Octavia E. Butler) to children's picture books (*Little Dracula's First Bite*, by Martin Waddell and Joseph Wright).

A further group illustrates the place of the vampire in contemporary culture. There are illustrated books on the history and legends of *Dracula*, including one by Elizabeth Miller herself. *Sundays with Vlad*, by Paul Bibeau, is a lighthearted travelogue relating the author's *Dracula*-related

explorations. *The Dracula Dilemma: Tourism, Identity, and the State in Romania*, by Duncan Light, provides an academic perspective on the context of similar travels. Two books by David J. Skal, *Hollywood Gothic* and *V is for Vampire: The A-Z Guide to Everything Undead*, explore popular culture representations of Dracula and vampires generally, addressing film, music, and the stage alongside printed literature. *Vampires: Myths and Metaphors for Enduring Evil* is an interdisciplinary, scholarly collection of academic study on the topic—including, of course, a contribution by Elizabeth Miller.

The range of the collection demonstrates the reach of the vampire across modern culture and literature. The tropes, the images, and the symbols associated with the vampire are potent. Thanks in no small part to the efforts of Dr. Miller, the study of the subject is flourishing, with much yet to explore. With the donation of this collection, the MLC now provides a significant source of varied material to facilitate such study.

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