

Profiles in Civil Rights Activism



March 9, 1965—Martin Luther King Jr. negotiates a controversial compromise, a symbolic march which will turn back at the Edmund Pettis Bridge in Selma, while the legality of a full Selma-to-Montgomery March is debated in court. Seen here are Stokely Carmichael (far left), and John Lewis, Ralph Abernathy, and King (third, fourth, and fifth from left).

“Profiles in Civil Rights Activism” features the Jack Rabin Collection on Alabama Civil Rights and Southern Activists. The exhibit documents the historic 1965 March from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama and will be on display through March 3 in the Diversity Studies Room, 109 Pattee Library.

The materials on display were acquired by Jack Rabin from 1948 to 2005. He assembled most of the collection while teaching public administration in Montgomery, Alabama, through contacts with public administration students working for the Alabama Department of Public Safety. He also actively pursued primary-source materials from white activists and African-American civil rights leaders. The resulting collection formed the core of his Center for the Study of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. Rabin took the collection to Penn State in 1988, when he accepted a faculty position at Penn State Harrisburg. In 2002, he donated most of the collection to Penn State’s Special Collections Library.

This exhibition also features the Robert Joyce Collection, which includes documentary photographs on acts of civil disobedience and the historic 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, that culminated with Dr. King’s “I have a dream” speech. Archival images and records from the Penn State University Archives, including Dr. King’s speech at Penn State in 1968, and selected books from the Rare Books and Manuscript’s African-American History book collection further add to a visual essay of the period.

The exhibit area is open to the public during library operating hours, unless noted. Call 814-865-3063 for a listing of general hours.