

# A Guide to the Bradley and Brian Flota Comic Book Collection, 1952-2008 SC 0032

Bradley and Brian Flota comic book collection  
1952-2008



## Title Statement

A Guide to the Bradley and Brian Flota Comic Book Collection, 1952-2008 SC 0032

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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

SC 0032

**Unit ID**

/repositories/4/resources/212

**Unit Date**

1952-2008

**Unit Date**

1960-1999

**Language**

English

**Abstract**

With over 9,700 comic books, this collection consists of a wide selection of comic book and magazine genres from independent publishers as well as major publishers. Some major publishers in this collection include Marvel Comics, DC Comics, and Dark Horse Comics.

**Creator**

Flota, Brian, Dr., 1975-

**source**

Flota, Brian, Dr., 1975-

**Creator**

Flota, Bradley, 1948-2015

**Extent**

59.8 cubic feet 70 comic book boxes, 1 manuscript box

**Repository**

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

## Administrative Information

**Conditions Governing Access**

Collection open to research. Please be aware collection contains mature content. Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection. Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the James Madison University Special Collections Library to use this collection.

**Conditions Governing Use**

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to the James Madison University Special Collections Library. For more information, contact the Special Collections Library Reference Desk (library-special@jmu.edu).

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Brian Flota donated his personal collection of approximately 2,700 comic books in March 2015. In July 2016, Brian Flota donated his father, Bradley Flota's collection of approximately 7,000 comic books.

**Processing Note**

In the original accession, Brian Flota kept all comics within their original plastic sleeve and with the cardboard backing that came with each comic. On the backs of each cardboard insert, Flota wrote title and issue details and periodically noted the value of each comic over time. For long-term preservation, each comic was removed from the plastic sleeve and the cardboard backing was discarded. A sampling of the boards was kept at the end of the collection to document how Brian Flota kept and cared for his comic books. Currently, each comic book item is stored individually in acid-free paper folders.

**Preferred Citation**

[identification of item], [box #, folder #], Bradley and Brian Flota Comic Book Collection, 1952-2008, SC 0032, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.

## Biographical / Historical

This collection was assembled by Dr. Brian Flota, Humanities Librarian at James Madison University, and his father, Bradley Flota (1948-2015).

Bradley Flota graduated from Mount Vernon (Illinois) Township High School in 1966 and served in the United States Army from 1970 to 1972. He was also a musician, contributing vocals and guitar intermittently to The TimeActions, who became A&M Records recording artists, Head East, from 1969 to 1973. He was a police officer for the Mount Vernon Police Department from 1974 to 1998, serving as a D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) officer for the last eight years of his career with the department.

Though Bradley Flota had been collecting comic books since childhood, those collections would fall out of his possession. He gave his young son Brian a selection of about one hundred comics in 1983, which formed the basis of Brian's collection. In 1985, Bradley Flota began collecting the comics that make up this collection. He collected comics voraciously from 1985 to 1997. From that time until 2008, he collected more infrequently.

Brian Flota began collecting in earnest in 1987 at the age of eleven, eventually amassing around 2,700 comics when he ceased collecting around 1998. Of those 2,700 comics, Brian Flota donated a portion of the collection to the University of California, Riverside prior to his donation to JMU Special Collections in 2015.

Brian Flota holds his MS in Library and Information Sciences from the University of Illinois at Urbana-

Champaign, his Ph.D. in American Literature from The George Washington University, and his B.A. in English from the University of California, Riverside. He is also the co-editor of *The Politics of Post-9/11 Music*, published by Ashgate in 2011.

## Scope and Content

The Bradley and Brian Flota Comic Book Collection consists of 59.8 cubic feet of over 9,700 comics from the years 1952-2008. Although it is largely comprised of comic books, the collection also includes a TV guide from the 1990s, children's magazines from Walt Disney, and a few other materials from independent publishers. There is a wide range of comic book genres between the years 1952-2008. However, the majority of the issues were released in or near to the 1980s, just before and while Brian Flota was actively collecting the materials. Some major publishers in this collection include Marvel Comics, DC Comics, and Dark Horse Comics.

Box 71 contains oversized comics, a copy of the cardboard backing for the first comic in the collection, and an issue of Justice League of America from June 1974.

The inventory consists of an alphabetical listing of the comic books, dates, issue numbers, and publisher information for each title. Also included are notes from the donor, indicating special issues or items of note within the collection.

## Keywords

comic books

Comic books, strips, etc.

Flota, Brian, Dr., 1975-

## Provenance

Comics in each series were the personal collections of the donor, Brian Flota, and his father, Bradley Flota, collected during the years 1985-2008.

## Inventory

A complete inventory of all comic titles and corresponding issues found within the Bradley and Brian Flota comic book collection is available as an [excel spreadsheet](#).

## Arrangement

The comic books are arranged alphabetically by title, in the following series:

- Bradley Flota comic book collection
- Brian Flota comic book collection

## Description of Subordinate Components

### **Bradley Flota**

**Unit ID** 1

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/6887

**Unit Date** 1968-2008

**Creator** Flota, Bradley, 1948-2015

**Extent** 57 boxes

### **Scope and Contents**

Approximately 7,000 individual comic books published between 1968-2008. All comics within this series were collected by Bradley Flota, beginning in the year 1985 until 2008.

### **3D Alien Terror- Action Comics**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27665

**Comic Books [1000897758]** 1 (box)

**Action Comics- The Adventures of Superman Annual**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27666

**Comic Books [1000897759]** 2 (box)

**Adventures of The Outsiders- Amazing Fantasy**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27667

**Comic Books [1000897760]** 3 (box)

**The Amazing Scarlet Spider- The Amazing Spider-Man**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27668

**Comic Books [1000897761]** 4 (box)

**The Amazing Spider-Man- Apache Dick**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27669

**Comic Books [1000897762]** 5 (box)

**Aquaman- The Avengers (Vol. 1)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27670

**Comic Books [1000897763]** 6 (box)

**The Avengers (Vol. 1)- Batman**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27671

**Comic Books [1000897764]** 7 (box)

**Batman- Batman and The Outsiders**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27672

**Comic Books [1000897765]** 8 (box)

**Batman Annual- Batman: Seduction of the Gun**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27673

**Comic Books [1000897766]** 9 (box)

**Batman: Shadow of the Bat- Black Orchid**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27674

**Comic Books [1000897767]** 10 (box)

**The Black Pearl- Brinke of Eternity**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27675

**Comic Books [1000897768]** 11 (box)

**Buck Rogers Comics Module-Captain Atom**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27676

**Comic Books [1000897769]** 12 (box)

**Captain Atom- Chastity**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27677

**Comic Books [1000897770]** 13 (box)

**Checkmate- Comics' Greatest World: Special Limited Edition Arcadia Collection**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27678

**Comic Books [1000897771]** 14 (box)

**Conan the Adventurer-Crying Freeman**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27679

**Comic Books [1000897772]** 15 (box)

**Crying Freeman: Part Two- Darkhold: Pages from the Book of Sins**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27680

**Comic Books [1000897773]** 16 (box)

**Dark Horse Comics- Dark Horse Presents: Aliens**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27681

**Comic Books [1000897774]** 17 (box)

**The Dark Knight Strikes Again- Destroyer Duck**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27682

**Comic Books [1000897775]** 18 (box)

**Destroyer Duck- Dick Tracy**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27683

**Comic Books [1000897776]** 19 (box)

**Dinosaurs for Hire-Dr. Strange**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27684

**Comic Books [1000897777]** 20 (box)

**DV8- Eternal Warrior**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27685

**Comic Books [1000897778]** 21 (box)

**Evil Ernie- Faust 777 the Wrath**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27686

**Comic Books [1000897779]** 22 (box)

**Flaming Carrot Comics- Gen 13**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27688

**Comic Books [1000897781]** 24 (box)

**Gen 13- Good Girl Comics**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27689

**Comic Books [1000897782]** 25 (box)

**The Good Guys - Green Arrow**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27690

**Comic Books [1000897783]** 26 (box)

**Green Arrow - Hard Kari**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27691

**Comic Books [1000897784]** 27 (box)

**Harold Hedd: Hitler's Cocaine - Interface**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27692

**Comic Books [1000897785]** 28 (box)

**Invasion - Justice League America**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27693

**Comic Books [1000897826]** 29 (box)

**Justice League America- Justice League International**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27694

**Comic Books [1000897827]** 30 (box)

**Justice League International-Justice League Spectacular**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27715

**Comic Books [1000897786]** 31 (box)

**Justice League Task Force-Lady Justice**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27716

**Comic Books [1000897787]** 32 (box)

**Lady Rawhide- Lobo: Blazing Chain of Love**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27717

**Comic Books [1000897828]** 33 (box)

**Lobo's Back- Marc Spector: Moon Knight**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27718

**Comic Books [1000897788]** 34 (box)

**The Mark- Marvel Holiday Special**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27719

**Comic Books [1000897789]** 35 (box)

**Marvel Premiere- The Men in Black**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27720

**Comic Books [1000897790]** 36 (box)

**Mickey Mouse Adventures- Namor the Sub-Mariner**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27721

**Comic Books [1000897791]** 37 (box)

**Namor the Sub-Mariner- The New Titans**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27722

**Comic Books [1000897792]** 38 (box)

**The New Titans Annual- The One**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27723

**Comic Books [1000897793]** 39 (box)

**Orbit- Predator vs. Magnus Robot Fighter**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27724

**Comic Books [1000897794]** 40 (box)

**Primal Force- Rai**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27725

**Comic Books [1000897795]** 41 (box)

**Ramba- Robin III: Cry of the Huntress**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27726

**Comic Books [1000897796]** 42 (box)

**RoboCop- The Sandman Special**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27727

**Comic Books [1000897797]** 43 (box)

**The Savage Dragon- Semper Fi**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27728

**Comic Books [1000897798]** 44 (box)

**The Sensational She-Hulk- Sheena Queen of the Jungle 3-D**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27729

**Comic Books [1000897799]** 45 (box)

**She Hulk- Somerset Holmes**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27730

**Comic Books [1000897800]** 46 (box)

**Son of Mutant World- Spider-Man versus Wolverine**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27731

**Comic Books [1000897801]** 47 (box)

**The Spider: Reign of the Vampire King- Supergirl**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27732

**Comic Books [1000897802]** 48 (box)

**Supergirl and the Legion of Super-Heroes- Superman: The Man of Steel**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27733

**Comic Books [1000897803]** 49 (box)

**Superman: The Man of Steel Annual- The Thing From Another World**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27734

**Comic Books [1000897804]** 50 (box)

**The Thing From Another World: Eternal Vows- The Twilight Avenger**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27735

**Comic Books [1000897805]** 51 (box)

**The Twilight Zone- Untamed Love**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27736

**Comic Books [1000897806]** 52 (box)

**The Untold Legend of Batman- Vogue**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27737

**Comic Books [1000897807]** 53 (box)

**Void Indigo- Witch Hunter**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27738

**Comic Books [1000897808]** 54 (box)

**Wolverine- Xenozoic Tales**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27739

**Comic Books [1000897809]** 55 (box)

**Xenya- Young Blood Strikefile**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27740

**Comic Books [1000897810]** 56 (box)

**Young Heroes in Love- Zorro**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27741

**Comic Books [1000897811]** 57 (box)

**Brian Flota**

**Unit ID** 2

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/6888

**Unit Date** 1952-1998

**Creator** Flota, Brian, Dr., 1975-

**Extent** 13 boxes

**Scope and Contents**

Approximately 2,700 individual comic books published between 1952-1998. All comics within this series were collected by Brian Flota, beginning in the year 1987 until 1998.

**AC Annual- Amazing Heroes**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27742

**Comic Books [1000897811]** 57 (box)

**The Amazing Spider-Man- Batman versus Predator**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27743

**Comic Books [1000897812]** 58 (box)

**The Beatles Experience- Classic X-Men**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27744

**Comic Books [1000897813]** 59 (box)

**Classics Illustrated- Detective Comics**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27745

**Comic Books [1000897814]** 60 (box)

**Detective Comics Annual- Ghost Rider**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27746

**Comic Books [1000897815]** 61 (box)

**Ghost Rider- Hanna-Barbera The Funky Phantom**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27747

**Comic Books [1000897816]** 62 (box)

**Harbinger- Justice League Europe Annual**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27748

**Comic Books [1000897817]** 63 (box)

**Justice League International- Marvel Super-Heroes**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27749

**Comic Books [1000897818]** 64 (box)

**Marvel Team-Up- Phantasy Against Hunger**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27750

**Comic Books [1000897819]** 65 (box)

**The Phantom- The Saga of the Sub-Mariner**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27751

**Comic Books [1000897820]** 66 (box)

**Samurai- Star Trek: The Modala Imperative**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27752

**Comic Books [1000897821]** 67 (box)

**Star Trek: The Next Generation- Walt Disney's Mickey and Donald**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27753

**Comic Books [1000897822]** 68 (box)

**Walt Disney's Mickey Mouse-Yuppies From Hell**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27754

**Comic Books [1000897823]** 69 (box)

**Zero Hour: Crisis in Time- Zorro**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27755

**Comic Books [1000897824]** 70 (box)

**Alien: The Illustrated Story- Voodoo Child: The Illustrated Legend of Jimi Hendrix**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/27756

**Comic Books [1000897825]** 71 (box)

**Scope and Contents**

This box contains the following comic books:

- Alien: The Illustrated Story
- Batman 3-D
- Cages
- Heavy Metal
- Meteor Man
- Simpson's Comics and Stories
- Voodoo Child: The Illustrated Legend of Jimi Hendrix