4-1-2006

John James Audubon & Ornithological Illustration Exhibition

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Recommended Citation

University of South Carolina, "University of South Carolina Libraries - John James Audubon & Ornithological Illustration Exhibition, April-June 2006'. http://scholarcommons.sc.edu/rbsc_pubs/1/

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JOHN JAMES AUDUBON
& ORNITHOLOGICAL ILLUSTRATION
announcing the Davy-Jo Ridge Library Fund

Mezzanine Exhibit Gallery
Thomas Cooper Library
April-June, 2006
Among the greatest treasures of the antebellum South Carolina College was its set of Audubon's huge double-elephant folio *Birds of America*, published in parts between 1827 and 1838. Fewer than 130 complete sets, with all 435 plates, now survive. (On the original acquisition by vote of the South Carolina legislature, see Davy-Jo Stribling Ridge, *A Load of Gratitude: Audubon and South Carolina*, 1985).

The current exhibition traces the development of bird illustration, to give a context for viewing Audubon's achievement. The exhibit is arranged chronologically, starting with European bird illustrations of the sixteenth century and concluding with Audubon's successors in 19th century America.

In addition to its main archival set of *Birds of America*, Thomas Cooper Library has a significant group of Audubons donated by Miss Jennie Haddock Feagle (1896-1993). Notable new gifts to the Audubon collections since the last exhibit have come from Mr. & Mrs. Frank J. Dana and Mr. James P. Barrow.

The Davy-Jo Ridge Library Endowment has been initiated by an anonymous donor in honor of Mrs Ridge, to support the Audubon collection.

1: EARLY BIRD ILLUSTRATION
* Aldrovandi, Ulisse, 1522-1605?, *Ornithologiae, hoc est de avibus historiae*, vol. II (Bononiae: Typog. Manolessiana, [1645]).

2: CATESBY

3: SOME 18TH CENTURY BIRD BOOKS
* Edwards, George, 1694-1773, “The Swallow-Tailed Kingfisher,” A natural history of birds: most of which have not been figur'd or describ'd (London, 1743-51). Gift of Mrs. J. Henry Fair.

4: WILSON’S ORNITHOLOGY
* Alexander Wilson, from Grosart (1876).
* Wilson, letter to Bartram in Grosart, Poems and literary prose of Alexander Wilson (Paisley: Gardner, 1876).

5: AUDUBON’S BIRDS

**6: AUDUBON AND BACHMAN**

* John Bachman, from Ridge (1985).
* Bachman, John, 1790-1874, *An essay on the migration of the birds of North America*, autograph manuscript, Charleston, 1833. *Gift*
of James P. Barrow.
* Audubon, Autograph letter, signed, to Dr. Richard Harlan, September 2, 1835, about Bachman and the Quadrupeds. Gift of James P. Barrow.

7: CONTEMPORARIES & RIVALS
* Selby, P. J., 1788-1867, “Magnificent Fruit-Pigeon,” Pigeons (Edinburgh: Lizars, 1835): the library also has Selby’s Illustrations of British ornithology (1821).

8: AFTER AUDUBON
XVI, in *Reports of explorations and surveys*. .. for a railroad from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean*, vol. 12B (1860). Alfred Chapin Rogers Collection.

**IN THE FEAGLE HALL (Mon.-Fri. 8:00-4:30)**

Additional Havell Audubons will be on display inside the Graniteville Room during the weeks of April 25-28 and May 12-6 only.

**NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS**

From the founding of South Carolina College in 1805, the library has been strong in natural history. Information is available on the web at http://www.sc.edu/library/spcoll/rarebook.html for the following collections:
* The Richard Wingate Lloyd Collection of Historical Botany
* The Ethelind Pope Brown Collection of South Carolina Natural History
* The John Abbot Watercolors [lepidoptera]
* Audubon and Ornithology
* The Phelps Memorial Collection of Garden Books
* The C. Warren Irvin, Jr., Collection of Charles Darwin
* Henry William Ravenel (1814-1887): South Carolina Botanist (at A.C. Moore Herbarium) Individual items in Rare Books & Special Collections are cataloged through USC’s Millenium catalogue. Full digitized versions are available for the Pope Brown and John Abbot collections. For other inquiries, the Department can be contacted at 803-777-8154 or tclrarebooks@gwm.sc.edu