

Spring 2005

Thomas Cooper Society Newsletter - Spring 2005

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The Thomas Cooper Society Newsletter

SPRING 2005

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, COLUMBIA, SC

THOMAS COOPER LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS WINGS PROJECT EXPANDS

A project to house special collections holdings in new wings on either side of the Thomas Cooper Library (TCL) has been expanded to include space not only for the Rare Books and Special Collections holdings from the Cooper library, but for the Modern Political Collections as well. Construction is expected to

begin in summer 2006, with completion in the summer of 2008.

The wing on the east side of the building (near the Russell House) will provide a 40,000-square-foot facility for TCL's Rare Books and Special Collections. State-of-the-art facilities to house the University's extraordinary collections will be a central part of this wing, together with space for staff, researchers, instruction, exhibits, and programs. More than \$8 million of the \$10 million needed for this wing has already been committed.

A 32,000-square-foot wing will be built on the west side of the present building (near Sumter Street) at an estimated cost of \$8 million. This wing will house the South Caroliniana



Thomas Cooper Library will be expanded to provide new space for Rare Books and Special Collections and Modern Political Collections.

Library's Modern Political Collections and will support political, public policy, and other research. In addition to providing space to house the collections, the facility will have exhibit and research areas as well as facilities for public programs. Exhibits will focus on the political history of South Carolina and should be of interest to many groups ranging from school

children to academic researchers. Sufficient funds are in hand to construct this wing.

A campaign to raise the remaining construction funds will be coordinated with a "bricks and mortar" grant application to the Kresge Foundation for about \$1 million. If the project achieves LEEDS certification as a "green," or energy efficient, building, Kresge will provide an additional matching grant of \$150,000.

A feasibility study for the expansion project was completed in 2002, and a program review and final design are now underway. The University Board of Trustees has approved construction of the wings, and the architectural firm Watson Tate Savory has been selected for the project.

TCL EXHIBIT FEATURED BOTANIST HENRY WILLIAM RAVENEL



H.W. Ravenel

An exhibit featuring South Carolina botanist Henry William Ravenel (1814–1887) was on display at Thomas Cooper Library from March 17 through April 30.

The exhibit featured samples from the Ravenel collection of botanical specimens (herbarium), which previously were preserved at Converse College and are now being cared for by the Department of Biological Sciences' A.C. Moore Herbarium. Also included were materials from the Ravenel diaries and manuscripts (now in the South Carolina Library) and some of the important botanical books that were in the library of South Carolina College when Ravenel was a student from 1829 to 1832 (now in the Thomas Cooper Library).

The USC Herbarium Web site describes the significance of the Ravenel collection in these terms: "Ravenel, a South Carolina native, achieved great respect as a 19th-century scientist and botanist in the state. The collection consists of approximately 6,000 specimens about half of which comprise Southeastern material, with the rest from elsewhere in the United States and Europe. The collection itself is highly varied in the quality of preservation, the consistency of labeling, and even in mounting style and materials. The entire collection is being inventoried and

assessed to identify specimens which require repair, remounting, or annotation, and those which are particularly noteworthy and therefore deserving further scrutiny."

Although Ravenel first became a botanical collector while living in the Lowcountry, he later moved to Aiken for his health. According to Prof. Harry Shealy of USC Aiken, one of Ravenel's major legacies is the journal he kept from 1859 to 1887. Shealy comments, "After the Civil War he kept detailed records of his botanical collecting and correspondence. His observations have proven to be a rich resource to both historians and botanists. ... There are several genera that bear the species name ravenelii, and one genus of fungal rust named Ravenelia in his honor. He published two major works of mycology, *Fungi Caroliniani Exsiccati* (five vols., Charleston, 1852–1860) and *Fungi Americani Exsiccati* (eight parts, London, 1878–1882, with the English mycologist M.C. Cooke).

Patrick McMillan, curator of the Clemson University Herbarium, commented, "The addition of the Ravenel collection at USC represents one of the most exciting developments in museum collections in our state in recent years. This collection is highly valuable and includes many isotypes from this indefatigable collector.... To locate much of this material has previously involved lengthy and expensive trips to the Gray Herbarium at Harvard University or the New York Botanical Gardens. Now researchers in South Carolina will have this extremely important collection at their fingertips."

Bob Wilbur, curator of the Herbarium at Duke University, writes, "The state of South Carolina had a distinguished record in biological accomplishments

and no state in the Union had a better knowledge of its biota. Let us all hope that the University of South Carolina's belatedly acquiring part of its state's glorious botanical tradition is another step towards regaining a leading role in making known fully the botanical riches of the southeastern United States as Ravenel did so notably, especially for the fungi, nearly 150 years ago."

For more information about Ravenel and the Ravenel collection, contact Prof. John Nelson, chief curator of the A.C. Moore Herbarium, at 803-777-8196. For information about the exhibition, contact Thomas Cooper Library at 803-777-1275. More information about the A.C. Moore Herbarium can be found at: <http://cricket.biol.sc.edu/acmoore/index2.html>.

The cross-disciplinary exhibit was a collaborative venture between the library's Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, the South Carolina Library's Manuscripts Division, and the Department of Biological Sciences.



Specimens from *Lirodendron tulipifera* (tulip tree) collected by Ravenel in Bamberg, S.C.

JOYCE CAROL OATES IS THOMAS COOPER SOCIETY SPEAKER

Noted American novelist Joyce Carol Oates was the featured speaker at the Thomas Cooper Society's annual dinner meeting in January. After her talk, Oates was presented with the society's Thomas Cooper Medal for Distinction in the Arts and Sciences by Dean of Libraries Paul Willis and society president Lucille Mould. Oates was introduced by Jennifer Whittle.

Oates charmed her listeners with reminiscences of her girlhood in rural New York state, where she went to the same one-room school that had been attended by her mother when she was a child. This school contained the first library Oates had ever seen. It consisted of a single shelf of books that she read over and over. Oates also shared excerpts from her 2003 memoir, *The Faith of a Writer: Life, Craft, and Art*.

Oates has received the National Book Award, the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in Short Fiction, the Common Wealth Award for Distinguished Service in Literature, and the Kenyon Review Award for Literary Achievement. She is the Roger S. Berlind Distinguished Professor of the Humanities at Princeton University and has been a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters since 1978.



Shown, left to right, are Donna Sorensen, Andrew Sorensen, Joyce Carol Oates, Jennifer Whittle, and Lucille Mould.

Among her most noted works are the national bestsellers *We Were the Mulvaney's* (1996) and *Blonde* (2000) as well as *Big Mouth & Ugly Girl* (2002), *Small Avalanches and Other Stories* (2003), *The Tattooed Girl* (2004), and *The Falls* (2004).

THOMAS COOPER SOCIETY ENDOWMENT BRINGS TREASURES TO THE LIBRARY



Shown left to right are Harriette Wunder and Mrs. William H. Patterson, both of whom received honorary life memberships in the Thomas Cooper Society this year, together with Carol Benfield, director of development for the libraries.

Since its founding in 1990, the Thomas Cooper Society has raised an endowment that now totals more than \$100,000. Endowment income allows the society's Board of Directors to purchase important books and other materials that will strengthen specific

collections and recognize the generosity of the original donors.

Purchases to date have supported a variety of disciplines, including English and American literature from the 17th century to the present, philosophy, history, African-American studies, and the history of science.

The first item, purchased in 1992, was a first edition of Alfred Tennyson's first book, *Poems by Two Brothers* (1827). Among subsequent purchases have been first editions of works by John Milton, David Hume, William Wordsworth, Robert Louis Stevenson, James Weldon Johnson, Isaac Rosenberg, and William Styron, as well as facsimiles of original watercolors for Mark Catesby's *Natural History of the Carolinas* (1731–1743).

Over the past three years, the society has purchased for the library a first edition of Charles Darwin's *Geological*

Observations on South America (1846), completing the run of Darwin first editions in the C. Warren Irvin Jr. Collection of Darwin & Darwiniana; a first edition of Henry David Thoreau's first book, *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers* (1849), supporting the Thoreau holdings in the Joel Myerson Collection; and a long-lost love letter from "Clarinda" to Robert Burns, dated 1788, to mark the 15th anniversary of the G. Ross Roy Collection.

In addition to direct purchases, the society has also made significant monetary contributions, in 1994–1995 toward the library's purchase of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* on CD-ROM, and in 2004 toward the Thomas Cooper Library Science and Mathematics Journals Endowed Fund, which was established by Dr. and Mrs. John M. Herr Jr.



The dry-brush watercolor portrait of the late Dr. George D. Terry, vice provost and dean of libraries at USC from 1991 to 2001, was unveiled on April 13 on the Thomas Cooper Library's mezzanine level. The portrait is the work of Columbia artist Larry Lebby, a graduate of USC and a friend of Terry's. It will eventually be moved to the library's new special collections wing, expected to be completed in 2008.

THOMAS COOPER LIBRARY'S SPECIAL COLLECTIONS HERITAGE

Thomas Cooper Library still has the first book to be cataloged for the South Carolina College Library in 1802. The book that was designated "South Carolina College Library No. 1" is volume one of John Adolphus' three-volume *The History of England from the Accession of King George the Third to the Conclusion of the Peace in the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-three* (London: Printed for T. Cadell and W. Davies, 1802). It is not clear how this volume was chosen as "book 1," but from today's perspective, the selection of a contemporary or modern history seems to be a very appropriate choice for the first book of a new academic library founded early in the new republic.

After the South Carolina College was chartered in December 1801, the S.C. Legislature appropriated the funds necessary to provide buildings and books for the new institution. The Board of Trustees of the college specified that \$6,000 was to be used for the "purchase of philosophical apparatus and of books for the formation of a library for the projected state college."

The first books were purchased in 1802. In 1804, just before the new college opened, it was reported that 5,000 books had been ordered and that \$3,000 had been expended for library acquisitions. These first acquisitions covered the college's various disciplines of study, including classics, philosophy, science, literature,

travel, and history. Early borrowing records show that the collection was well-utilized by students and faculty. According to an account by Edward Hooker, a Yale graduate visiting the college in 1805, the library, then housed in Rutledge College, compared favorably to that of Yale.

Over the years, many of those first library acquisitions were transferred to Rare Books and Special Collections in the Thomas Cooper Library, where they are currently housed. As a group they reveal the foresight of those early legislators and first trustees in recognizing that the new college required a library comparable to that of its would-be peers.

PAPERS OF TONY BUTTITTA COME TO THOMAS COOPER

Thomas Cooper Library was recently given the literary archives of novelist and playwright Anthony (Tony) Buttitta (1907–2004).

In 2002, Buttitta's widow, Mrs. Monica Hannasch Buttitta, gave the library a significant group of books from the couple's New York town house and also placed selected typescripts on deposit with the library. In fall 2004, she decided to donate these and other papers, enlisting the help of Michael Cambre of the New York Public Library to ship the remainder of the archive.

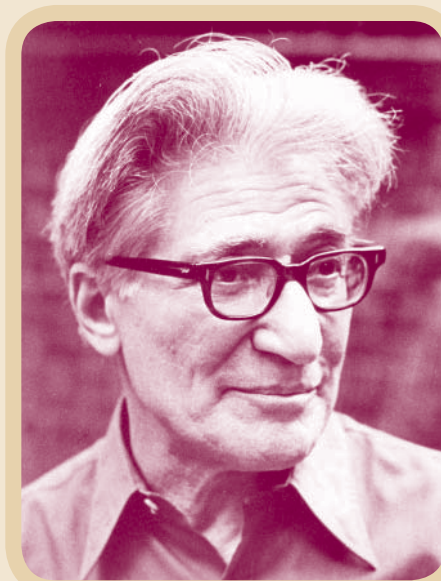
The library's initial contact with Tony Buttitta came through Prof. Matthew J. Bruccoli and stemmed from their common interest in F. Scott Fitzgerald. Bruccoli commented that the Buttitta collection is important because "it documents the struggle of the Southern renaissance to achieve recognition and respectability."

Preliminary cataloging of the collection indicates that some of Tony Buttitta's still-unpublished novels will provide fresh perspectives on race relations and immigrant life in the pre-Civil Rights South and on Army life during

World War II.

Tony Buttitta was born in Monroe, La. He published his first plays and stories as an undergraduate at Louisiana State Normal College and the University of Texas. Subsequently, at the University of North Carolina, he was one of the group of friends who founded the avant garde Intimate Bookshop and the literary magazine *Contempo* (1931–34). Work on the magazine led him to meetings and correspondence with such writers as Sherwood Anderson, Ezra Pound, George Bernard Shaw, and William Faulkner. In 1932 he edited a special *Contempo* issue devoted to Faulkner's work, now much coveted by Faulkner collectors.

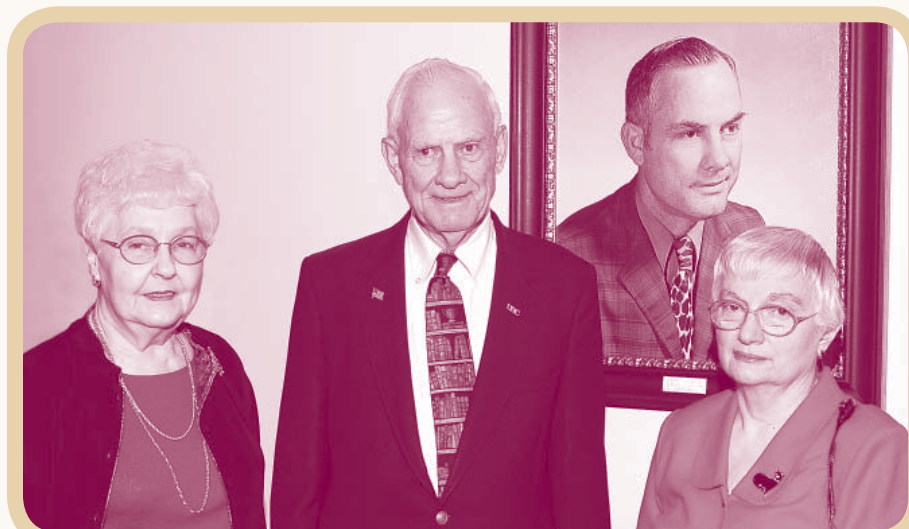
In 1935, when proprietor of an Asheville bookstore, Buttitta got to know F. Scott Fitzgerald. His memories of Fitzgerald and notes of conversations with him were published as *After the Good Gay Times* (1974). In the later 1930s he worked with the Carolina Playmakers and the Federal Theatre Project.



Tony Buttitta (Photo by Dominick Oliverio)

The record of this period of his life is recorded in his coauthored history *Uncle Sam Presents* (1982).

After war service, while making his career in public relations for various arts groups in California and elsewhere, Buttitta continued his writing. The archive contains typescripts for more than 20 of Buttitta's novels and plays, as well as correspondence with Beverly Sills, Joseph Papp, Bryan Forbes, and others.



A photograph portrait of Ken Toombs, director of libraries at USC from 1967 to 1988, was unveiled at a reception held in December in Thomas Cooper Library. Toombs is shown in front of the portrait with Mrs. Toombs (left) and Mrs. Davy-Jo Ridge, a long-time colleague of Mr. Toombs at the library.

EXHIBITS AT THE THOMAS COOPER LIBRARY

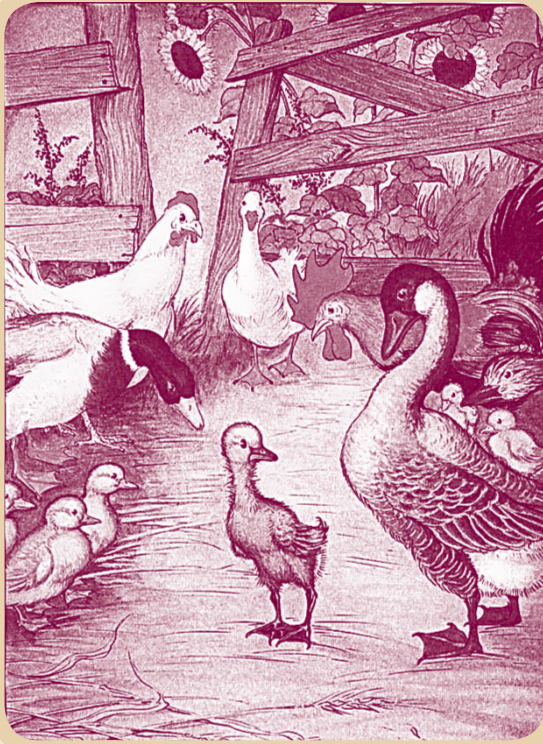


Illustration of the ugly duckling by Milo Winter from *Hans Andersen's Fairy Tales* (New York: Rand McNally & Company, 1916)

HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN (1805–1875): A BICENTENNIAL SELECTION April 4 through May 31, Main Floor Lobby

This exhibit celebrates the bicentenary of the Danish children's author and folklorist Hans Christian Andersen. Highlights of the exhibit include early editions of Andersen's stories as well as later editions from some of the 20th century's best-known children's book illustrators. The items displayed are drawn from the Historical Children's Literature Collection and the Augusta Baker Collection.

TENNIS

Opening May 10, Mezzanine Exhibit Gallery

Made up of items from the William D. Haggard III Collection of Tennis Books, this exhibit features the first book about tennis by Antonio Scaino, *Tratto del Giuoco della Palla* (1555), and other early tennis books.

RECENT GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

Opening May 10, Graniteville Room

An exhibit prepared for the Annual General Meeting of the Thomas Cooper Society

JOHN MASEFIELD

The first exhibition from the G. Ross Roy Collection of John Masefield, which was donated by Professor Roy in 1999, was on display at TCL from January through March.

John Masefield (1878–1967), now best known for his sea poems "Salt-Water Ballads" and his narrative poem "The Everlasting Mercy," was a dominant figure in early-20th-century British poetry and was poet laureate from 1930 until his death.

The exhibition featured items about Masefield's boyhood as a merchant navy cadet and as an apprentice on a sailing clipper, through his late teens in America, working in a Yonkers carpet factory, his friendship with Yeats and others in London in the late 1890s, his early success as a professional writer, the revolutionary impact of his poetry just before World War I, his wartime reporting and lecture tours in America, and the long decades of productivity and public recognition that followed.

Highlights of the exhibition included a copy in Masefield's own hand of his best-known poem, "Sea Fever" ("I must go down to the seas again"), and a number of small watercolor sketches of sailing ships or other scenes painted in inscribed copies of his books.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

A selection of materials about Ralph Waldo Emerson from the Joel Myerson Collection was on display in the Graniteville Room in February.

The exhibit, mounted for visitors to the Comparative Literature Conference and for a meeting of USC's Phi Beta Kappa chapter, featured manuscripts and first editions from all phases of Emerson's life, including proofs for Emerson's 1837 Phi Beta Kappa (PBK) address ("The American Scholar"), a letter from Emerson to the PBK secretary who was arranging their lecture program, and a series of original satiric pen-and-ink sketches by C.P. Cranch showing contemporary response to this landmark in American cultural history.

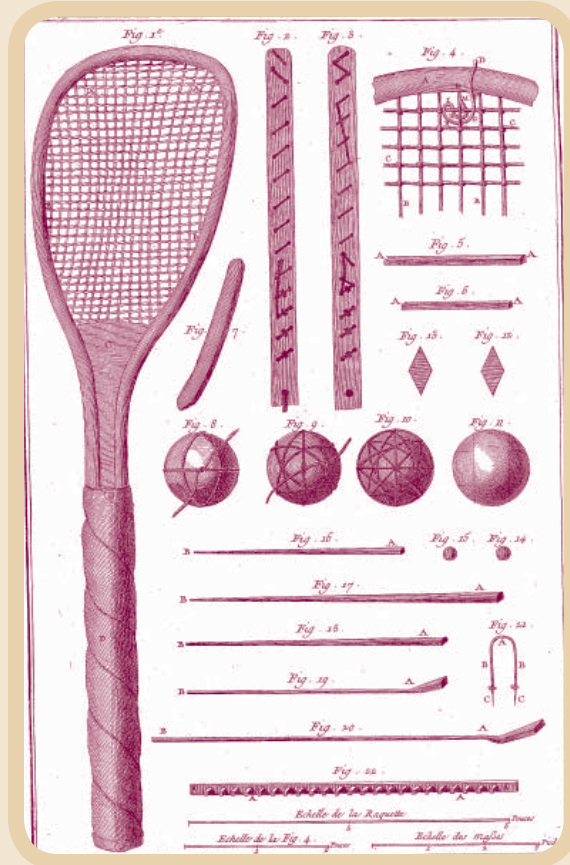
TCL RECEIVES HAGGARD COLLECTION OF TENNIS BOOKS

The recently acquired William D. Haggard III Collection of Tennis Books brings Thomas Cooper Library its first major collection of rare books about sports history. The donor of the collection, William Haggard of Aiken, who passed away early last year, was a champion equestrian, tennis player, and all-around sportsman as well as a renowned collector of sporting books. Some of his tennis books were displayed at Thomas Cooper Library in 1998 in an exhibit curated by Roger Mortimer.

Haggard first came in contact with the library through another avid court tennis player, Prof. Harry Shealy of USC Aiken. Aiken has one of the only clubs in the South for the original version of tennis (court, “real” or “royal” tennis), at which both Haggard and Shealy often competed successfully.

The Haggard collection was purchased for the library with support from Haggard’s friends and a matching grant from the Lucy Hampton Bostick Trust. It includes the first book about tennis, *Tratto del Giuoco della Palla*, by Antonio Scaino, published in 1555, and more than 100 other volumes charting the development and history of court tennis. Additional gifts from Janet Haggard have extended the range of the collection into books about lawn tennis.

Patrick Scott, director of special collections, said, “The evolution of tennis from Renaissance palaces, to Victorian lawns, to modern competition is an exemplary case study in how sports reflect wider social change. The Haggard Collection will be of value for undergraduate classes and will have research potential as well.”



Equipment for use in court tennis and billiards from Denis Diderot’s *Encyclopédie* (Paris: 1751–65)



IN MEMORIAM

The University and the University Libraries lost a valued colleague when Alexander MacGregor (Sandy) Gilchrist, 74, passed away on Jan. 8, after a long illness. He had served the libraries since 1981, first as a reference librarian and later as head of reference and head of collection development.

Sandy received his early education in the public schools in Charleston, after which he earned an undergraduate degree in classical studies at USC and a Master of Library Science at the University of Kentucky.

Ever mindful of the need to preserve historical papers for future generations, Alexander Gilchrist donated a large archive of family papers, the Ball-Gilchrist Collection, to the South Caroliniana Library in 2003.



Members of the Ex Libris Society Executive Committee are shown here at their organizational meeting on November 8. Seated are Bob Ackerman, Carol Winberry, Donna Sorensen, Lucille Mould, and Claude Walker. Standing are Carol Benfield, John Winberry, Patrick Scott, Louisa Campbell, Sam Erwin, John Herr, Wilmot Irvin, John McLeod, Steve Griffith, Warren Irvin, Paul Willis, Scott Derrick, Fred Miller, and Elliott Holman. Claude Walker, who was elected president, led the group in a discussion about the purpose of the committee, which is to support the entire library system.

THE THOMAS COOPER SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2005

The Thomas Cooper Society Newsletter is published twice a year by the society. Correspondence may be sent to the editor at Thomas Cooper Library, Room 417, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208, or e-mailed to nancyhw@gwm.sc.edu.

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