

Fall 2010

## *Caroliniana Columns* - Fall 2010

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## REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY ROBERT K. ACKERMAN

Greetings to all. The South Caroliniana Society's Executive Council met recently to review our current status. I am pleased to report to the membership that the society is prospering.

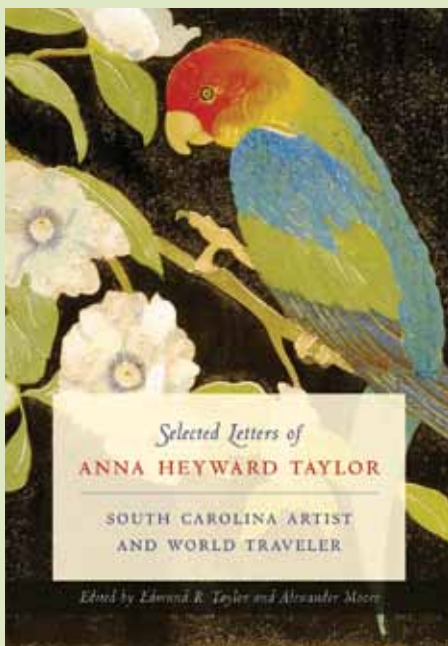
Society membership now stands at 1,421. The value of the society's funds is again more than \$2 million, precisely \$2,011,152 as of Sept. 30 of this year. On Jan. 1, 2007, the value was \$2,194,679. Then came the recession and some major expenditures, most important of which was the purchase of a large collection of papers of Robert Barnwell Rhett in 2008. We expended \$142,353 in 2008. The society is now assisting in the purchase of important files of the *Charleston Mercury*. All of this means that the society is serving the library well and maintaining its financial stability.

The speaker for the annual meeting next April will be Harold Holzer, vice president of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and author of a number of books on Abraham Lincoln. Naturally, his topic will be Lincoln.

My good wishes for all in the holiday season and the new year.

## Anna Heyward Taylor

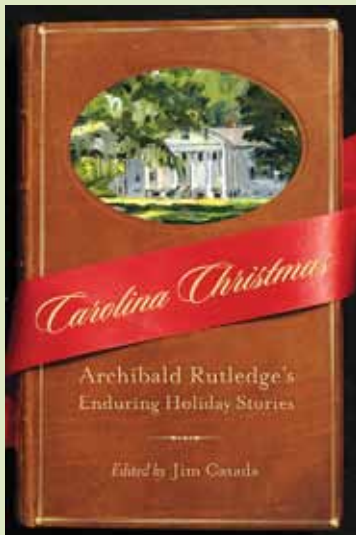
ARTWORKS AND CORRESPONDENCE FEATURED



Columbia native and Charleston Renaissance artist Anna Heyward Taylor has been the subject this fall of a book featuring her letters and two exhibits displaying her artworks.

Anna Heyward Taylor (1879–1956) traveled extensively during her lifetime, studying art in Europe and exploring the art and cultures of British Guiana (Guyana), Mexico, the Virgin Islands, and Japan. She moved to Charleston in 1929, where she became a significant contributor to the Charleston Renaissance through her watercolors and wood block prints.

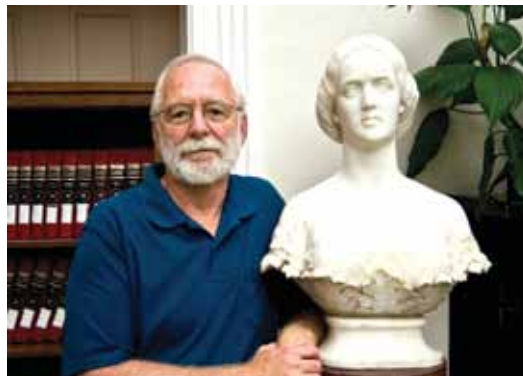
*Continued on page 11*



## BOOK SIGNING FEATURES SOUTH CAROLINA AUTHORS

The South Caroliniana Library's annual holiday book signing was held in the Reading Room on Dec. 9, 2010.

Authors present and their new books included Gene Atkinson, *Interesting & Influential People of Orangeburg*; Jim Casada, *Carolina Christmas: Archibald Rutledge's Enduring Holiday Stories*; Eric Emerson, *Faith, Valor, and Devotion: The Civil War Letters of William Porcher DuBose*; Patricia Moore-Pastides, *Greek Revival: Cooking for Life*; Allen Stokes and Margaret Belser Hollis, *Twilight on the South Carolina Rice Fields: Letters of the Heyward Family, 1862–1871*; and Edmund R. Taylor and Alex Moore, *Selected Letters of Anna Heyward Taylor*.



Harold Newfield has made many new friends at the South Caroliniana Library, including the "Queen of the Confederacy," Lucy Pickens.

## A NEW FACE

BY ROBIN COPP

Harold L. Newfield joined the staff of the South Caroliniana Library on Sept. 7, 2010, as a library technical assistant in the Published Materials Division. Just prior to joining the library's staff, Harold was engrossed in completing the cataloging of McKissick Museum's library holdings as a volunteer. He is also in training to be a volunteer at the Columbia Camille Griffin Correctional Institution for Women library.

A native of California, Harold has traveled far and wide. Beginning as a public health instructor at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, he became a corporate consultant in the field of technical writing, editing, instructional writing, and training design. Banking and financial services, sales training, and computer soft- and hardware were among the subject areas he covered for IBM Corporation, Coca-Cola, and Bank of America, among many other corporations. Moving from that field, Harold served as the assistant cataloger at the General Theological Seminary's St. Mark's Library in New York City. Leaving the Big Apple, he lived in Charlotte, N.C., and served Everett Library, Queens University of Charlotte, as a cataloger.

In Harold's free time, this multitalented gentleman enjoys painting, ceramics, and, of course, reading. He is married to the Reverend Sally Johnston, rector of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church in Columbia. They are the proud parents of three: a son who lives in Croatia, a married daughter in New York City, and a son studying at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada.

Harold is a most welcome addition who is conversant in so many areas. It is a joy to have him with us at the South Caroliniana Library.

## UNIVERSITY SOUTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY

74TH ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2011

SPEAKER: HAROLD HOLZER

Harold Holzer is senior vice president for external affairs at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City and is the author of *Lincoln President-Elect: Abraham Lincoln and the Great Secession Winter 1860–1861*.



# REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR

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*When one thinks of the South Caroliniana Library, the first thought that most often comes to mind is the richness of the collections, but another strength of this venerable institution is institutional memory. The current staff of 13 has a combined record of 228 years of service, and although in today's world, much of that institutional memory is committed to electronic resources, there is still a place for the institutional memory tucked away in the minds of staff members. Over the years, I have seen many researchers who have been provided critical information by conversing with staff members working in manuscripts, published materials, visual images, and University archives. It also is important for the staff to share with each other their own institutional memories. This is especially the case when someone retires. Fortunately, the Caroliniana has retained institutional memory by retirees who return to work.*

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BY ALLEN STOKES

## SUMMER SCHOLARS

The South Caroliniana Library hosted two researchers this summer.

Megan Farrish, a 2009 graduate of Coastal Carolina University, is a fellow with the Waccamaw Center for Cultural and Historical Studies. Her time at the Caroliniana, which was funded by the Lewis P. Jones Research Fellowship in South Carolina History, was spent transcribing and annotating the journal Peter Horry (1744–1815) maintained from 1812 to 1815. Farrish is coeditor of the project with Coastal Carolina professor of history Roy Talbert. USC Press plans to publish Horry's journal in 2011.

Jason Kirby, a University of Georgia Ph.D. student, continued his research in the papers of General William C. Westmoreland with support from the Ellison Durant Smith Research Award. Kirby's

dissertation is a biographical study covering Westmoreland's military career and its connection to the United States home front, his influence on the divisions among Americans over the "proper" historical memory of the Vietnam War, his West Point and World War II experiences, and his impact on race relations as Vietnam commander and as Army chief of staff.

## NEW ACQUISITIONS

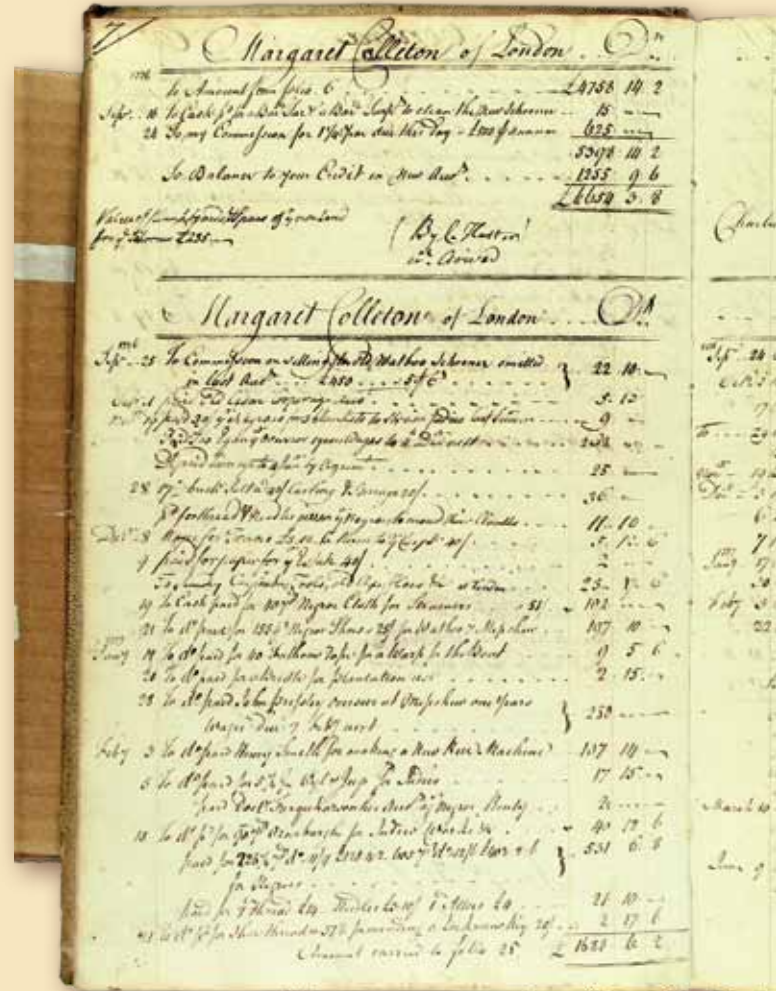
Earnings from endowed accounts and the Caroliniana Society enabled us to make several important acquisitions over the summer. Without the support provided by friends of the library, we could not have considered making these purchases.



Southern Ichthyology: A Description of the Fishes Inhabiting the Waters of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, No. III, Plate VI, Ephippus faber and Hemulon chrysopteron



Southern Ichthyology: A Description of the Fishes Inhabiting the Waters of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, No. II, Plate III, Leiostomus obliquus and Lobotes surinamensis



Account page for Margaret Colleton from the ledger kept by Robert Raper

### SOUTHERN ICHTHYOLOGY

Parts II and III of John Edward Holbrook’s *Southern Ichthyology: A Description of the Fishes Inhabiting the Waters of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida* were published in 1847 and 1848. Parts II and III were apparently the only ones published, although the table of contents pages suggest there would be 15 parts. The copy acquired by the Caroliniana is the second copy known to have a full complement of eight colored engravings. The copy lacks pages 1–4, but these pages are present in the library’s other copy, which is incomplete and has only one of the eight engravings. Funds from the Orin Crow South Caroliniana Library Endowment, the Robert and May Ackerman Library Endowment, and the University South Caroliniana Society were applied toward this acquisition.

### ROBERT RAPER LEDGER

We don’t often see offerings of 18th-century manuscripts these days. We were very fortunate to acquire a ledger, 1764, 1768, and 1773–1781, kept by Robert Raper (1710–1779), a plantation agent and merchant. Among the owners for whom Raper acted as agent were Margaret Colleton and her cousin Thomas Boone. Both Colleton and Boone were absentee owners who resided in London. Their respective plantations were Watboo and Mepshoo. In addition to accounts with boat builders and carpenters, the ledger records payments for sawmills, bricks, rum for overseers, lottery tickets, indigo, deer skins, cloth, timber, and wages for overseers. Earnings from the John C Hungerpiller Library Research Fund and the Allen Stokes Manuscript Development Fund were used for the acquisition of the Robert Raper ledger.



Front page of the issue of the Charleston Mercury for April 13, 1861, including the article announcing the firing on Fort Sumter by Confederate troops



Emerson family hunting party at Prospect Hill, 1907



Robert Barnwell Rhett Sr.



Robert Barnwell Rhett Jr.

## EMERSON FAMILY PHOTOS

The Louise Irwin Woods Fund was used to acquire a photograph album of the Isaac E. Emerson family. A native of Chatham County, N.C., Emerson made his fortune as the inventor of Bromo Seltzer. The album shows the Emerson family aboard their yacht *Margaret* while attending the Yale-Harvard rowing races in 1906; at family homes in Dobbs Ferry and Irvington, N.Y.; and on vacation at Loon Lake in the Adirondacks in 1905 and 1906. Images taken while the family was visiting their vast plantation holdings in Georgetown County in 1907 include hunting scenes, the plantation house at Prospect Hill under renovation, and African Americans working in the garden.

## CHARLESTON MERCURY

During the Civil War, perhaps the most strident critic of Jefferson Davis and the administration of the Confederate government was the *Charleston Mercury*, which was edited by Robert Barnwell Rhett Sr. and Robert Barnwell Rhett Jr. The University South Caroliniana Society provided funding for the acquisition of seven volumes of the paper for the years 1861 and 1863–1868. These volumes are unusual in that they are from the Rhett's office files. The *Mercury* suffered financially after the war, was not published between February 1865 and November 1866, and ceased publication in November 1868.



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# BLONDELLE MALONE

## *“THE GARDEN ARTIST OF AMERICA”*

*American Impressionist painter Blondelle Malone (1879–1951) spent her earliest and last days in Columbia, but in the intervening years she traveled the world over, seeking inspiration and perfecting her art. In 1948, she presented her papers (consisting of letters, diaries, pamphlets, photographs, and a few original artworks) to the University of South Carolina and the remainder of her paintings to the Columbia Museum of Art. The papers and some small artworks are now housed in the South Caroliniana Library, and the University’s paintings, which have been restored, are located in McKissick Museum.*

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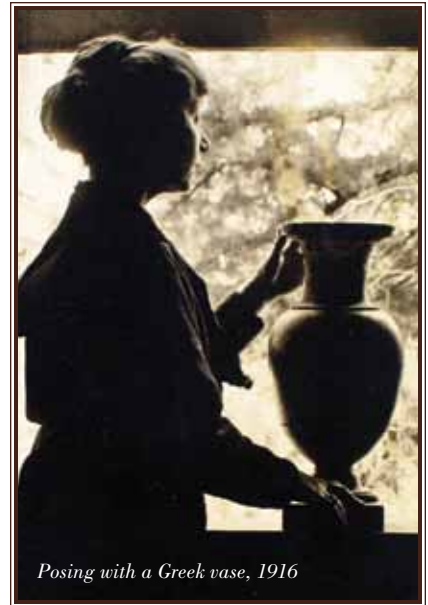
BY NANCY H. WASHINGTON



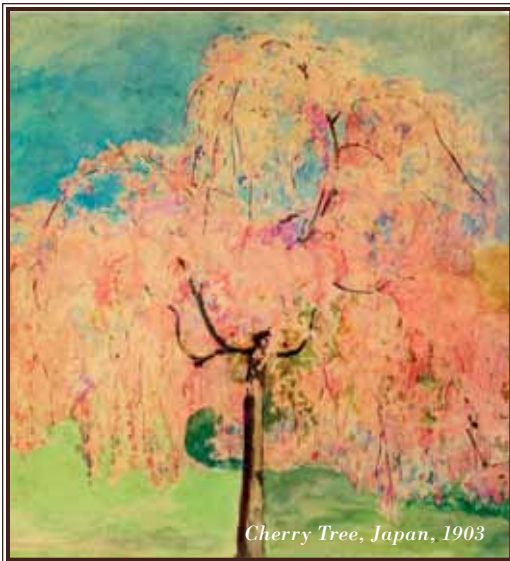
*Blondelle Malone in 1882, just after her parents moved to Columbia*



*Blarney Castle, Ireland, 1915*



*Posing with a Greek vase, 1916*



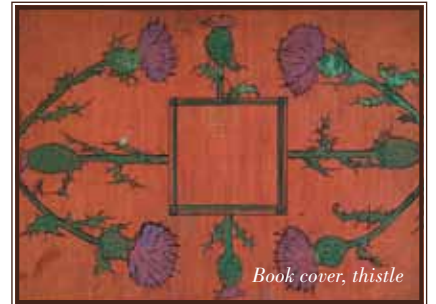
*Cherry Tree, Japan, 1903*



*In Japan, 1903*



*Mt. Fujiyama, Japan, ca. 1908*



*Book cover, thistle*

## Early Life

Blondelle Octavia Edwards Malone was born in Savannah, Ga. Her family soon moved to Columbia, where her father established Malone's Music Company, a Columbia institution for many years. Blondelle left home to attend Converse College when she was 15 years old. Her letters from college reveal an independent-minded young lady who immersed herself in learning French, music, and art, the latter becoming her lifelong obsession.

In 1897, Blondelle persuaded her father that she needed to further her art education in New York City. From that time until his death in 1930, Mr. Malone faithfully sent his daughter a monthly stipend to cover her expenses even though she and he were often in disagreement about the travels she undertook and her reluctance to return to Columbia for any length of time. In New York, she studied with John H. Twachtman,

William Merritt Chase, and Robert Blum of the New York School of Art, all of whom encouraged her efforts. In her letters home, Blondelle recounts her experiences at school and also her many social activities with friends in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia. The budding artist returned to Columbia and set up a studio for a short time, but she soon convinced her parents that she needed to return to New York to study and pursue her career as an artist. She met with some professional success when, in 1900, eight of her book cover designs were accepted for display in an exhibit mounted by the Architectural League of New York. Soon after the show, she sold two of these designs to Charles Scribner's Sons Publishers and wrote to her parents that she felt she was on her way to becoming a professional artist.





Inscribed "Tea time in the drawing room at home. I gave the furniture to Converse College," this photo shows Blondelle with one of her suitors "from abroad." Blanchard Photo, 1909

## "The Garden Artist of America"



Blondelle Malone is shown in her New York City studio, ca. 1925. She is retouching a painting she did at Bagatelle Gardens in Paris in 1913. Keystone View Co. Inc.

After another short stay in Columbia, Blondelle left for further travels to California, Japan, France, Italy, Holland, England, and Ireland, returning to Columbia only once between 1903 and 1915. During these years she lived an exciting life of study, painting, exhibitions, favorable critical reviews, and encounters with artists, dignitaries, royalty, and aristocrats. Her letters recount meetings with Auguste Rodin and Claude Monet and friendships

with Mary Cassatt and the widow of Camille Pissarro. In a letter written in December 1904, she tells of a visit with Claude Monet, who was her stylistic idol. Monet encouraged her to continue to paint "as I see and not as others paint." Blondelle seems to have followed this advice, as her works, most of which feature gardens and landscapes, reflect a romantic impressionistic style. She painted gardens in all the countries she visited and was called "the garden artist of America" by Mary Taft of the *New York Times*. Blondelle gloried in this title and sought to publicize herself by using it whenever she could. In 1911, her works were included in the Salon d'Automne exhibition, and in 1913 she exhibited at the Société Nationale and in a solo show at the Lyceum Club in Paris. In spite of her

critical successes, Blondelle's paintings did not sell well, and in 1915, when she received word of her mother's death, she returned to Columbia.

In 1920, Blondelle again established a studio in New York City and presented solo shows in Elmira, Binghamton, and Utica. Her paintings were also featured in a traveling exhibit, which was shown in Washington, D.C., and Atlanta. One of the gardens she painted during this time was that of Frances Hodgson Burnett, author of *The Secret Garden*. In 1926, Blondelle relocated to Alexandria, Va. There, she continued to paint, one of her favorite subjects being the cherry trees in Washington, D.C. She became a member of the Arts Club of Washington and associated with many foreign dignitaries, including representatives from Spain, France, England, the Netherlands, Egypt, and Mexico. She also became interested in historic preservation and was instrumental in raising funds for the building of the National Cathedral in Washington. Her career was curtailed by health problems in the 1940s, and she returned at last to Columbia, where she spent her final days in a nursing home.

Blondelle Malone's donation to the University included funds for preserving her paintings and for a biography of her life based on her letters and diaries. Louise Jones DuBose was selected to write the biography, which was titled *Enigma: The Career of Blondelle Malone in Art and Society, 1879–1951, as Told in Her Letters and Diaries* (University of South Carolina Press, 1963).

—Nancy H. Washington is director of publications for the University Libraries.



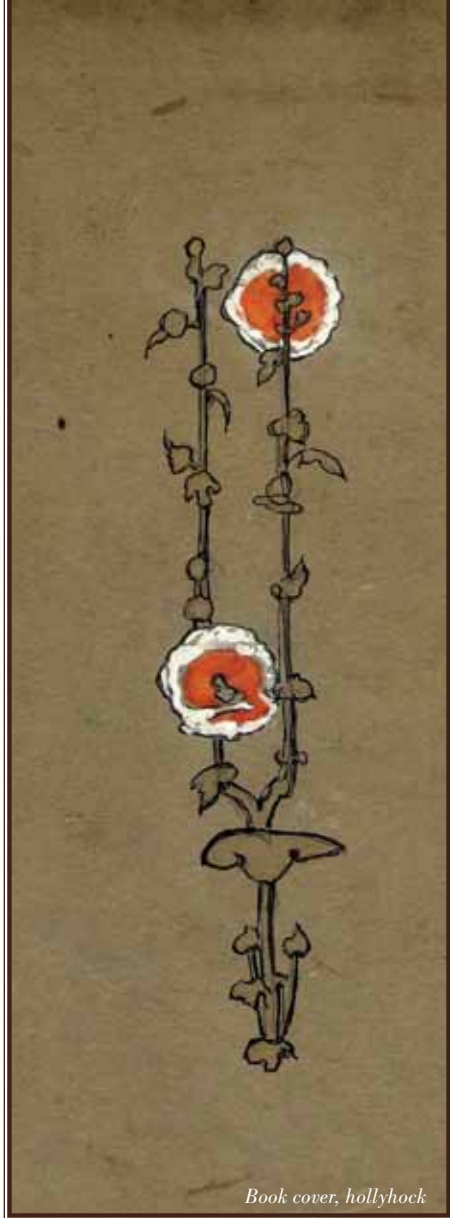
Floral bouquet, Japan, 1903



Book cover, rose



Nasturtium, Japan, 1903



Book cover, hollyhock



Bearded Iris, date unknown



Book cover, lily



Book cover, lily, gold



Book cover, four irises



Dutch Iris, Japan, 1908

# Simms Initiatives

## TO ENHANCE SCHOLARSHIP about a Major South Carolina Author

*A major grant from the Watson-Brown Foundation has enabled the South Caroliniana Library to begin work on a number of initiatives that focus on the noted 19th-century American literary figure William Gilmore Simms.*

*Summing up the importance of the project, its director, David Moltke-Hansen, offered this assessment of Simms: “Between 1825 and 1870, no writer of the American South did more to shape the region’s self-awareness, historical consciousness, nationalist ambitions, and literary character and presence than did South Carolinian William Gilmore Simms.”*

*A scholarly conference, “William Gilmore Simms and the Crucible of Southern Culture,” was held on campus September 23–25.*

*Conference papers focused on Simms’ postwar writing.*



### A Simms Bibliography

Another major component of the Simms initiatives is the compilation of a comprehensive bibliography of the writer’s works.

A critical source for researching Simms’ life and the broad scope of his writings is the collection of 75 boxes of papers of his granddaughter, Mary Chevillette Simms Oliphant, and great-granddaughter, Mary Simms Furman. Mrs. Oliphant spent most of her adult life inquiring, researching, corresponding, and writing about Simms. From 1952 to 1982 the University of South Carolina Press published the six-volume *Letters of William Gilmore Simms*, collected and edited by Mrs. Oliphant, Alfred Taylor Odell, and T.C. Duncan Eaves. Mrs. Oliphant also revised many editions of Simms’ *History of South Carolina*. In the early days of instructional television in the public schools, Mrs. Oliphant was involved with the South Carolina Educational Television course on the state’s history, which was taught by Ruth Thomas using Mrs. Oliphant’s text *The History of South Carolina*. In addition to teacher’s manuals and other supportive

materials for use with the history, Mrs. Oliphant and Mrs. Furman authored two editions each of *Gateway to South Carolina and South Carolina from the Mountains to the Sea*.

The Oliphant-Furman collection includes correspondence with scholars and collectors of Simms, research files on Simms, materials about the dedication of Simms’ home at Woodlands as a National Historic Landmark, genealogical information on Simms and related families, the African American cemetery at Woodlands, and descendants of slaves at Woodlands. There are boxes of Mrs. Oliphant’s research files on Simms’ biography and publications, as well as her work on various editions of *The History of South Carolina*.

The Oliphant-Furman papers are currently being processed and organized, and when this work is completed, the collection compiled over many years by Mrs. Oliphant and contributed to and preserved by Mrs. Furman will be a critical resource and an appropriate record of their contributions to preserving Simms’ legacy.



*Simms’ writing desk, pen box, and inkwell look right at home on a desk in the reading room overlooking the University’s historic Horseshoe.*



*Items in the library’s permanent Simms exhibit*

SELECTED LETTERS OF ANNA HEYWARD TAYLOR,  
SOUTH CAROLINA ARTIST AND WORLD TRAVELER

Edmund R. Taylor and Alexander Moore have edited selected correspondence of Anna Heyward Taylor in a USC Press book titled *Selected Letters of Anna Heyward Taylor, South Carolina Artist and World Traveler*. The artist's letters, which were sent to family members and artist colleagues, were owned and cared for by her nephew, Edmund R. Taylor, for many years before he decided to donate them to the South Caroliniana Library.

According to the USC Press promotional material, "These letters and articles frame her intriguing life against the changing events of 20th-century American art history and global events to illustrate how this acclaimed South Carolina original came to view and be viewed by the world. The accompanying illustrations and photographs add a visual element to the remarkable story of this versatile artist. The introduction and extensive annotations by Southern historian Alexander Moore establish a broader place for Taylor in American art history and the intellectual life of the 20th century."



"TAYLOR MADE: THE ART OF ANNA HEYWARD TAYLOR"

An exhibit of Taylor's artwork titled "Taylor Made: The Art of Anna Heyward Taylor" will be on display at the Columbia Museum of Art through Jan. 2, 2011. Karen Brosius, executive director of the Columbia Museum of Art, commented on the exhibit and the publication of Taylor's letters, saying, "Anna Heyward Taylor has a special place at the Columbia Museum of Art, where our collection is home to more than 30 of her works, including watercolors, prints, and drawings. With close ties to the artist's family for more than six decades, the museum celebrates the publication of this monumental volume of letters highlighting the spirit and talents of this remarkable woman. Taylor certainly was of independent mind, and her worldly travels and South Carolina roots infused her celebrated work with deeply felt convictions, an embrace of color, and a love of nature. The correspondence and illustrations collected here, coupled with the editors' introduction and annotations, bring Taylor's work and world vibrantly to life for her aficionados and those being introduced to her here for the first time."

"ANNA HEYWARD TAYLOR BATIKS:  
TROPICAL FLORA FROM BRITISH GUIANA"

McKissick Museum's exhibit "Anna Heyward Taylor Batiks: Tropical Flora from British Guiana" will be on display in the museum's third floor lobby through Jan. 15, 2011. The exhibit features batiks created by Taylor as she explored and was inspired by the culture and natural history of British Guiana, now known as Guyana.

Anna Heyward Taylor



# A Love Story ON THREE CONTINENTS

BY RONALD E. BRIDWELL



*The Wilkinsons with students*

“There are three English visitors at the School—an official and his wife from the gold coast, and a young Londoner who is going out to Africa as a missionary,” 20-year-old Elizabeth Macdonald recorded in her journal on Oct. 27, 1921, after a long day at the Penn School on St. Helena Island, South Carolina, where she worked as a secretary. Obviously attracted to the young man, she continued her description: “He is a red-gold youth of wonderful physique and smiling blue eyes ... He’s extremely Scotch looking, and I like the way he looks enormously. Wish he was going to stay longer.”

The handsome visitor was Edward Francis Wilkinson (1893–1967), who had taken a degree at Cambridge University just before the start of World War I. During the war, he served in India, where he worked with the YMCA. After his return to England in 1920, he joined the Church Missionary Society (CMS), an arm of the Anglican Church, and prepared for mission work in Eastern Nigeria. As part of that preparation, he visited a number of American educational institutions, including Penn School, so that he could observe firsthand the methods used in African American schools. After a few days at Penn School, Wilkinson continued his trip, but began to post letters to Elizabeth that showed he had more than just a friendly interest in her. In fact, he postponed his return to England in order to return to St. Helena Island for a week’s visit. After she learned of his intention, she confided in her journal, “Do you suppose he likes me?” In another journal entry, written less than a week after Wilkinson returned, Elizabeth exclaimed, “the unbelievable, the impossible, the beautiful thing has happened—he loves me.” Before Wilkinson left the island two days later, he and Elizabeth had planned their future life together: they would correspond for three months, then she would



sail to England in March 1922, visit with Edward and his family, and then return to South Carolina after Edward departed for Africa in May. The following summer, they would be married, she anticipated. The plan faltered, however, after she reached England, in late March. Accompanied by her mother, Clare Peters Macdonald, Elizabeth spent her time getting acquainted with her future husband's family and trying to persuade a resisting Edward that they should marry before he left for Africa. Even though she quickly convinced Edward of the wisdom of her desire to marry, and the Church Missionary Society (CMS) gave its blessings to the nuptials, Elizabeth could still not accompany her husband to Africa because, at age 21, she did not meet the minimum age requirement, 23, for foreign service. The wedding took place on May 9 and Edward sailed for Africa on May 24 to begin his first tour as a missionary.

For the next 18 months, there was a regular exchange of letters between Elizabeth, who had returned to Frogmore, her home on St. Helena Island, and Edward, who settled into his new life at Awka, a small village located 23 miles from Onitsha, an important town on the Niger River and the site of the first CMS mission, established in 1857,

in the region. Edward's letters survive and copies are present in the Papers of the Macdonald, Wilkinson, Sanders Families, 1892–1989, a collection of family papers and photographs recently donated to the South Caroliniana Library by the Wilkinsons' three daughters. Edward's weekly letters to his wife detail his struggle to play a useful role in the new place where he found himself. He spent the first nine months in Awka learning about the Church Missionary Society's work, studying the language of the local people, and getting to know the Europeans who staffed the schools and hospitals in the vicinity. In March 1923, Edward became acting principal of the Awka Training School when long-time principal George T. Basden began a furlough to England. Edward assumed primary responsibility for setting educational policy, organizing instruction, developing curriculum, and lecturing on several academic subjects. He also prepared and delivered sermons, refereed ball games, ministered to the medical needs of his students and the villagers, wrote periodic reports for the CMS, visited neighboring schools, and performed a multitude of other tasks. Edward's first furlough began in January 1924, and he and Elizabeth spent the time in England together, visiting with Edward's



parents, buying supplies for their return to Nigeria, and getting reacquainted after a separation of almost two years.

They began their journey to Nigeria in August 1924, and Elizabeth chronicled her experiences in a series of letters written to her family in South Carolina, that were intended to circulate from her mother and sister to her brother and then to other interested friends. Clare Macdonald decided to collect her daughter's letters after they had made the rounds within the family. She then recopied and edited them, and attempted to find a publisher for the final version. Headed "Elizabeth's Letters from Africa," the series begins with a letter written aboard the TMS *Aba*, "approaching the Canaries," on Aug. 25, 1924, ends with one written from Awka on March 10, 1925, and comprises 237 pages of text. Mrs. Macdonald removed all personal references from the letters, so the edited text was more of a travel log rather than a first-person account of missionary life in Africa. Even though she attempted to interest magazine editors in the letters, she was unable to find a publisher.

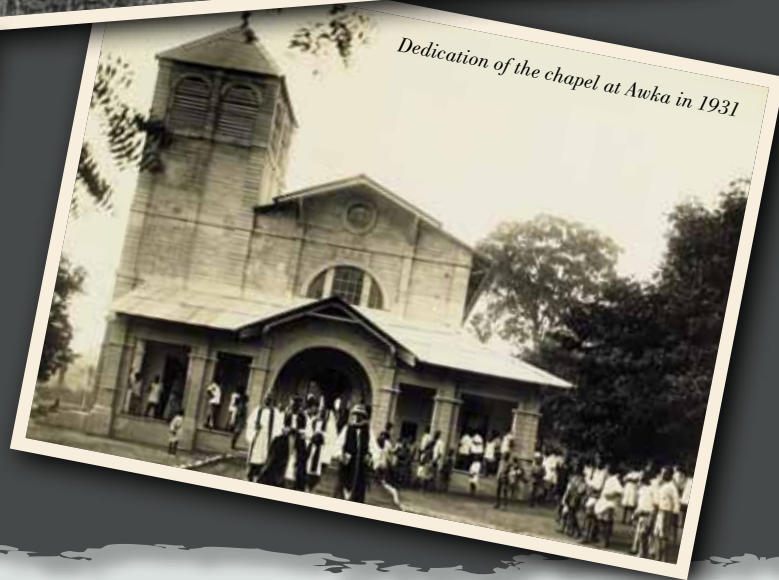
Elizabeth and Edward also recorded places and people encountered during their trip with a camera. The small photographs were later arranged in two photograph albums, and brief notations of place and significance of the scenes were written on sheets of paper, loosely inserted in the albums. Often, the scenes in the photographs are described in Elizabeth's letters. For example, she described her own adventure in the "mammy chair," a device used to lower passengers from the deck of the steamer to surf boats used to ferry people to shore. Her letter dated Sept. 3, 1924, aboard the TMS *Aba*, "just off Accra," recounted her experience: "I begged the Captain to let me go for a ride in the mammy chair, and he being in good humor consented. I got into the chair (which is like a little car suspended by ropes) and was hoisted out over the side and swung back and forth over the water, much to my satisfaction and the interest of all beholders. Most of them tho't me mad to do for fun what others do so reluctantly of necessity." Two images in the album, one a postcard, show the mammy chair in operation.



Graduation day



Imba & Bessie Wilkerson



Dedication of the chapel at Awka in 1931

After she settled in her house at Awka, Elizabeth assumed increasing responsibilities within the school's community. In a letter written in November 1924 to her South Carolina family, Elizabeth remarked, "my sewing class came again today, and I took their picture afterwards, which seemed to please them mightily. I'm going to start now taking pictures of the house, the garden, the boys—everything I can think of to show it all to you." Another duty that she shared with her husband was treating villagers who were ill or injured. In her letter of December 7 to her family she noted, "a whole company of stalwart heathens has arrived bearing one in a kind of hammock between two sticks. His foot was gashed by a matchet[e] yesterday and Francis is now engaged in caring for it."

The Wilkinsons continued their work in Nigeria until 1933, with only infrequent absences. Elizabeth returned to America for the births of their first two children, and Edward's time away from Africa was taken up with a trip to South Carolina to be with Elizabeth after the birth of their first child and with the usual furloughs with his family

in England. In 1933 the couple, with their daughters, returned to England, where Edward served as a parish minister and Elizabeth devoted some of her spare time to writing, a passion she had pursued since childhood. Elizabeth produced a booklet, *Easy Lessons on the Care of Babies*, published about 1935 as part of the series titled "Little Books for Africa," that was the product of her firsthand experience with African mothers. "The lessons," she wrote, "are dedicated to my friends among the Ibo women of Southern Nigeria, who received me graciously and from whom I learned much, and to all African mothers and babies."

*Editor's note:*

*This article is excerpted from a longer description of the Papers of the Macdonald, Wilkinson, and Sanders Families by Dr. Ronald E. Bridwell, which will appear in the University South Caroliniana Society's Annual Report in spring 2011. Dr. Bridwell arranged and described this collection for the South Caroliniana Library in 2009–2010.*





# Fish in the Fountain

## CAROLINA DAY IN CHARLESTON



Carrying the University South Caroliniana Society's banner through the streets of Charleston to celebrate Carolina Day last June are library staff members and supporters (left to right), Bill Schmidt, Carol Benfield (in black blouse), Steve Griffith, and Allen Stokes.

Carolina Day is held each year to celebrate the colony's victory over the British at Ft. Moultrie in 1776.

The society's banner features an image of the South Caroliniana Library.

A hearty school of gold fish has recently appeared in South Caroliniana Library's backyard fountain, inspiring Allen Stokes to try to land a few.

## MEMORIALS

### In Memory of

Dr. George Rogers

Mrs. Louise B. Alexander

### Contribution from

Mrs. Craig Carson

Dr. Allen H. Stokes

Mrs. Catherine L. O'Shea

Dr. and Mrs. E.S. McLaughlin

Mrs. Dorothy Mims

Mrs. Jane C. Davis

### In Honor of

Mrs. Jane C. Davis

Dr. Allen H. Stokes

Dr. and Mrs. Joe Lesesne

### Contribution from

Mr. Ben F. Hornsby Jr.

Dr. William Cain Jr.

Mr. Millen Ellis



Caroliniana  
**COLUMNS**

### University South Caroliniana Society CAROLINIANA COLUMNS

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