

Fall 2007

Thomas Cooper Society Newsletter - Fall 2007

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The Thomas Cooper Society Newsletter

FALL 2007

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, COLUMBIA, SC

WILLIS RETIRES AS DEAN OF LIBRARIES; MCNALLY BECOMES INTERIM DEAN

After five years of dedicated service to the University of South Carolina, Paul A. Willis retired as dean of the University Libraries on June 30. Thomas F. McNally was named interim dean.

During his tenure as dean, Willis provided exceptional leadership to staff members in all areas, enhancing development efforts and planning for a new special collections library for the Columbia campus. His work at the University culminated a career of 41 years of service, primarily at the University of Kentucky.

Upon Dean Willis' retirement, the Association of South-eastern Research Libraries passed a resolution which "recognizes, applauds, and celebrates the career of Paul Willis, thanks him for his leadership and counsel, and wishes him well as he takes on new challenges in his retirement."

Thomas F. McNally came to the Thomas Cooper Library in 1991 as University librarian for public services.

In 2003, he was named director of Thomas Cooper Library. During his time at TCL, McNally has taken a particular interest in enhancing the library's public services for both students and faculty. In addition, he has taught University 101 for a number of semesters and has strongly supported the libraries' role in helping all University 101 students improve their research skills.

McNally intends to build on the foundation laid by Paul Willis and his predecessor George Terry as the libraries continue to offer patrons the latest in electronic research materials, enhanced reference and interlibrary loan services, and improved physical facilities.



McNally, left, and Willis

Willis Retires, continued on page 2

THE THOMAS COOPER SOCIETY EVENTS, 2006–2007

By Robert B. Patterson, President, 2006–2007

The Thomas Cooper Society's 2006–2007 year has been a most satisfying one. Memberships have risen above 600 and our endowment now has exceeded \$124,000.

During the year the society sponsored some six programs and receptions. Certainly the most memorable combination of the two was the one on Sept. 21 marking the acquisition of the magnificent Robert J. Wickenheiser Collection of John Milton through the leading financial support from the William L. Richter Family Foundation. The program included a talk by the distinguished Milton scholar John T. Shawcross, Professor of English Emeritus of the University of Kentucky, and conferral by the society

of Honorary Life Memberships upon Dr. Wickenheiser and Mr. Richter.

Also notable were two other receptions and programs: on Nov. 9 opening the exhibition on George V. Higgins, author of *The Friends of Eddie Coyle*, with remarks by Professor Matthew J. Bruccoli and Mrs. Loretta Cubberly Higgins; and on Jan. 19 for the James Dickey exhibition, the joint discussion by Professor Bruccoli and Shaye Areheart, Dickey's editor at Random House.

Finally there was the-not-to-be-forgotten after-dinner "dessert" served at the society's Annual Banquet on April 24 by Kaye Gibbons, the internationally acclaimed author

Events, continued on page 3

WINNERS OF THE THOMAS COOPER LIBRARY STUDENT BOOK COLLECTING CONTEST ANNOUNCED

The 2007 winners of the Thomas Cooper Library Student Book Collecting Contest were Shelley Johnson and Dawson Jones, graduate students in the University's Department of English. An Honorable Mention award was given to fourth-year English student Edward Schmidt. Both collections were exhibited at Thomas Cooper Library in the spring.



Portrait of Mary Robinson

Johnson's and Jones' winning collection was titled "Mary Robinson in Context: Periodical Publications, Translations, and Ephemera." It is notable both for its breadth as a working scholarly collection and for its scarce and noteworthy 18th-century imprints, including foreign editions of Robinson's works and newspapers containing the first appearances of many of her poems. The winning entry was submitted to the National Student Book Collecting Contest, sponsored by *Fine Books & Collections* magazine and The Grolier Club, where it won an Honorable Mention.

Schmidt's collection was titled "The City Writers: A Material History of Cultural Responses to William Blake and the Cockney School."

First established in 1993, the annual student book-collecting award encourages beginning book collectors and highlights the collections of University of South Carolina students. For information on next year's contest, please contact Jeffrey Makala in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections (7-0296 or makalaj@gwm.sc.edu).

Willis Retires, continued from page 1

McNally says, "I foster a collegial work environment, where creativity can flourish and personnel have the flexibility to experiment with new technology and ideas. I welcome and encourage new relationships among the library, other parts of the University, and the community."

McNally holds a B.S. Ed. degree from Kent State University and an MLS degree from the University of Washington. Prior to coming to Carolina, he worked in libraries at Ohio State University, the University of Michigan, and Loyola University of Chicago, primarily in the areas of reference, instruction, and management.

PLANS ALTERED FOR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY

Plans to create new spaces for the University Libraries' special collections have been changed; instead of two separate wings added to the Thomas Cooper Library to house the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections and South Carolina Political Collections, a single building will be constructed behind the library which will house both collections.

The new building will comprise approximately 50,000-square-feet, which will meet space needs through the sharing of some components of the addition. The use of shared spaces will result in economies both in construction and in future costs for utilities, staffing, and maintenance. It is anticipated that construction will begin in 2008.

The entrance to the addition will be from the TCL main level. The shared reading room will be located opposite the entrance to the addition, with separate exhibit and meeting space for each collection on the same level. A large shared meeting room behind the reading room will face Blossom Street.

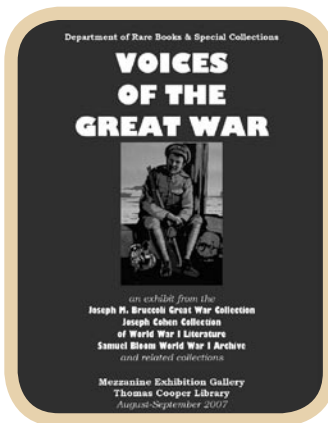
Collection processing and staff space will be on the next level down. This space will be large enough to allow for future growth.

The ground-floor level will house the collections on compact shelving. In order to maximize the shelving capacity of this area, which will have archival quality temperature and humidity control, the ceiling will accommodate nine shelves per section instead of the usual seven shelves, thus increasing shelving capacity by approximately 25 percent. This level will be open to staff only and will provide expansion capacity up to nearly 50 percent.



Architect's drawing of the new special collections building

WORLD WAR I EXHIBIT AT THOMAS COOPER LIBRARY



An exhibit, "Voices of the Great War," was on display in the TCL Mezzanine Exhibit area from August through September. The exhibit, which commemorated the 90th anniversary of the U.S. declaration of war on Germany and the Central Powers in 1917, focused on literary responses to the war.

The exhibit ranged from "Ancestral Voices" about the literary heritage of the war, through the voices of participants, to selected postwar literary works. Special sections presented women's voices and the writings of Isaac Rosenberg and T.E. Lawrence.

Materials for the exhibit were drawn from the Joseph M. Brucoli Great War Collection, the Joseph Cohen Collection of World War I Literature, the Samuel Bloom World War I Archive, and the Lord Allen of Hurtwood papers.

Versions of previous World War I exhibits and collection information for "Joseph M. Brucoli Great War Collection," "Posters of the Great War," "Songs of the Great War,"

"Introducing the Joseph Cohen Collection," and "Military Aviation from the Gilbert S. Guinn Collection" are available on the Web at www.sc.edu/library/speccoll.

REMARKS AT THE OPENING OF THE WORLD WAR I EXHIBIT "VOICES OF THE GREAT WAR"

By Judith Felix

For some of us the Great War is only a generation or two removed. These are the memories and artifacts of our fathers and grandfathers.

For most of today's students at the University that war is history, and ancient history at that. They may never have the opportunity to tour the graveyards in northern France, to see outside Verdun the row of bayonets where an entire company was buried alive in their trench as they waited to go over the top. They may never, as my Marine Corps son did during the Iraq conflict, search the ruins of a graveyard for a record of his great-uncle killed by Turkish machine guns in what was then Mesopotamia, on Jan. 18, 1918.

For these students and for those to come a collection such as this speaks across the decades and even centuries to preserve the voices of those who fought in the Great War. We are only sorry that they were wrong about one thing: it was indeed the Great War, but it was not, as they believed, the war to end all wars.

Events, continued from page 1

of *Ellen Foster* and other works, who captivated all present with a lighthearted account of her career.

Special thanks are due to board members who are completing their three-year terms: D. Reece Williams III, as Vice president, President, and Past president; Michelle Mangault-Hurley; John Lee; Thomas Bettendorf; and Warren Irvin III. Providing much appreciated assistance have been Vice president Judith Felix, former Past presidents Lucille Mould and Patricia Mason, and also Secretary Prof. Patrick Scott and the chairs of crucial subcommittees, Lynn Barron (Finance), John Lee (Membership), Elizabeth Sudduth (Programs), Nancy Washington (Publications), and Reece Williams (Nominations).

As always, the work of the society has been sustained by Thomas F. McNally, director of Thomas Cooper Library, and other staff members. In this respect the support of Dean of Libraries and *ex officio* board member Paul Willis belongs in a very special category for recognition. It is with the greatest of thanks that we wish Dean Willis all the best in retirement.

IN MEMORIAM

University Libraries faculty and staff noted with sorrow the passing on Sept. 14 of Carolina alumnus, 1938, and University benefactor John E. Swearingen. Swearingen led the Standard Oil Company of Indiana to become the sixth-largest company in the United States. The University's Swearingen Engineering Center is named for him.

In 2004, the University Libraries published Swearingen's memoir, *Think Ahead*, a book which recounted his early education and family ties, days at Carolina, and rise to international renown.

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Noted Burns scholar Professor Robert Hay Carnie, of the University of Calgary, who was the second W. Ormiston Roy Fellow at Thomas Cooper Library in 1991, died Sept. 8. Carnie drew on the Roy Collection for many of the pictures in his book *Burns Illustrated* (2000).

INTRODUCTION OF KAYE GIBBONS, APRIL 24, 2007

By Robert B. Patterson

Kaye Gibbons is not the first to use the Carolinas and its environs for story-telling, but through some nine books, from the smash hit *Ellen Foster* to *The Life All Around Me* by *Ellen Foster*, she has established herself as one of its most accomplished raconteurs—having discovered, in her words, “the voice of ordinary men and women as a pure form of art and force of nature.”

No recounting of Kaye Gibbons’ major achievements is possible in the time allotted to me, even at the speed of a tobacco auctioneer, but I will at least provide you with illustrative samples, some of which may improve on what you already know: *Ellen Foster*, hailed in London as one the 20th century’s 20 greatest novels; the Legion d’Honneur from the French government: *Charms for an Easy Life*, a *New York Times* best seller, and both *Charms* and *Ellen Foster* adapted as films; *Ellen Foster* and *A Virtuous Woman* Oprah Book Club selections; membership in the Fellowship of Southern Writers; prizes from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters; a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to write *A Cure for Dreams*; a Special Citation from the Ernest Hemingway Foundation; and the distinct honor of having her work included on the reading lists of high schools and colleges.

Kaye Gibbons’ readers cannot help but become engaged with her stories, irresistible—even inspirational—tales featuring casts of highly revelatory characters, perhaps typically, strong females of varying ages and types, enhanced by her highly expressive, well-honed, and simple style. When you read *Ellen Foster*’s letter to the president of Harvard University seeking admission, you may not be able to isolate the exact

reasons for your attraction, but you know that you are hooked for the rest of *The Life All Around Me* by *Ellen Foster*.

Through the thoughts of her characters and third-person observations, Gibbons may prick our social consciences: in *Ellen Foster*, *Ellen*’s emerging awareness of the dignity and stability of her friend Starletta’s black family in contrast to her own white one comes to mind. Kaye also can dispense homespun psychology, philosophy, and theology. Speaking of her parents’ twists and turns to death and the hereafter, a very young *Ellen Foster* muses, “They finally gave in to the motion and let the wind take them from here to there.”

Or Gibbons can just make us laugh. In *Charms for an Easy Life*, Margaret’s grandmother concocts a reply to a Dear John letter received by a blind, wounded sailor in the form of a “grand curse”: “Dear Arlene, . . . you will see me everywhere you wander. And wander you will, from dolt to dimwit until you find the one of your dreams. May your children inherit your husband’s scoliosis, clubfeet, recessed testicles, or whatever has kept him out of the fighting.”

Not the least of Kaye Gibbons’ attributes is her skill as a speaker, which we will shortly be able to enjoy. But first, I am happy to announce for the benefit of those who may not already know that the Thomas Cooper Library has acquired, in part through the generous gifts from our speaker, the Kaye Gibbons Archive. This collection includes such items as books, page proofs, manuscripts, various notes, diskettes, correspondence, and reviews—obviously a most significant addition to the library’s holdings of contemporary authors.

For this and for all of the above, the Thomas Cooper Society is delighted and proud to welcome Kaye Gibbons.

SCOTTISH NOVEL EXHIBIT AT THOMAS COOPER LIBRARY



An engraving of Sir Walter Scott with his dog

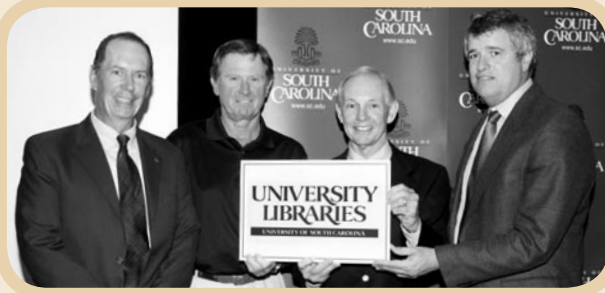
Writers Sir Walter Scott, James Hogg, and John Galt were featured in an exhibit, “The Scottish Novel and *Blackwood’s Magazine*,” presented last summer at Thomas Cooper Library. The exhibit outlined the development of the Scottish novel from the mid-18th century through the early 1830s.

The exhibit included a selection of first editions of Scottish writers together with facsimiles of original manuscripts by Scott and others. Also on display were inscribed copies of novels, facsimiles of some of the original manuscripts, contemporary engraved portraits of

many of the novelists, and issues of highly influential periodical publications such as Henry Mackenzie’s *The Lounger* and James Hogg’s *The Spy*, as well as *Blackwood’s*.

Sections of the exhibit featured the following: the Scottish novel before Scott; selected works by Scott, “the Author of *Waverley*,” and of his contemporary Jane Porter, author of the often-reprinted *The Scottish Chiefs*; the contrasting ideas of Scottish culture in two leading magazines, the *Edinburgh Review* and *Blackwood’s Edinburgh Magazine*; selected works by James Hogg, the “*Ettrick Shepherd*,” author of *The Private Memoirs & Confessions of a Justified Sinner*; and selected works by three other leading Blackwoodian novelists—John Galt, Susan Ferrier, and John Gibson Lockhart—and by Thomas Carlyle.

ATHLETICS ACADEMIC CENTER OPENS AT THOMAS COOPER LIBRARY



A ribbon cutting on Sept. 13 marked the opening of the Athletics Academic Center at Thomas Cooper Library. The center will provide an area for student athletes to concentrate on their studies with assistance from tutors and access to computers, study carrels, and group-study rooms. Shown at the event are (left to right) interim dean of libraries, Thomas F. McNally; head football coach, Steve Spurrier; head men's basketball coach, Dave Odom; and athletics director, Eric Hyman.

ROBINSONS PROVIDE MULTIPLE GIFTS TO THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES



President Andrew Sorensen (left) welcomed Jim Robinson for a campus visit in October.

Marian and Jim Robinson, University alumni (1947 and 1945, respectively) now living in Orangeburg, have maintained close ties with their alma mater over the years and have been especially supportive of the University Libraries and its programs.

The War Years Library Acquisition Endowment Fund, which the Robinsons established in 1995, has enabled the

libraries to purchase more than 350 volumes to support researchers interested in the historical, social, and economic impact of WWII. In addition, Marian Robinson recently gave the South Caroliniana Library a scrapbook related to the couple's days at the University and afterward. Also, the Robinsons have funded a children's books collection in memory of their daughter Karen Alane Robinson, who was a children's librarian in Virginia before her death in 2005. The Robinsons have also made a significant contribution toward the construction of the new special collections addition to Thomas Cooper Library.

FIRST BOOK BY AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMES TO TCL AND TO THE WEB

Thomas Cooper Library's Department of Rare Books and Special Collections has just acquired a first edition of Phillis Wheatley's *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral* (London, 1773), the first book published by an African-American author. The book has been made available in the first-ever freely accessible digital facsimile (www.sc.edu/library/spcoll/wheatley/wheatley.html) by the Digital Activities Department.

The poems of Phillis Wheatley (1753–1784) are read and studied by students and scholars in a variety of disciplines (notably, American literature, African-American studies, and women's studies), and the book's frontispiece portrait of Wheatley is the only surviving work attributed to the African-American slave artist Scipio Moorhead (born ca. 1750).

Professor Vincent Carretta, of the University of Maryland, comments that "Wheatley's place in the developing tradition of early transatlantic literature by people of African descent, and her role as the mother of African-American literature are secure." Prof. David Shields, McClintock Professor of Southern Letters at Carolina and editor of *Early American Literature*, calls the volume "a landmark work."

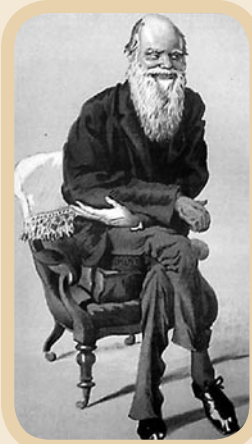
The library's copy, acquired with support from the College of Arts and Sciences and from library endowments, is the first copy recorded in WorldCat for any library in South Carolina. Tom McNally, interim dean of libraries, said: "The library is proud to partner with the College of Arts and Sciences in this very significant acquisition." The acquisition and facsimile are among several initiatives in African-American research being sponsored by the college. The initiatives program, which is under the directorship of Professor Daniel Littlefield, will be housed in new offices in Thomas Cooper Library.

The first edition of Wheatley's *Poems* has never previously been available in digital facsimile without a fee or subscription. The libraries' Digital Projects staff under Kate Boyd has created a fully searchable facsimile, accessible for use by teachers and students in grades 6–12 as well as at the college level.



Phillis Wheatley

CHARLES DARWIN EXHIBIT



This chromolithograph cartoon by James Jacques Joseph Tissot was published in *Vanity Fair* in London in 1871. The title is "Men of the Day, no. 33, 'Natural Selection.'" It was purchased through the Irvin Endowment.

The exhibit "Charles Darwin: An Exhibition Chiefly from the C. Warren Irvin Jr. Collection to Mark the First A.C. Moore Lecture in Evolutionary Biology" was on display at the Thomas Cooper Library from April through June.

Items were showcased from the library's C. Warren Irvin Jr. Collection of Charles Darwin & Darwiniana and celebrated a new series of annual lectures, the A.C. Moore Lectures in Evolutionary Biology and Society. The series is named for Andrew Charles Moore (1866–1928) who was a professor of biology,

the department's first chair, and was twice the interim president of the University.

For information about the C. Warren Irvin Jr. Collection and other library collections in natural history and the history of science, please see: www.sc.edu/library/spcoll/rarebook.html or contact tlrarebooks@gwm.sc.edu.

ENGLISH BIBLE ENDOWMENT

A recent contribution to the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections is the Bobby F. Zager Endowment for the English Bible. The purpose of the endowment is to encourage knowledge and study of the bible in English through the acquisition and preservation of appropriate materials.

Patrick Scott, director of special collections, commented, "Thomas Cooper Library has some very important editions of the Bible in English such as the Geneva Bible, the King James Bible of 1611, the Breeches Bible connected to the American Puritans, and the Philadelphia Bible of 1780 as well as relevant bibles in other languages such as the John Eliot Indian bible and the first Greek Testament printed in America. The Zager Endowment will allow us to build on these existing holdings so that over time a group of important books becomes a meaningful in-depth collection that can recurrently stimulate teaching and student research."

LEAVE A LEGACY

The Zager Endowment was established through a charitable gift annuity. Other methods of supporting the University Libraries include multi-year pledges, matching gifts, gifts of real estate or personal property, bequests, charitable remainder trusts, and retirement plans.

For information about leaving a legacy for the University's future students through the libraries, please contact Carol Benfield at 803-777-1278 or Pam Cowart at 803-777-0692.

THOMAS COOPER LIBRARY RECEIVES RARE 13TH-CENTURY MANUSCRIPT



A page from the University's newly-acquired 13th-century manuscript

A 1269 manuscript created for the Order of Cistercians in Italy as an instrument of private devotion has been acquired for the Thomas Cooper Library via a grant from the B.H. Breslauer Foundation in New York City. The \$46,000 grant was obtained through the efforts of English professor and medievalist Dr. Scott Gwara, who contacted the foundation with the library's approval and support.

The manuscript was purchased at a Sotheby's action held in London in June.

According to Dr. Patrick Scott, head of the library's Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, the library will display the manuscript, together with other medieval treasures from collections around the state, in an exhibit

that will open Jan. 17, 2008. In addition, Gwara and other professors will use the manuscript as a teaching tool in undergraduate classes to help students understand medieval culture and religion.

The 728-page manuscript is a bound preacher's manual which contains sermons, biblical interpretations, extracts from biographies of saints, a calendar of feast days and holidays, and a bestiary of biblical animals. It measures about four and one-half inches by six inches. The text is in Latin.

According to Felix de Marez Oyens, president of the Breslauer Foundation, "Since its inception a few years ago, the foundation has financed significant book purchases by major libraries on the East Coast and in several European countries, but none has been more appropriate or satisfying than the University of South Carolina's Cistercian manuscript. We believe that its acquisition perfectly embodies the late Dr. Breslauer's ideas when he created the foundation."

CATALOGUE OF BOOKS BELONGING TO THE SOUTH-CAROLINA COLLEGE LIBRARY (1807)

The South Caroliniana Library owns a bound copy of the South Carolina College library catalogue, which lists the books available to the members of the first graduating class during their college days more than 200 years ago. The catalogue was printed in 1807 by Daniel & J.J. Faust. The library's copy was given by Dr. R.W. Gibbes on May 25, 1852. Many of the books from this catalogue are still available to students today, a few in the Law Library, some in the South Caroliniana Library, and the majority in Thomas Cooper Library's Department of Rare Books and Special Collections.

BOOKS IN THE CATALOGUE

The 1807 catalogue lists about 1,200 titles covering history, literature, travel, foreign languages, natural history, science, music, and art, among other areas of study. The works are listed alphabetically within categories of size (folio, quarto, octavo, duodecimo) and were shelved in the same way. (Two hundred years later, the University Libraries follow a similar method of shelving by size in the Library Annex.)

According to Patrick Scott, head of the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, "At the time of the 1807 catalogue, the library was upstairs in the South building (now Rutledge College) in one of the rooms over the chapel. The students were allowed to come to the library once a week, but they couldn't get in to browse the books. Instead, the students requested books at a counter or doorway, the librarian or his assistant fetched them, and the students took them back to their rooms. The borrowing period went by size as well (one folio for four weeks, one quarto for three weeks, an octavo for two weeks, or two little duodecimos for a week)."

EXHIBITS AND EVENTS AT TCL

"Fitzgerald and Hollywood" Mezzanine Exhibit
Gallery, October–December

"Scottie Fitzgerald: The Stewardship of
Literary Memory"—Graniteville Room,
October–December

"Heroicons: Heroicons: Fantasy Images of Beowulf
and the Monsters"—Main Level, West Gallery,
November–December

"Pages from the Past: An Exhibition of Medieval
Manuscripts"—Mezzanine Exhibit Gallery, Jan.
17–March 2008, with opening events on Jan. 17

Some of the titles in the catalogue are: Addison's *Works* (four volumes); *American Atlas*; Babington's *Mineralogy*; Black's *Chemistry*; Bligh's *Voyage to the South Sea*; Boswell's *Life of Johnson* (four volumes); *Botanical Magazine* (10 Volumes); *British Theatre* (34 volumes); Bryan's *Astronomy*; Burney's *State of Music* (three volumes); Caesar's *Commentaries*; Camper's *Anatomy*; Carlyle's *Arabian Poetry*; Catesby's *Natural History of Carolina*; Dallaway, *On the Arts*; Darwin's *Phytologia*; *Designs of Inigo Jones*; Dickson's *Agriculture*; *European Magazine* (45 volumes); Fuseli, *On Painting*; *General Dictionary* (10 volumes); *Gentleman's Magazine* (62 volumes); Grose's *Antiquities* (10 volumes); Henry's *Great Britain* (12 volumes); *History of Japan*; Horace's *Art of Poetry*; Johnson's *Dictionary* (two volumes); Lysons' *Environs of London* (five volumes); Plates to Cook's *Voyages*; Pliny's *Natural History*; Raleigh's *History of the World*; *Transactions of the Linnean Society*; Virgil's *Works*; and Warton's *English Poetry*

The University's bicentennial Web exhibit "Two Hundred Years of USC's Libraries" (www.sc.edu/library/spcoll/sc-coll/libhist/libhist.html), provides further information about the college library, including pages from the librarian's borrowing register showing the books being read by students in the different classes.

LIBRARIES RECEIVE HALLMAN LEGACY

The University Libraries have been named primary beneficiary of the estate of the late Edward S. Hallman, a 1950 graduate of the University. Interest income from Hallman's bequest, valued at approximately \$3 million, will be used to enlarge and enhance the Thomas Cooper Library's collection of materials about Ernest Hemingway and other 20th-century American writers. The bequest will be administered through the Donald C. Easterling-Edward S. Hallman Foundation in Atlanta.

Specifically, proceeds from the bequest will be used for new acquisitions "including works of American authors other than Ernest Hemingway from the same period, literary style and importance"; for "housing and preserving the [Hemingway] Collection, including a named public space, such as a seminar room or reference room, that will allow for a permanent display of some portion of the collection"; for "producing publications and special programs concerning the collection"; and for "providing grants for scholarly research in the collection."

NEWS BRIEFS FROM THOMAS COOPER LIBRARY

In the year since the University celebrated the acquisition of the Robert J. Wickenheiser Collection of John Milton, library staff members have been busy cataloging the more than 6,000 volumes and publicizing the treasures in the collection to Milton scholars worldwide. Class visits and a seminar scheduled for next spring are introducing students to the collection. Dr. Wickenheiser's illustrated catalogue to the collection is scheduled for publication by the University of South Carolina Press during the John Milton quatercentenary in 2008.

At its meeting in August, the Thomas Cooper Society Board voted to purchase a rare John Milton first edition in support of the library's Robert J. Wickenheiser Collection. The book, published in London in 1644, is titled *The Judgement of Martin Bucer Concerning Divorce*. According to special collections director Patrick Scott, "This is an early work which is quite rare in the market, with no copy recorded at auction since 1945."

An increasing number of new and longstanding faculty members have been bringing classes to the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections for topical lectures, hands-on presentations, and research-based introductions to the collections. This fall, classes in education, media arts, theatre history, graphic design, African-American studies, children's literature, the First World War, Walt Whitman, Southern studies, printmaking, University 101, and the First-Year Research Initiative all have scheduled visits.

Noted American authors Bobbie Ann Mason, Galway Kinnell, and James Barilla were presented by Thomas Cooper Library and the Department of English at the University's annual Fall Festival of Authors. The authors gave readings and engaged in question and answer sessions to allow audience members to better understand their works and the writing process.

The event was underwritten through the support of an anonymous donor with additional University funding.

The University Libraries have recently acquired a limited edition set of eight original stone lithograph prints drawn and printed by Boyd Saunders in 1962. The prints illustrate William Faulkner's *The Bear*.

The purchase will be designated as a special gift to the library from the Nancy Pope Rice and Nancy Rice Davis Library Treasures Endowment in honor of Mrs. Rice's 100th birthday.

Thomas Cooper Library has been given an original Revolutionary War document, the muster roll of the Second South Carolina Regiment of the Continental Establishment, signed by its commander, Lt. Col. Francis Marion (1732-1795), Sullivan's Island, Dec. 1, 1778. The muster roll is a double-spread folio, measuring approximately 17 by 13 inches. It was donated by 1962 alumnus James P. Barrow of Dallas, Texas.

The University Libraries have recently partnered with the Alumni Association to provide Thomas Cooper Society members access to *Academic Search@ Alumni Edition*, *Business Source@ Alumni Edition*, and *Health Library*. For more information please see www.sc.edu/library/alumni. Members of the society may contact Stephanie Learner at 803-777-5564 for assistance in signing up for this service.

Thanks to the interest and generosity of Professor Scott Goode and his spring 2007 Chemistry 111 class, the Thomas Cooper Library has a copy of English scientist Robert Boyle's *New Experiments Physico-Mechanical Touching the Air* published in London in 1682.

Dr. Goode and his students collected most of the cost of the volume, about \$1,900, and the library tapped the Treasures Acquisitions Program for the remainder. This program is supported by donors who want to help the library acquire appropriate items for which funds are not otherwise immediately available.

The Thomas Cooper Society Newsletter Fall 2007

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 to nancyhw@gwm.sc.edu.

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NANCY H. WASHINGTON

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