

Spring 2006

Thomas Cooper Society Newsletter - Spring 2006

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The Thomas Cooper Society Newsletter

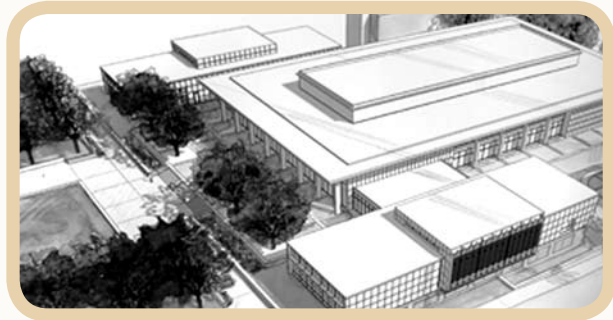
SPRING 2006

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, COLUMBIA, SC

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONIES PLANNED FOR NEW THOMAS COOPER LIBRARY WINGS

Groundbreaking ceremonies will be held soon for Thomas Cooper Library's two new special collections wings. The ceremony for the South Carolina Political Collections wing will be held on Wednesday, May 10, at 5 p.m. and the ceremony for the Rare Books and Special Collections wing will be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, June 14.

To look at the main-level floor plan for each wing, please see page five.



LIBRARY FUND ESTABLISHED TO HONOR DAVY-JO RIDGE



Davy-Jo Ridge

An anonymous donor has established a fund to honor former administrator at Thomas Cooper Library, Davy-Jo Ridge. The fund will support the acquisition, preservation, and display of materials on the natural history of the Americas, especially the Southeastern United States, with emphasis on the life and works of John James Audubon.

Ridge's lifelong fascination with bird life began in her childhood and was furthered by her encounter with the University Libraries' collection of the works of Audubon. This interest culminated in the publication of her book, *A Load of Gratitude: Audubon and South Carolina* in 1985 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Audubon's birth.

Concerning Audubon's masterpiece, *The Birds of America*, Ridge observed, "It is possible that had Audubon not come to South Carolina in the 1830s and become a friend of Dr.

John Bachman in Charleston, who encouraged his interest in birds, Audubon might not have finished that magnificent work. He attained four subscriptions to his book in South Carolina, which included the South Carolina College."

The new fund's honoree will be involved in the selection of materials to be purchased, and the materials will be identified to show recognition and appreciation for her support of and commitment to the University Libraries.

Ridge was actively involved in the founding of the Thomas Cooper Society in 1990 and was made an honorary life member in 2003.

Additional contributions to honor Ridge are welcome. Checks should be made payable to the USC Educational Foundation and sent to the attention of Carroll Peters, Thomas Cooper Library, L504, Columbia SC 29208. For questions, Peters may be contacted at 803-777-5564 or carrollp@gwm.sc.edu. Gifts may also be made online at www.sc.edu/library/develop/donate.html.

SUSAN VREELAND SPEAKS AT THOMAS COOPER SOCIETY DINNER

Noted American author Susan Vreeland delivered a well-received talk and reading to more than 100 members of the Thomas Cooper Society at their annual dinner on Feb. 20 at the Summit Club.

Vreeland paid tribute to the libraries of her childhood and youth where she encountered “the good and great figures of civilization,” beginning with Robert Louis Stevenson’s *A Child’s Garden of Verses*; continuing with the



Shown at the Thomas Cooper Society annual dinner are, left to right, President and Mrs. Andrew A. Sorensen, Susan Vreeland, Laura Voisinnet, and Provost Peter Becker.

works of American poets, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Edgar Allen Poe, the short stories of Guy de Maupassant, and Erle Stanley Gardner’s books about Perry Mason; and culminating with Shakespeare’s *Sonnets*. She mentioned the large number of books she consulted while doing research for each of her own books, always totaling dozens and sometimes hundreds of sources. She concluded, “Books give birth to books.”

The author gave credit to TCL’s reference and interlibrary loan departments for recently helping her acquire foreign research materials for her next book about the life of Impressionist painter Pierre-Auguste Renoir.

Vreeland was introduced by Thomas Cooper Society Board member Judith Felix, after welcoming remarks from the society’s president, D. Reece Williams, Dean of Libraries Paul Willis, and USC President Andrew A. Sorensen.

Vreeland’s Works

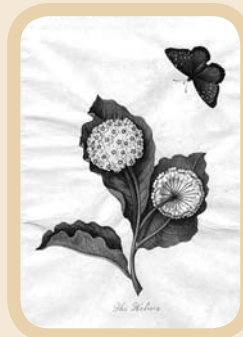
Vreeland is best known for historical fiction on art-related themes. Her first novel, *What Love Sees* (1988), was made into a successful CBS television movie. Critical recognition grew following her novel *Girl in Hyacinth Blue* (1999), which traces an alleged Jan Vermeer painting through the centuries, revealing its influence on those who possess it.

Other works include the novels *The Passion of Artemisia* (2002) and *The Forest Lover* (2004), as well as a collection of short stories, *Life Studies* (2005). Vreeland is a two-time winner of the Theodore Geisel Award, her *Girl in Hyacinth Blue* was televised for the Hallmark Hall of Fame, and her novels have been translated into 25 languages.

works of American poets, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Edgar Allen Poe, the short stories of Guy de Maupassant, and Erle Stanley Gardner’s books about Perry Mason; and culminating with Shakespeare’s

POPE BROWN WATERCOLORS AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Ethelind Pope Brown Collection of South Carolina Natural History, one of the earliest depictions of South Carolina flora and fauna, has been digitized and is now accessible online at [www.sc.edu/library/](http://www.sc.edu/library/digital/collections/popebrown.html)



Milkweed and Queen Butterfly

www.sc.edu/library/digital/collections/popebrown.html.

Consisting of 32 opaque watercolors, or gouaches, the images each depict at least one species of flora and fauna (primarily birds, trees, and flowering plants) found in the American Southeast, for a total of 48

different species. The majority of the species are native to South Carolina, with some native to Georgia and Florida. The images were created by a single anonymous artist, most likely in the 1760s or 1770s, and were painted within the pages of a bound journal.

Mrs. Ethelind Pope Brown of Belton, S.C., gave the collection to the University of South Carolina in 1991. She and her husband, William Carroll Brown, bought the portfolio from a New York antiques dealer in the early 1950s.

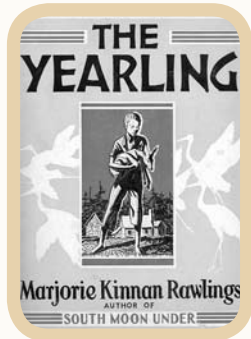
The digital collection includes both the original 18th-century captioned name for each species, as well as its contemporary scientific and popular names. This provides the viewer with a look into pre-Linnaean species identification in the New World, many names of which have survived in various forms to the present day.

At the time of her death in 1997, Ethelind Pope Brown was memorialized by the Pope Brown Foundation with the establishment of an endowment in her name, the Ethelind Pope Brown Natural History Endowment. The foundation continues to provide support for the endowment each year. Information about the endowment may be found at www.sc.edu/library/develop/brown.html.

TCL EXHIBITS AND PRESENTATIONS OFFER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

“Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings: An Exhibit Introducing the Robert D. Middendorf Collection” was on display through April. In connection with the exhibit, the library sponsored a presentation by Dr. Rodger Tarr, Distinguished University Professor of English at Southern Illinois University and a noted Rawlings scholar.

Tarr delivered remarks on Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings’ role in the formation of modern American literature. He is the author of *Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings: A Descriptive Bibliography* and editor of the *Short Stories of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings*. He serves on the board of the Rawlings society and is editor of *The Journal of Florida Literature*.



Florida-based writer Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings (1896–1953) is best known for her Pulitzer prize-winning novel *The Yearling* (1938).

The exhibit, which was curated by Patrick Scott, is the first from the Robert D. Middendorf Collection of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, which the library recently acquired through a gift-purchase agreement, using funds donated to the Treasures Acquisitions Program. Along with first editions and periodical writings, the Middendorf Collection also includes letters, proofs, and movie memorabilia.

“Fredson Bowers and His Legacy: A Centennial Exhibition” was on display from December through January. The exhibit, which commemorated Bowers’ life, work, and influence on the centenary of his birth, was curated by Dr. Matthew J. Bruccoli and Jeffrey Makala.

In addition, a panel discussion about Bowers’ contributions to descriptive and textual bibliography was held at the library on Jan. 31. Dr. Patrick Scott moderated the panel. Participants included Dr. Matthew J. Bruccoli, Dr. George Geckle, and Dr. Joel Myerson, all present or former members of the USC Department of English faculty.

Fredson Thayer Bowers (1905–1991) was the most influential American bibliographer and textual theorist of the 20th century. During his 40-year career in the English department at the University of Virginia, he trained several generations of literary scholars, including several members of the USC English department. His *Principles of Bibliographical Description* (1949) has been continuously in print since its first publication and is the standard work in its field.



A leaf from the 1685 Irish Old Testament

“Irish Literature from the 18th Century to the Present Day” was on display from January to March in conjunction with the Southern Regional Conference meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies.

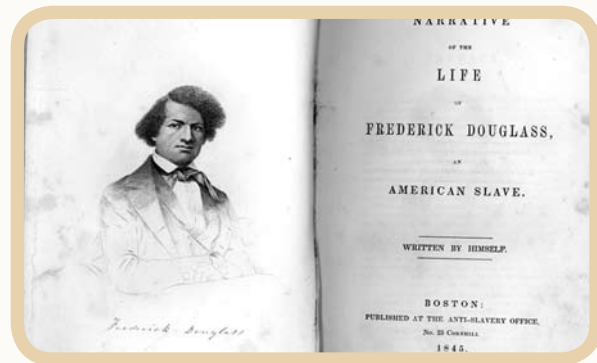
The exhibit illustrated major phases of Irish literature from the 18th century to the present day. Books on display included first and important editions of Spenser, Swift,

Goldsmith, Wilde, Yeats, Synge, Joyce, Beckett, and Seamus Heaney. Other notable items included early printed maps of Ireland, a leaf from the first *Old Testament* printed in Irish in 1685, and the 1932 *Handbook to the Irish Free State*.

Jeffrey Makala and Dr. Patrick Scott curated the exhibit.

“African-Americans and Abolition: Sources and Stories” was on display in February and March. The exhibit, which was curated by Jeffrey Makala, documented African-American contributions to the abolitionist movement, both formal and implicit, drawing on the library’s original source documents. Items from the Augusta Baker Collection of African-American Children’s Literature and Folklore demonstrated how this part of American history has recently been retold in books for children and young adults.

Highlights of the exhibit included three significant new items purchased through the Treasures Acquisition Program: a first edition of *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (1845), a contemporary London edition of one of the earliest American abolitionist tracts, Anthony Benezet’s *A Caution to Great Britain and Her Colonies ...* (1767), and a first edition of Ignatius Sancho’s letters (1782).



Frontispiece and title page of Douglass’ biography

AS GOOD AS GOLD: LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

By Elizabeth Sudduth

While many people recognize Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Ackerman as active members of the University community and the Thomas Cooper Society, they may not realize that the Ackermans are also regular volunteers in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections of the Thomas Cooper Library.



Steve and Dottie Ackerman

Steve and Dottie Ackerman

In addition to their love of libraries, both Dottie and Steve Ackerman share a lifelong scholarly interest in the Romance languages. Steve studied Spanish, with minors in Italian and French, at the College of Wooster and

went on to earn his doctorate at Ohio State University. Dottie earned her bachelor's degree in French and history from McGill University, completed a degree in library science at the University of Chicago, and went on to earn an MA in Romance languages at Northwestern University before her appointment as the librarian in the Foreign Languages Reading Room at Ohio State University. (The couple met in the doorway of Derby Hall in the Department of Romance Languages there.) Dottie not only worked in the library, but also took courses in pursuit of a doctorate. She published *A Catalogue of the Talfourd P. Linn Collection of Cervantes Materials* and received a Fulbright grant to study librarianship at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France in Paris, where she earned the Diplôme Supérieure de Bibliothécaire. Meanwhile, Steve finished his dissertation, *Don Juan in the Generation of '98*. They married shortly after Dottie returned from France.

In 1955, Steve was appointed assistant professor in the Department of Foreign Languages at USC. Over the course of his career at the University, Steve served in a number of positions including head of the Spanish program and interim chair of the Department of Romance Languages. Together with John Kimmey, Steve helped establish the Honors Program. He also served as the first two-year chair

of the faculty senate, and as associate provost. Steve retired from that position in 1988 and shortly thereafter began to volunteer at the information desk at the main branch of the Richland County Public Library.

Dottie worked as a librarian at Fort Jackson from the time she moved to Columbia in 1955 until her retirement in 1985. She came out of retirement to take a part-time position with the Richland County Public Library. After she retired from that position in 2002, she looked for something new and found a need to fill as a volunteer in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections.

Working on the Joseph Cohen Collection

Dottie's first project as a volunteer at TCL involved processing the papers of Joseph Cohen, a scholar, bookman, and donor to the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, who is best known for his research on literature of the Great War, in particular the poet and artist Isaac Rosenberg.

Shortly after Dottie began that project, special collections staff sought her advice about a holograph manuscript of Diego Enriquez del Castillo's *Cronica del rey D. Enrique*, which had been classified but not fully cataloged. Because both Dottie and Steve had taken a paleography course during a sabbatical trip to Spain, they were able to do additional research on what was first dubbed "the mystery book."

Dottie's work on the Cohen papers proved a substantial project, which the staff of the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections would not have been able to begin without outside help. Since completing work on the Cohen Collection, Dottie has tackled a project assigning subject headings to the department's collection of photographs taken at various library events from the past 10 years.

In spite of all the time and effort Steve and Dottie have already expended for TCL, both have indicated that they want to continue to assist the library by working on a project together this spring. Needless to say, the special collections staff members are pleased that these "good as gold" volunteers will continue their work at TCL.

MOVIETONE NEWS SCREENINGS PRESENTED AT TCL

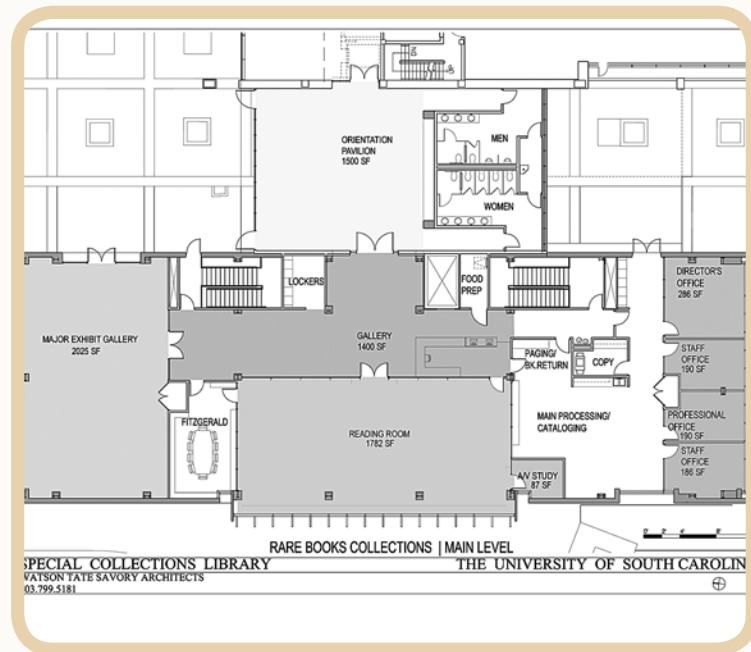
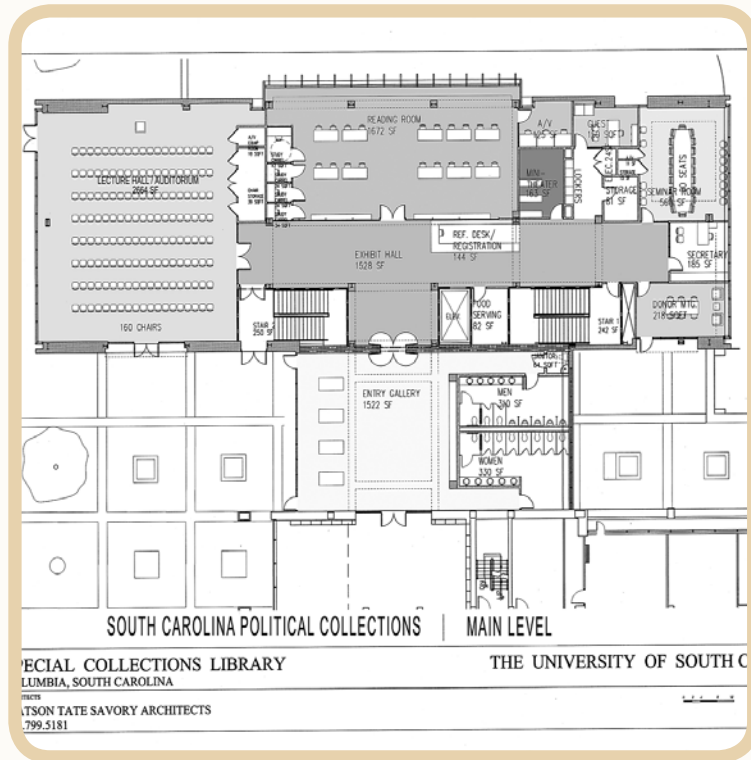
Clips from USC's unique Fox Movietone News Collection were shown at a screening at TCL in March. The presentation also highlighted the role of newsreels during World War II and featured remarks by Bill Birch, a Fox Movietone News and signal corps cameraman. During the war Birch worked as part of Frank Capra's famed Signal Corps unit

and filmed news stories about the home front as well as combat in the Pacific Theatre.

The event was cosponsored by the library and the Thomas Cooper Society.

For more information about the Newsfilm Library, please contact Greg Wilsbacher, director of the newsfilm library, at 803-777-5556 or gregw@gwm.sc.edu.

MAIN LEVEL FLOOR PLANS FOR NEW TCL WINGS



UPCOMING EXHIBITS AT TCL

“Recent Digital Projects from Special Collections”

Main Lobby, through May
Featuring online collections of medieval manuscripts and early printing

“John James Audubon and Ornithological Illustration”

Mezzanine Gallery, through June
With examples from the artist’s double-elephant folio *Birds of America*, purchased for South Carolina College by vote of the legislature in 1831

“Recent Gifts and Acquisitions 2005–2006”

Graniteville Room, through June

“Napoleon in the South Carolina College Library”

Main Lobby, June
A display in conjunction with the South Carolina State Museum’s Napoleon exhibition

“William Blake, Visionary and Illustrator”

Mezzanine Gallery,
July–early September

“Robert E. McNair”

Main Lobby, July–early August
An exhibit from South Carolina Political Collections

“Mountains over Mountains, Medicine, and Haiti”

Main Lobby, August–September
An exhibit for the fall semester First-Year Reading Experience

An exhibit on George V. Higgins will open in November.

NEW ACQUISITIONS MEMORIALIZE LIBRARY FRIENDS

The Thomas Cooper Library's Department of Rare Books and Special Collections has recently received three memorial gifts.

In memory of Mrs. James W. Oliver, gifts from friends allowed the library to add an 1803 edition of William Hayley's *The Triumphs of Temper*, with engravings by William Blake after designs by Maria Flaxman. With her husband, former head of the Department of Philosophy, Mrs. Oliver transferred to USC

his important collections of David Hume and Bertrand Russell. She was herself a collector of books by and about William Blake.

The Scottish-born poet David Carson Miller, who taught English and philosophy courses at USC beginning in the mid-1980s, passed away in 2005. In his memory, gifts from friends supported the purchase of the most important

modern edition of the 18th century Scottish poet Robert Fergusson. The book is extensively annotated by the mid-20th century Scottish poet (and admirer of Fergusson) Sydney Goodsir Smith.

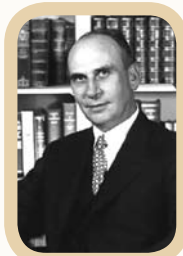
Bookdealer Elizabeth Wessels, well known in the Columbia arts scene, was one of the earliest members of the Thomas Cooper Society program committee. She was internationally respected for her expertise about "moveable books" and pop-up books, on which she published an



From *The Bridge*

important catalogue in 1996. In her memory, and in support of growing teaching interest in the book arts, the TCS board has purchased a limited edition of Hart Crane's *The Bridge* (Red Angel Press, 2004), which itself incorporates a four-foot-long pop-up of the Brooklyn bridge rendered by artist Ron Keller.

CLASS OF 1956 PROJECTS TO BENEFIT THOMAS COOPER LIBRARY



Donald S. Russell

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of their graduation from USC, the members of the Class of 1956 have chosen to support two projects that will benefit Thomas Cooper Library. The first will establish the Donald S. Russell Lectureship and the second will contribute to the library's Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. The goal has been set at \$101,000.

The Donald S. Russell Lectureship will honor the man who was USC's president when the members of the Class of 1956 were on campus. It will support the library's efforts to sponsor presentations by renowned speakers and scholars, thus enriching the academic life for countless students, faculty, and other citizens.

The gift to the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections will establish an endowment to support the collections through preservation efforts and acquisition of materials as well as through programming and publications to promote the holdings.

Contributions to honor the Class of 1956 may be mailed to Carroll Peters, Thomas Cooper Library, L504, Columbia, SC, 29208. Gifts may also be contributed online at www.sc.edu/library/develop/donate.html.

THOMAS COOPER SOCIETY REPRESENTED AT SOUTH CAROLINA BOOK FESTIVAL



Elizabeth Sudduth of the TCL Department of Rare Books and Special Collections talks with TCS president Reece Williams at the society's booth during the S.C. Humanities Council's Book Festival in February.

THE DONALD J. AND ELLEN GREINER COLLECTION OF JAMES DICKEY

Professor and Mrs. Donald J. Greiner recently donated a major collection of the writings of James Dickey to Thomas Cooper Library. Named the Donald J. and Ellen Greiner Collection of James Dickey, the donation represents a comprehensive group of books, periodical appearances, photographs, ephemera, letters, and manuscripts spanning more than four decades of Dickey's writing career.

Professor Greiner, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of English, who taught modern American literature at USC for 37 years, recently retired as Carolina Distinguished Professor of English and associate provost and dean of undergraduate studies. However, he continues to teach a seminar in the Honors College each semester. Best-known as a scholar (and collector) of John Updike and contemporary fiction, Greiner was a longtime colleague of Dickey. Among his many publications is *James Dickey: Classes on Modern Poets and the Art of Poetry* (USC Press, 2004).

Upon donating the collection, Greiner commented, "It may be a cliché to remark that a collection 'belongs' in a certain library, but in this case the cliché is accurate. After all, James Dickey was an intellectual and creative force on this campus, not to mention throughout the nation itself, for nearly 30 years. Yet having said that, I concede that I would have thought twice about donating the Dickey collection had the library not experienced such an astonishing growth in the area of rare books during the past 15 years. I agree with the comment that 'strength builds strength'

when it comes to enhancing a library's holdings. Because the University is demonstrating its commitment to building and maintaining a world-class rare book collection of American



Dr. Don Greiner, left, with his longtime friend and colleague, James Dickey, in 1995

literature, I am happy that my Dickey collection, much of it inscribed and even personal, is now ready for students and scholars to use. The challenge is, of course, to keep the momentum going. The soon-to-be-constructed new building for housing and researching rare books confirms the momentum."

The Greiner Collection complements and considerably strengthens the library's other significant Dickey holdings, including the Dickey collection previously donated by Matthew J. and Arlyn Bruccoli and James Dickey's personal library, which was acquired from the Dickey estate. It will be of continuing value in fostering teaching and research about one of the University's most distinguished faculty members.

Books from all of these collections will be featured in a major library exhibit to coincide with "James Dickey: A Celebration of the Life and Works," a major international conference being held at USC in January 2007, the 10th anniversary of Dickey's death.

GIFT OF HOARD COLLECTION ENRICHES HOLDINGS OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

In the summer of 2004, Seth Weeks and Elizabeth Thode Hoard of Asheville, N.C., made arrangements to donate a large collection of books and music to the University Libraries. Their collection, which was delivered in late 2005, attests to their lifelong professional and recreational interests. Authors represented include Willa Cather, Joseph Conrad, James Joyce, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Eugene O'Neill, Walt Whitman, Tennessee Williams, and Thomas Wolfe, among others.

Books from the collection will be located in the Thomas Cooper, Music, and South Caroliniana Libraries and will have bookplates identifying them as part of the Hoard Collection.

Elizabeth Thode Hoard was born in Walhalla and is descended from one of the members of the German Colonization Society of Charleston, who settled and built Walhalla. The South Caroliniana Library houses some of the Thode Family papers. She attended Chicora College to study piano performance and received degrees from the Juilliard School of Music and Columbia University in New York City.

During her career, she performed internationally and taught at Juilliard, the New York Institute for the Blind, and in her own studio in Carnegie Hall. She was a founder of the Bronx Conservatory of Music and its first director.

Seth Weeks Hoard was originally from Pennsylvania. He earned a BA from Colgate University and a master's degree in Latin from Columbia University. He also studied at the University of Chicago, Sienna University, Perugia University, and the University of Cuba. He taught for many years at Hunter College, City College, and the New York Institute for the Blind.

As a linguist, Hoard studied, taught, and conducted research in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Russian, and German. He was affiliated with Oxford and Durham Universities in England through work with papyrological writings and other ancient languages including Latin.

In February 2005 Mr. Hoard passed away in Asheville, N.C., where Mrs. Hoard still resides.

TCL RECEIVES MATERIALS ABOUT THE HISTORY OF PERSONAL COMPUTING

Although a recent gift to the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections by Emeritus Professor Joseph Katz is not very old, it nevertheless comprises an important group of historical documents. Dating from 1984 to 1987, this collection documents the emergence of personal computing in America, not from the familiar IBM or Apple product lines, but from one of their strongest early competitors, Zenith Data Systems.

Scores of companies in the early to mid-1980s competed in a fierce period of innovation to become the dominant players in the emerging personal computing marketplace. Zenith Data Systems produced one of the first laptop computers, the ZP-150, in late 1984. It was a true laptop; it had a built-in screen and is comparable in size to any contemporary state-of-the-art machine.



The Zenith Data Systems laptop computer

The Katz collection includes an extensive set of owner's and rare service manuals that provide a blueprint for the computer's engineering design. Also included is a working example of the ZP-150 itself. The collection includes a group of catalogs from electronics hobbyist company Heathkit, who sold the machine. Its first advertisements included testimonials from a young Bill Gates, using the new computer with its built-in Microsoft Works software package.

In addition to this group of computing materials, Professor Katz has also given the library a substantial group of bibliographies, reference works on American printing history, and contemporary crime fiction.

The Thomas Cooper Society Newsletter Spring 2006

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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