Caroliniana Columns - Spring 2005

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ANNUAL MEETING RECAP:
APRIL 24, 2004

The 68th Annual Meeting of the University South Caroliniana Society began at 11:00 a.m. with a wine and cheese reception at the South Caroliniana Library. At the conclusion of the reception, the meeting resumed in the dining room of the Capstone Building on the USC campus. There were approximately 140 members, guests and Library staff in attendance. President John B. McLeod called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and the invocation was given by Flynn Harrell, former Society president.

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THE FAITH CABIN LIBRARIES COLLECTION: NEW MATERIALS, NEW INSIGHTS

“We didn’t have money; all we had was faith.” This statement by an elderly lady who understood the value of reading is said to have given a name to the Faith Cabin Libraries, a private, community-based movement that provided library services to African-American citizens in South Carolina from 1931 to the mid 1970s. A significant new gift of manuscripts and photographs has been acquired recently by the South Caroliniana Library to augment the Library’s holdings documenting the place of the Faith Cabin Libraries movement in providing book collections for rural black communities during the segregation era.

During the first half of the 20th century most rural communities in the South lacked any form of library services. In South Carolina, only the more urbanized counties of Charleston, Greenville, and Richland provided adequate support for a county library system. However, segregation placed limitations on library access for the African-American community since the requirement for separate facilities strained even further the already meager allocations.

A white textile worker, Willie Lee Buffington, who went on to become a Methodist minister and college professor, sought to redress the lack of library services in his community of Plum Branch in Saluda County by establishing a library collection there. He was largely motivated by the deep respect he had developed for his black school teacher, Euriah Simpkins, whom he had known since childhood.

In 1931, Buffington’s letter-writing campaign resulted in the donation of 1000 books and led to the construction of a log cabin to house the library. News of Buffington’s efforts eventually spread to the national press, bringing in more donations and resulting in the establishment of over 100 library facilities in South Carolina and Georgia by 1960. Most libraries were constructed in close proximity to African-American schools, and Buffington insisted that all be accessible for use by adults in the community as well as by children.

From 1936 to 1943 the New Deal-sponsored Works Progress Administration worked in South Carolina to develop an active state library agency that provided library services across the state, including bookmobiles and regional library services; however, WPA-led services were disproportionately allocated to white communities.

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citizens. The federal agency decided it was more important to establish a permanent library system first and then let it extend services to black South Carolinians. The State Library Board took control of the system in 1943 but did not establish a program specifically to serve the black community until 1949. The program did not attempt to establish full-fledged libraries, but only provided loans of small book collections via bookmobiles. Faith Cabin Libraries provided three times the number of volumes provided by the WPA-established units.

The Faith Cabin Libraries project remained in existence until the mid-1970s, but the integration and spread of the public library system and the consolidation of schools in the 1950s and 1960s eliminated many of the small schools with Faith Cabin collections as well as the need for the Faith Cabin movement.

The Caroliniana's new collection, which totals more than 15 linear feet, is the gift of Buffington's family and augments a small research unit of his papers held at the Library since the early 1990s. Processing is underway, with much of the work of arrangement and description being carried out by volunteer Tammie Powell, a doctoral student in education.

Commenting on the significance of the recently acquired collection and the evidence it provides relating to the delivery of alternative library service in the segregated South, Dr. Robert V. Williams of USC's School of Library and Information Science notes, "The Faith Cabin Libraries movement was the largest private, community-based movement in the Southeast (and perhaps the entire country) involved in establishing library collections for African Americans, at a time when they were almost completely excluded from public libraries in the Southeast. The story of this work has only been minimally told because so little information has been available to researchers. Now, the papers of the founder and leader of this movement are available."

Dr. Valinda Littlefield, a faculty member who teaches with USC's African American Studies Program, adds, "These recent acquisitions will help us understand the experiences of African Americans in South Carolina and Georgia in particular in the struggle to obtain basic resources such as books. The role of northern philanthropists such as Rockefeller, Jeane's, and Rosenwald in Southern education has been well documented. These holdings will allow us to analyze the philanthropic efforts of a white Southerner and African Americans."

The story of the Faith Cabin Libraries movement, as revealed in the documents and photographs now archived at the South Caroliniana Library, serves as a reminder of an era in Southern history when the provision of basic services to a disenfranchised segment of the population often relied upon the efforts of the philanthropist and the missionary-minded. Through the efforts of Willie Lee Buffington and against difficult odds, library service was made available during a time when denial of services to the black population was the norm.

By Henry G. Fulmer, Curator of Manuscripts
After a delightful luncheon, Mr. McLeod recognized the following former presidents of the Society who were in attendance: Dr. Flynn Harrell, Rep. Walton J. McLeod III, Dr. Daniel Hollis, Harvey Teal and Dr. Ron Bridwell. Mr. McLeod reported on the Society’s activities during the time since the previous Annual Meeting, including the improved status of the Society’s Endowment, a prospective bequest from the estate of a 1915 USC graduate and a controversy over ownership of the busts of Governor and Mrs. (Lucy Holcombe) Pickens located in the Library’s main reading room. Mr. Hartsook presented the Secretary/Treasurer’s report as well as the Director’s report. Mr. Hartsook recognized several donors of materials to the Library, including Alexander Gilchrist, Johnnie M. Walters and Dr. Rosslee G. Douglas.

The following individuals were nominated and elected as Councilors of the Society: Samuel Howell of Charleston (2008), Dr. Don Kay of Columbia (2008) and William Schmidt of Columbia (2006).

Mr. McLeod presented the Yates Snowden Award to Henry G. Fulmer, Curator of Manuscripts at the Library, in recognition of Mr. Fulmer’s more than two decades of outstanding service. Mr. McLeod presented a token of the Society’s esteem to Carol Danner Benfield, USC Director of Library Development, in recognition of her loyal support of the Society and Library.

Alexander M. Sanders, Jr., former legislator, Chief Judge of the South Carolina Court of Appeals and President of the College of Charleston, delivered a talk entitled “Who We Are is Who We Were”.

By John B. McLeod, President, University South Caroliniana Society

WORLD WAR I COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

The South Caroliniana Library is participating in a collaborative project to commemorate the 90th anniversary of U.S. involvement in World War I. The proposed exhibition is tentatively titled *The Life and Times of the Great War in the Palmetto State: April 1917-November 1918*. Exhibits focusing on different aspects of the Great War’s effect on South Carolina will be on display from April 2007 to November 2008 at the South Caroliniana Library, McKissick Museum, the State Museum, the Confederate Relic Room and Museum, and the Historic Columbia Foundation. The Caroliniana’s exhibit will focus on the war’s impact on the University of South Carolina. Elizabeth West is serving as the Library’s representative for this project and will be working closely with the staff members from the other institutions to identify Caroliniana collections that may be used in their own displays. McKissick will focus on art and propaganda, the State Museum on the home front, the Relic Room on the military, and Historic Columbia on the life of a Columbia school and the surrounding community during the war years.

The group is also exploring programming ideas in conjunction with the exhibitions, including: symposia in which the curators of the exhibits could discuss the research behind their topics; presentations by major scholars of WWI; and reenactment weekends. Additional consideration is being given to collaborative opportunities with other USC departments, such as Women’s Studies, African-American Studies, and the Theater Department.

By Elizabeth West, University Archivist
Among the hidden treasures at the South Caroliniana Library are the architectural records collections. Better known to homeowners, historic preservationists, architects, and engineers, these records tell another side of our state’s history. This article is the first in a series about the architectural records collections.

Robert Marvin/Howell Beach & Associates, P.A., Walterboro

“The dominant reason for the existence of Robert E. Marvin and Associates shall be to create and design an environment in which each individual can develop to be as full a human being as God intended him to be.” Robert Marvin and Anna Lou, his wife, wrote this philosophy in the early 1950s, and it remains the guiding force behind all of the firm’s landscape designs. Marvin believed that home and yard designs were integral to each other and should “stimulate sound physical growth, emotional growth, intellectual growth, and spiritual growth.”

Seeing the effects of a growing economy in the post-war era, Marvin realized that without proper planning, the built environment soon would supplant nature. With a staff dedicated to his principles, Marvin became a nationally recognized and honored landscape architect who called on the profession to make the “land come first.”

Robert Marvin (1920-2001) grew up on Bonnie Doone Plantation in Colleton County, South Carolina. He spent many hours roaming the swamps, rivers, and marsh and learned to love and respect nature. Marvin developed a “passion to design a world [in] which man can live in complete harmony with nature.” He graduated from Clemson University with a B.S. in Horticulture in 1942, after which he served for three years in the U.S. Army during World War II. Marvin briefly joined his father’s nursery business in Walterboro before entering graduate school at the University of Georgia. With a degree in Landscape Architecture, Marvin opened his business in Walterboro in 1947; in the 1980s Howell Beach became a partner in the firm, and it continues today as Robert Marvin/Howell Beach & Associates.

The Robert Marvin/Howell Beach & Associates Collection (1950-2000) contains over 575 sets of drawings and about 80 linear feet of office correspondence, lecture notes, articles, and honors. The records reflect that Marvin held fast to his beliefs, to the point of rejecting jobs because the clients did not want what he had to offer. They also reflect the many individuals who sought him out specifically because of his values. The firm provided landscaping for houses, hospitals, residential developments, schools, state and county buildings, public parks, businesses, and places of worship.

Using his philosophy as a starting point on home projects, Marvin and his staff would begin by walking the lot, making note of extant plants, natural land contours, and potential building sites involving the least destruction, and taking photographs.
He conducted an in-depth analysis of each family member during home visits which often included meals. Marvin worked closely with the family and the building architect to develop a natural environment in which individuals could reach their full potential. He also recognized that harmony between nature and the built environment ought to occur beyond the home — commercial, public, and religious landscapes should foster physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual growth.

Marvin’s own office is a case in point. He went to the Great Swamp, “the most delicate environment we have and the one that most needs to be preserved.” A winding dirt road leads to a building that seems to grow out of the swamp — if not for the cars parked among the scrub oaks and yupon trees, one could easily drive right by it. Building materials were brought in by hand, only hand tools were used for construction, and no footings were used for the 24-foot posts. The result is a platform enclosed in glass, giving every workspace a view of the swamp and a daily reminder of the firm’s philosophy.

Robert Marvin’s love of the South dictated the location of most of his projects. In South Carolina, his work is evident at Charlestowne Landing, Beaufort’s Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park, the State House complex and Governor’s Mansion, Finlay Park in Columbia, Sea Pines Park in Hilton Head, Brays Island at Sheldon, and Glencairn Garden in Rock Hill. Marvin won national acclaim for his work in Georgia with Calloway Gardens and the Simmons Company headquarters overlooking the Chattahoochee River, and with Southern Progress Corporation in Birmingham, Alabama.

A quiet, unassuming man, Robert Marvin was honored on numerous occasions by his peers and his state. Marvin received the American Horticultural Society Landscape Design Award in 1991 and the 2001 American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Gold Medal in recognition of outstanding lifetime achievement in the profession of landscape architecture. As an ASLA Fellow, Marvin mentored hundreds of young landscape architects, earning him the admiration of his peers. South Carolina honored Marvin with the Order of the Palmetto in 2000 and induction into the Hall of Fame in 2001. He also received the 1985-1986 Elizabeth O’Neill Verner Governor’s Award for the Arts.

By Beth Bilderback, Assistant Curator of Manuscripts

SCL EXHIBITS.

Two Hundred Years of Student Life at USC is on display in the lobby of the South Caroliniana Library through April 16th. Produced by the University Archives, it uses historical documents and images to trace the Carolina student experience since the school’s opening in 1805. Highlights include the Great Biscuit Rebellion of 1852, the student who was expelled for attacking the local police station, the admission of women and African Americans, and the streaking craze of the 1970s. For more information, contact Elizabeth West at 777-5158.

Coming up:

An online exhibit on the life of Donald S. Russell. Produced by Modern Political Collections and University Archives in conjunction with the Russell Symposium on April 9th.

By Elizabeth West, University Archivist
NEW FACES IN THE READING ROOM

SCL Staff Members

We are delighted to welcome Beverly Bullock as the Library Technical Assistant in the Published Materials Division. Beginning with us in September, Bev has adapted quickly and well to the South Caroliniana world. She is a marvelous asset at the desk, diligently assists patrons in finding the information they need, and processes our new acquisitions most efficiently. And, it is with much less frequency that we hear “WWTD” (what would Thelma do?) from her.

Born in Schenectady, New York, Bev grew up in Morris County, New Jersey. She graduated from Syracuse University with a degree in Social Work and Sociology. For many years, Bev worked in the health promotion and prevention services fields. She also worked for the Onondaga County Public Library Outreach at the Jamesville Correctional Facility. After moving to South Carolina in 1999, her interest in library work continued through her employment at the Midlands Technical College Library.

Married with three children, Bev has two college graduates, one of whom has also completed his master’s degree. Currently, she is involved with helping her high school senior prepare for college with applications and interviews. Two large dogs, a cat and occasionally a turtle keep her busy, too. A personal chef, she also enjoys gardening, bicycling and snow skiing.

Peggy Gardner is processing the Thomas H. Pope collection for the Manuscripts Division. She recently moved to Columbia from Asheville, North Carolina, where she had worked at photographic archives, the Presbyterian Historical Society, and as curator of the Swannanoa Valley Museum. She received her M.A. in history (with a focus on public history) from Western Carolina University in 2000. While a graduate student, she worked on a special project team at the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress, preparing the Prokudin-Gorskii collection for exhibition. At that time she also began research on William Henry Jackson’s 1902 photographs of Western North Carolina. This work culminated in a centennial celebration with an exhibition of vintage prints at the Asheville Art Museum, and a fundraising project that purchased twenty-five Jackson photographs for the archives at Pack Memorial Public Library.

Rose Thomas, another part-time staff member working in the Manuscripts Division, has assisted in processing the papers of Carlisle Floyd, Kay Holley, William F. Prioleau and several others. She taught United States history, world geography, and Spanish in Gaffney and Columbia high schools before enrolling in the joint master’s degree program in public history and library and information science at USC. Following graduation she worked for the South Carolina Department of Archives & History conservation lab, where she helped stabilize the collection for the move to the new facility, treated and repaired county and state documents, and arranged and housed them in archival folders and boxes. She also has worked with the USC conservation lab on special projects, one of which was a multi-year preservation project involving the William Gilmore Simms scrapbooks from the Charles Carroll Simms collection.

SCL Graduate Assistant

Every morning, almost without exception, you may be greeted in the Reading Room by our graduate assistant, Ashley Bowden. A native of Fort Valley, Georgia,
Ashley is a 2004 graduate of Berry College in Rome, Georgia. Interestingly enough, while earning her B.A. in history at Berry, Ashley worked for Susan Asbury Newsome, a South Caroliniana graduate assistant herself in 1998 and 1999. Currently, Ashley is pursuing a joint degree in Library and Information Studies and Public History with a concentration in Archives. Always cheerful, efficient and eager to assist, between work and studies she stays busy.

By Robin Copp, Curator of Published Materials, and Henry G. Fulmer, Curator of Manuscripts

The University South Caroliniana Society

is proud to present

An Afternoon with Donald Russell

Recollections by a panel of distinguished speakers on the life and career of a South Carolina statesman:

Attorney, war mobilizer, USC president, governor, United States Senator, federal judge

2:00-5:00 p.m., Saturday, April 9, 2005

Russell House, USC, Columbia

* Free and open to the public *

Reception following at the South Caroliniana Library

A FUTURE HOME FOR MODERN POLITICAL COLLECTIONS

Plans are underway to construct a new, state-of-the-art home for the Library’s Modern Political Collections Division. Since its establishment in 1991, MPC has been located in the Library’s annex, a converted warehouse off College Street. The annex neighborhood has become an important nexus of new growth in Columbia. The Carolina Center was constructed immediately in front of our building and the Convention Center recently opened nearby. The actual annex site is one of two favored for a new USC baseball stadium and clearly we cannot stay there much longer. This location provided excellent space for the large collections acquired by MPC and for the staff to work on the collections, but has not been popular with researchers. The new site will address all these problems.

Wings will be added to Thomas Cooper Library to house MPC and the main library’s rare books unit, Special Collections. Approximately sixteen million dollars has been raised to date with a total of eighteen million dollars total needed for the construction project.

The MPC wing will probably consist of four floors. The main floor will include an exhibit hall, reading room and offices. The floor below will house processing staff, additional office space, and the Caroliniana’s micrographics and digitization units. Two floors filled with compact shelving will hold the division’s extensive collections and provide room for future acquisitions.

We hope you join us in our excitement over this major development.

By Herbert J. Hartsook, Secretary/Treasurer
GIFT OF DONALD S. RUSSELL LIBRARY

The late Judge Donald S. Russell, an avid reader and book collector, had over the years developed an extensive, rich library. The Judge’s family has graciously donated a significant portion of his personal library to the University Libraries. Included in this gift are many beautifully bound, early and rare volumes of South Carolina history. Approximately 180 volumes are being added to the South Caroliniana Library’s book collection. Another 100 volumes have been accepted by President and Mrs. Sorensen to be added to the library in the President’s home, appropriate since Judge Russell served as President of the University from 1952 to 1956.

The remaining books, chiefly volumes on South Carolina and American history, will be offered to Thomas Cooper Library. We are extremely grateful to the Russell family for this important, lasting gift.

By Herbert J. Hartsook, Secretary/Treasurer

SOCIETY PORTFOLIO TOPS TWO MILLION DOLLAR MARK

In December of 2004, the University South Caroliniana Society’s portfolio topped the $2,000,000 mark. This is a major milestone and we thank all of you for your contributions to the Society that have made this dramatic growth possible. Income from this portfolio is chiefly used to purchase manuscript and published materials for the Library and allows us to be a formidable presence in the marketplace.

The minimum dues charged for membership is currently thirty dollars. This amount supports the basic expenses the Society incurs in a membership. These include the costs in holding the annual meeting and meetings of Council, publishing the annual meeting program and two newsletters each year, and other costs incurred in running the Society. Contributions above this minimum level build on the portfolio.

We thank Society President John McLeod and our Merrill Lynch account executive Paul Cash for their fine work over the past two years in revising the shape and contents of the portfolio to provide a steady dependable income as well as providing some growth potential. Thanks also to all of you who so generously contribute above the minimum and thus build the portfolio.

By Herbert J. Hartsook, Secretary/Treasurer

UPCOMING USC ANNUAL MEETING

The 2005 Annual Meeting of the University South Caroliniana Society is scheduled for April 30 and will, as always, feature a reception at the Library followed by a luncheon and business meeting held in the Carolina Room at Capstone. The meeting will feature a talk by Professor Gordon Harvey of the University of Louisiana at Monroe and author of the well-received book A Question of Justice: New South Governors and Education, 1968-1976. Harvey’s book focuses on the efforts of progressive governors Reubin Askew in Florida, John West in South Carolina, and Albert Brewer in Alabama, to improve the state of education in their states. In researching his book, Harvey spent considerable time studying the holdings of Modern Political Collections and particularly the remarkable collection of the papers of Governor West. Harvey was named L. M. McKeely Professor of Humanities at Louisiana in 2004.

The exhibit of new Library acquisitions will include a major addition received to the West papers. We will also elect new members to Council including a new Society President and one Vice-President. We look forward to a strong turnout.

By Herbert J. Hartsook, Secretary/Treasurer
UNITED STATES Senator Ernest F. "Fritz" Hollings first pledged his papers to the South Carolina Library in 1991, leading to the inauguration of the Modern Political Collections division (MPC). Since that time, Senator Hollings and his staff have regularly sent additional material to be included in his collection, and it has become one of the largest and most significant manuscript collections at the Library. Among the highlights of the collection are papers from Hollings’ term as governor (1959-63), Senate papers, campaign records, speeches, and audiovisual materials.

In 2003, Senator Hollings announced his plans to retire after the 108th Congress. He officially left office on January 3, 2005, after thirty-eight years in the Senate and a lifetime of public service.

Over the last year, Modern Political Collections has worked with Senator Hollings’ staff to close his Senate offices, including those in Washington, Columbia, Charleston, and Greenville. Herb Hartsook, the original archivist for the Hollings papers and the current director of the South Caroliniana Library, traveled to Washington on several occasions to help Hollings’ staff determine which papers were of historical value and to arrange for their transfer. With large shipments arriving periodically from the Washington office throughout 2004, MPC received approximately 680 linear feet of new material.

In addition, MPC staff visited the Columbia Senate office on several occasions in November, looking through papers, photographs, ephemera, and framed items. Some 60 additional feet of material were selected for inclusion in the Hollings collection and brought back to the MPC facility.

Senator Hollings’ retirement was the occasion for a great deal of media attention, as well as a number of awards and tributes in his honor. MPC worked with Hollings’ Senate press office to provide photographs used in a feature on “60 Minutes” in December. We also supplied information and numerous photos to local media who were covering Hollings’ retirement.

When Columbia’s World Affairs Council presented Hollings with its 2004 Global Vision award, we provided photographs for an exhibit displayed at the December awards dinner. MPC also assisted Charleston’s Chamber of Commerce with an exhibit for their “Welcome Home” reception honoring Senator and Mrs. Hollings in January, and mounted a third exhibit of photographs and memorabilia from Hollings’ career on the occasion of the unveiling of Hollings’ portrait in the State House.

MPC staff, under the direction of Hollings Papers project archivist Lori Schwartz, continues processing the collection, including the new additions. Senator Hollings’ long record of public service and his significant role in modern South Carolina history ensure that his collection, once opened to research, will be one of the most valuable and important resources at the University of South Carolina.

By Dorothy Hazelrigg, Curator of Modern Political Collections
FACILITY FACELIFT:
A TALE OF SCL RENOVATIONS

Over the past decade staff and visitors and have grown used to towering scaffolds, scores of workmen, boarded-up windows, ubiquitous dust, loud noises and gaping holes as the South Caroliniana Library has undergone one of the most comprehensive repair projects in the building’s history. If walking under a ladder is truly a harbinger of bad luck, most staff members face dubious futures. Although it often seemed that this process was a never-ending story, the end is now in sight (knock on stripped, yet-to-be-painted wood). The opportunity to conduct research in an atmosphere of “quiet repose,” which has been offered by the Library since 1840, should soon return.

Since the mid 1990s the structure has had a new roof installed, comprehensive brick and stucco repairs, complete replacement of all heating and air conditioning systems, moisture damage repair throughout the building and the restoration of all exterior windows including the installation of new storm windows. The final phase of this work, now underway, includes the upgrading and replacement of all lighting fixtures in the second floor reading room, electrical upgrades throughout the building and the renovation of the first floor Manuscripts room. If funding permits, all public areas in the building will get new carpet and the walls and ceiling of the two-story reading room will be repainted.

This is not the first time that the Library’s facilities have undergone significant transformation. The most obvious and enduring change since the original structure was completed in 1840 as the campus’ main library was the addition in the late 1920s of two fireproof wings and the complete renovation of the main building. One story in the State Newspaper from June of 1928 made reference to the opening of “long bricked-up windows... [which had been] covered with shelves of mouldering old books” and noted that the “sounds of saw and hammer replace whispers in the Hall of Learning.” The building was closed to the students during the summer and early fall of that year. Those renovations included the addition of a restroom for women students—thirty-odd years after the advent of coeducation at USC in the mid 1890s.

Repairs and renovations occurred again in 1940 when today’s McKissick Museum opened as the new central library and the University’s South Carolina Collection was assigned to the South Carolina College Library building—which was renamed the South Caroliniana Library. In the 1960s a number of projects were undertaken, including a Memorial Garden project behind the building that was sponsored by the Columbia Garden Club in 1960. The next year the Kendall Memorial Room was formally opened on the west end of the second floor, and in 1969 the Olin D. Johnston Memorial Room on the first floor was dedicated. Major renovations in the mid 1970s resulted in new stairways, upgrading of the electrical wiring and the building’s first air-conditioning system.

The current renovations, costing hundreds of thousands of dollars (the original building was constructed for $23,000 and change), attest to the continuing commitment of the University and the State of South Carolina to providing a secure and suitable environment for the unique and priceless collection of manuscripts, images and published materials housed at the Caroliniana and utilized by thousands of researchers every year.

By John Heiting, Deputy Director
NEW POSITIONS AT THE LIBRARY

As we enter the age of the digital library, university libraries will, more and more, be defined by their special collections. University Libraries is recognizing that fact and dedicating more resources to the South Caroliniana Library and Thomas Cooper Library’s Special Collections department. Dean of Libraries Paul Willis has approved a new faculty position for the Caroliniana and by the time this newsletter hits your mailbox we should have on board an archivist who will coordinate the collection, description and preservation of audio-visual materials at the Library. Beth Bilderback, Assistant Curator of Manuscripts, has been doing this work in addition to her other duties. The new position recognizes the growth of the use of audio-visual materials held by the library as well as our recent success in soliciting significant new holdings of audio-visual materials.

Thanks to the generosity of Mack Whittle, we have also hired an oral historian for a one year project to conduct two series of interviews, one focusing on leaders in the business community and the other with associates of Governor Carroll Campbell. Nick Meriwether, grandson of the Library’s first director Robert Meriwether, joined the staff on February 16. Nick is an experienced and skilled oral historian, and we are excited to see what he will accomplish.

Finally, the Library has hired recent graduate and former Modern Political Collections student assistant Laura Koser to complete the three-year project processing the papers of education activist Hayes Mizell. This project is funded by a grant from the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation and was halted temporarily after Mizell Project Archivist Craig Keeney accepted the position of cataloger with our Published Works Division.

We anticipate as we move toward opening the new wing for Modern Political Collections that we will add staff to that division as well. It is certainly an exciting time at the Caroliniana.

By Herbert J. Hartsook, Secretary/Treasurer

OF HEAT AND HUMOR

While recently visiting the South Caroliniana Library, Columbia resident William Keenan, a longtime member of the University South Caroliniana Society, related the following humorous anecdote of events in the Library’s reading room nearly sixty years ago. Mr. Keenan graciously agreed to retell this tale for the enjoyment of our readers.

On a warm evening in the spring of 1947 or ’48, I attended as a guest my first annual meeting of the University South Caroliniana Society. At that time, the meetings were held in the South Caroliniana Library’s reading room, which, with folding chairs, had been more or less converted into a lecture hall.

The featured speaker that evening was The Honorable James H. Hammond, well known for his interesting, erudite and entertaining talks. Prior to his address, the Society was scheduled to receive the correspondence, journals and other papers of a distinguished South Carolina family.

The formal presentation of these documents was made by a male scion of that family. His remarks began with a family history followed by recitations of family traditions, a list of family members living and deceased, tales of their various accomplishments, current status of certain cousins, and so on ad infinitum. After at least an hour’s address, the presenter finished to polite applause from an audience sorely uncomfortable on metal chairs in a then poorly ventilated room.

Dr. Heyward Gibbes, President of the Society, then briefly introduced the featured speaker. Senator Hammond arose and thanked the previous speaker and, turning to the audience, said,

“Mr. D____’s address reminded me of my old bird dog, Brutus. Brutus was a fine animal; he had a lovely stance, never broke a point and had a great nose. But he had one serious fault—his tail was too damned long!”

He then sat back down.

After a moment’s stunned silence, the audience erupted into loud applause, and Dr. Gibbes quickly declared the meeting to be adjourned.

It should be noted that Senator Hammond subsequently became the Society’s fifth president.
MEMORIALS & HONORARIA

In Honor of
Dr. Allen H. Stokes

In Memory of
Dr. Francis H. Gay
Mr. John R. Welch
Milledge B. Seigler
Mr. E. L. Inabinett
Col. Harry W. Atkinson
Dr. George D. Terry
Mr. Gene Jones
Miss Nancy Crockett
Ms. Mary Balle
Prof. George McCutchen
Prof. W. C. McCall

From
Dr. G. G. Williamson
Mrs. Mary W. Gay
Dr. & Mrs. Rayburn S. Moore
Mr. James D. Camp
Mrs. Mamie G. Atkinson
Dr. & Mrs. John Winberry
Mrs. Craig Carson
Miss Ruth Green
Mrs. Jean Lang Denman
Mrs. Jane McCutchen Brown
Dr. & Mrs. Robert N. Milling