Audubon and Others

University Libraries--University of South Carolina
Department of Rare Books
& Special Collections

AUDUBON
AND OTHERS
a bicentennial exhibition
of illustrated bird books

Mezzanine Exhibit Gallery
Thomas Cooper Library
May-July, 2001
Among the greatest treasures of the antebellum South Carolina College was its set of Audubon’s huge double-elephant folio *Birds of America*, published in parts between 1828 and 1838. Fewer than 130 complete sets, with all 435 plates, now survive. (On the original acquisition, by a one-vote majority in the South Carolina legislature, see Davy-Jo Stribling Ridge, *A Load of Gratitude: Audubon and South Carolina*, 1985).

The current exhibition, supported by the University’s Bicentennial Commission, traces the development of bird illustration, to give a context for viewing Audubon’s achievement. The exhibit is arranged chronologically, starting with European bird illustrations of the sixteenth century and concluding with Audubon and other 19th century illustrators.

In addition to its main archival set of *Birds of America*, Thomas Cooper Library has a smaller group of Audubons donated by Miss Jennie Haddock Feagle (1896-1993). Her three double-elephant folio versions of Audubon’s first plate, the American wild turkey (Lizars, 1827; Havell, 1828; Bien, 1858) are in the Feagle Hall and two more of her Audubons hang in the Graniteville Room.

**1: EARLY BIRD ILLUSTRATION, I**

* Aldrovandi, Ulisse, 1522-1605?, *Ornithologiae, hoc est de avibus historie*, vol. II (Bononiæ: Typographia Manolessiana, [1645]).

**2: EARLY ILLUSTRATION, II**


Case 3: CATESBY

4: SOME 18TH CENTURY BOOKS
* Edwards, George, 1694-1773, “The Swallow-Tailed Kingfisher,” A natural history of birds: most of which have not been figur’d or describ’d (London, 1743-51). Gift of Mrs. J. Henry Fair.

5: ILLUSTRATION PROCESSES

6: WILSON’S ORNITHOLOGY
* Alexander Wilson, from Grosart (1876).
* Robert Burns, Wilson, and Allan Ramsay,
Four funny tales (Air: J. & P. Wilson, 1802): the library also has Poems (Paisley, 1790). Roy Collection.

* Bartram, William, 1739-1823, Travels through North and South Carolina, ... (London: Johnson, 1792). Richard Wingate Lloyd Collection.
* Wilson, letter to Bartram in Grosart, Poems and literary prose of Alexander Wilson (Paisley: Gardner, 1876).

7: AUDUBON'S BIRDS (& upright cases)

* Brissot de Warville, J.-P., 1754-1793, Lettre ... sur ses rapports concernant les colonies ... dans le cours de la révolution (Paris: Desenne, 1790).
* St. John, Mrs. Horace S. R., Audubon, the naturalist of the New world (NY: Francis, 1856).
* Audubon, and Maria Martin, “Yellow-crowned Heron,” Havell pl. 336 (1836).
* Audubon, and Maria Martin, “Louisiana Tanager; Scarlet Tanager,” Havell pl. 354 (1837).
* Audubon, "Louisiana Heron," Havell pl. 227 (1834).

8: AUDUBON AND BACHMAN
* John Bachman, from Ridge (1985).

9: CONTEMPORARIES & RIVALS
* Selby, P. J., 1788-1867, "Magnificent Fruit-Pigeon," *Pigeons* (Edinburgh: Lizards, 1835): the library also has Selby's *Illustrations of British ornithology* (1821).
Africa
(Edinburgh: Lizars, 1837).


10: AFTER AUDUBON


IN THE FEAGLE HALL


* Audubon, “Wild Turkey,” Birds of America, Havell pl. 1 (1828)


IN THE GRANITEVILLE ROOM

