Caroliniana Columns - Fall 2015

University Libraries--University of South Carolina

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This fall we launched the 175th anniversary of the South Caroliniana Library building and with it the fundraising campaign to renovate this historic structure. This is an exciting time in the history of our nation’s first freestanding academic library, and we believe we have been given an extraordinary opportunity to restore this stately building to its original glory while, at the same time, improving the infrastructure to meet modern needs for accessibility, safety and climate control.

I am pleased to report the USC Board of Trustees has given Phase I approval for the University Libraries to proceed with the architectural plans for the renovation. You will notice this edition of Caroliniana Columns contains renderings for the Library’s renovation. However, I must advise you these simplistic images merely suggest how the current spaces could be reimagined. As we begin the design phase for this $10 million undertaking, we will be guided by the Library’s original majesty and the desire to maintain historical accuracy. Once the renovations are completed, it is our hope the South Caroliniana Library will be acclaimed for its example as a well-preserved historic landmark as well as for the remarkable collections that are housed there.

With the South Carolina Legislature’s generous appropriation of $5 million for this project, I have pledged to lead a campaign to raise a matching amount by the end of our year-long commemoration of the 175th anniversary. We need your financial support to reach that goal. The anniversary celebration will culminate with a closing event on May 12, 2016, with an address by renowned journalist and author Cokie Roberts. Ms. Roberts was scheduled to be with us in October, but due to the aftermath of the historic flooding in Columbia, we were forced to postpone the event. Ms. Roberts was gracious enough to reschedule and we look forward to having her with us as we mark the end of the anniversary, and, hopefully, the capital campaign.

This Library is truly a national treasure. Please show your support by contributing to the historic renovation. To do so, visit the website at: library.sc.edu/scl175 or contact Carol Benfield at 803-777-1278. The same website will also provide you with information on the programs scheduled each month to mark this anniversary year.

I look forward to seeing you at the South Caroliniana Library.

Tom McNally
When the South Carolina College opened its new library in 1840, the approximately one hundred sixty-eight students attending the college were undoubtedly pleased to have a spacious new place in which to study and make use of the College’s rich collection of books and journals. To them, the massive white columns must have said, as they still say to students today, “This is an important building; learning is an important occupation.”

As the years passed, additions and improvements were made to the library building. In the mid-nineteen twenties, an enlarged student body coupled with an increase in library materials necessitated the expansion of the Library’s space. In 1927, wings on either side of the 1840s building were opened to fill this need.

After one hundred years of service, the building was repurposed to house collections pertaining strictly to the history and culture of South Carolina, and the Library’s other holdings were moved to the new McKissick Library located, appropriately, at the head of the Horseshoe.

Now, after seventy-five years of service, the South Caroliniana Library needs improvements too. With some state funding already earmarked, University and Library planners are looking forward to additional private support so that this long-serving building can be updated and renovated for many more years of service to the students of the University and the citizens of the state.

The South Caroliniana Library is currently celebrating the building’s 175th anniversary with events and exhibits designed to enlighten visitors about its history and its planned future.

University South Caroliniana Society members are cordially invited to attend these events and to lend their support to the restoration of this venerable building.
The South Caroliniana Library building dates from 1840 and was the first freestanding academic library built in the United States. Elements of the original design are by the esteemed architect Robert Mills, a South Carolinian and the nation’s first federal architect, whose most famous structure is the Washington Monument.

Wings were added to the east and west ends of the building in 1927 to accommodate expanding collections and use. The building served the South Carolina College and the University for one hundred years until a new library was constructed at the east end of the Horseshoe in 1940.

University of South Carolina president J. Rion McKissick was instrumental in transforming the building into the South Caroliniana Library, an institution dedicated to collecting materials relating to the history, culture, and literature of South Carolina, and preventing them from falling into the hands of, as he put it, “literary bootleggers from outlandish parts.” Today, researchers from around the world visit the South Caroliniana Library to study the books, newspapers, manuscripts, pamphlets, serials, maps, audio recordings, and visual materials preserved there.

Lumpkin Foyer

During the Horseshoe Restoration Project in the 1970s, central air conditioning was installed in the South Caroliniana Library for the first time, although neither heating nor air could be added to the foyer as the historic walls would have been severely damaged. The resulting environmental conditions fluctuate dramatically and adversely affect original collection materials, limiting displays in this area to posters and surrogates.

In 2005, the foyer was officially named the Lumpkin Foyer, in recognition of the Lumpkin family’s many contributions and financial support. Proposed renovations will draw in visitors and researchers from the Horseshoe into a more welcoming entryway with expanded exhibit space. Improved climate control will make the space more comfortable and better suited to safeguarding collection materials.
Johnston Room

The Johnston Room was named for South Carolina governor and United States senator Olin D. Johnston in 1969, when his papers were donated to the South Caroliniana Library. For many years, the room was used as a reference area. It now serves as a staff work area, even though its current design and floorplan present many challenges.

The proposed renovations will feature an exhibition gallery in which an expanded display of collection materials can be presented in a safe and appropriate environment. Exhibits will benefit from more dynamic presentations with interactive elements and digital applications. Visitors will have improved access to the elevator through this attractive space.

The area behind the Johnston Room originally contained seminar rooms. These were later retrofitted for collection storage as new materials were acquired. They are cramped, poorly lit, and still contain shelving inappropriate for special collections preservation. Proposed renovations will allow these rooms to be completely reconfigured into a modern work environment, adding space to process collections and areas for reference consultations and administrative work to better serve Caroliniana’s donors and researchers.
Two views of the Reading Room, circa 1890-1910
The design of the Reading Room is based upon that of Charles Bulfinch for the reading room at the second Library of Congress, which was destroyed by fire in 1851. During Reconstruction, the South Carolina Senate met in this space due to the destruction of the old State House during the burning of Columbia in February 1865 and the unfinished construction of the new State House.

The University was racially integrated from 1873 to 1877 and its first African-American faculty member, Richard Greener, also served as the institution's librarian during that time. Reference services for the South Caroliniana Library are now centralized in this room. The Caroliniana's researchers, who range from freshmen to graduate students and faculty members, from local genealogists to international scholars, come here to confer with the Library’s reference staff. The Reading Room has become a favorite quiet haven for students, especially at midterms and finals.

Because all collection materials presently are stored offsite in preparation for the renovations, researchers must request collections in advance of their visits, and items are delivered daily for use. The proposed renovations will emphasize the historical significance of the Reading Room, including restoration to its original wall color. The layout of the room will also be better engineered to allow library reference staff to appropriately supervise the use of special collections materials.

Environmental conditions are challenging to control in the Reading Room. The current HVAC and ceiling fan systems are not adequate for South Carolina's high temperatures and humidity. These adverse conditions also have a detrimental effect on collection materials due to the dangers of mold and heat. The proposed renovations will address environmental concerns, ensuring the continued preservation of library materials, and providing more comfortable space for visitors and researchers.
Kendall Room

The Kendall Room is located in the west wing. The room was named in 1961 to honor Henry P. Kendall, an industrialist who donated his prized map and book collection to the Library. In addition to the storage and display of the Kendall map and book collection, the room has also been used for collection storage and staff work space. In the 1940s, this space was even used on occasion for student dances.

The proposed renovations will provide space for students and other researchers to gather in collaboration and exchange of ideas and information. Critical meeting and classroom space will enhance the research experience of Carolina’s students.
Third Floor

Directly above the Kendall Room on the third floor is an area that has been used as stack space in the past but currently functions as a mix of storage, staff offices, and a technology room in which digitization and copy requests are processed. The proposed renovations to this floor will provide space for curators to meet with collection donors, collaborate with faculty, and advise student researchers.

East Wing Stacks

Since its construction in 1927, the east wing has been devoted entirely to collections storage. At the time it was described as “fireproof” because of its internal metal framework supporting suspended shelving and floating marble floors. The shelves are narrow and were originally intended for books, but are not suited to conservation containers for special collections. The shelving grid is also integral for support of the five floors in the wing and cannot be rearranged or removed to better suit current storage needs.

The proposed changes to this wing are the most ambitious and dramatic of the entire renovation project. The wing will be completely stripped down to the original brick walls and new structural supports installed. New flooring, shelving, lighting, temperature and humidity control, and fire detection and suppression will be added, thus ensuring that the priceless collections of South Carolina history and culture will be protected in state-of-the-art conditions. The citizens of South Carolina through their elected representatives have allocated $5 million to support the renovation of this area.

“Trustee for the Donor as Well as the Scholar”

In 1940, when the building was converted from the main college library into the South Caroliniana Library, the first director of this new and exciting institution, Dr. Robert L. Meriwether, stated, “It is in this spirit, as trustee for the donor as well as the scholar, that we offer the services of this old library, now beginning its second hundred years of service to the state.” With your support the South Caroliniana Library will continue to serve the Palmetto State for the next hundred years and beyond.

- Elizabeth West is University Archivist.
- Edward Blessing is Stacks Manager and Archivist.
- Lynn Robertson serves on the University South Caroliniana Society Executive Council.
While the historic flooding that brought widespread devastation to the Midlands of South Carolina in October 2015 forced the postponement of the scheduled launch of the South Caroliniana Library’s 175th anniversary, it in no way dampened our spirits or diminished our resolve. We are grateful that the Library sustained no significant damage, and we express our thanks to those near and far who reached out in concern over the safety of the building and the collection.

Hopefully you have heard by now that the festivities with special guest speaker Cokie Roberts, originally planned for October 6 have been rescheduled for May 12, 2016. We hope you will make plans to be with us for this exciting event as we wrap up our year of celebration with a program featuring the acclaimed journalist and author, followed by a festive reception at the South Caroliniana Library.

As we await the grand culmination of our yearlong celebration, we remind you that many additional opportunities exist for members of the University South Caroliniana Society and others to enjoy a wide variety of programming. Elsewhere in this issue you will find a calendar of events providing additional information on dates, times, and locations.

On November 10, we welcomed an enthusiastic group of library friends and supporters to an event billed as *A Night at the Library*, the official opening of the 175th anniversary celebration. The reception and behind-the-scenes tour gave the one hundred and fifty plus persons attending an opportunity to learn more about the building’s history and the people who have contributed to its success. It also provided us a chance to share additional details of our plans to renovate this historic structure so that it and the treasures it contains can be preserved and protected for the coming centuries.

Teaching opportunities through which our curators in charge of different collection areas reached out to the larger community punctuated the months between November and February. These hour-long programs, *Oral History at the Caroliniana: Sharing Stories from the Collections*, *University Archives at the Caroliniana: Two Centuries of Living and Working on the Historic Horseshoe*, *Visual Materials at the Caroliniana: Documenting South Carolina Design and Philosophy*, and *African American Collections at the Caroliniana: Home-goings, Funeral Homes and Celebrations of Community Life* featured Andrea L’Hommedieu, Elizabeth Cassidy West and Katharine Thompson Allen, Beth Bilderback, and Nathan Saunders and Mike Berry. There was something for everyone, and this was the opportunity for the curatorial staff to show off their expertise.

And, finally, on April 7, architectural historian John M. Bryan will present an illustrated lecture titled *Creating the Caroliniana*, a preview of his research for his latest project, a documentary history of the South Caroliniana Library. Please be aware that this event is scheduled at the Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library Program Room because of the multi-media portion of the program.

What an exciting year we are embarked upon! Thank you for your involvement in preserving South Carolina history, and we look forward to celebrating with you at coming events as we embrace this once in a lifetime opportunity to mark such an important milestone in the history of our nation’s first freestanding academic library. Together we can make a difference as we work to restore and safeguard this American landmark and national treasure.
Nearly twenty years ago, I spent an idyllic Saturday morning in the pleasant environs of the South Caroliniana Library seated at a long oak table reviewing the records collected and preserved by members of the Columbia Garden Club.

I was searching for insight from past Club leaders into a project I was chairing and learned so much from their experiences. Many thanks to the unnamed soul who recognized the Club’s archive was too significant to continue to store under a guest room bed and pass annually to incoming officers. As I took notes in pencil on a yellow legal pad, my appreciation grew for all of those who have gone before and recognized the significance of preserving the history and culture of South Carolina by donating materials to the South Caroliniana Library.

An Opportunity

Fast forward to this moment in time and consider with me the opportunity that lies before us. Through careful inspection, the Libraries leadership team and appropriate University officials have determined that our South Caroliniana Library building and its collections are in serious jeopardy. The building must be renovated to preserve it and the collections housed within for future generations.

While critical needs must be met, imagine being able to also:

- Invite students and the community to enter this historic structure through an attractive, welcoming entryway
- Share treasures in the collection by displaying them in museum quality cases for all to enjoy while better protecting our materials
- Encourage research by providing the best possible environmental conditions.

This opportunity didn’t exist twenty or even ten years ago. We are very fortunate to be able to make a difference now. The State Legislature has stepped forward and committed $5,000,000 for the Library’s renovation. An additional $5,000,000 is required to complete this project. We need major, substantial contributions from supporters, such as you, to reach this goal this year.

More than 1,400 members of the University South Caroliniana Society received a written appeal to support this effort and over $35,000 has been raised to date. This is a good start as all gifts are important, but time is of the essence and we must move forward with our plans to save this building and collection.

Society members and other friends of the Library are encouraged to step forward with a significant contribution to make a difference in preserving the history of South Carolina.

As the leadership of the University Libraries has done in the past when faced with a major challenge, we come together in partnering with others to make our Library system better for all involved as well as future generations. We have benefitted from the 175 years of collecting since this building was constructed. Let’s accept our responsibility and pave the way for the next 175 years.

—Carol Danner Benfield is the Senior Director of Development for the University Libraries.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY COFFEE AND BOOK SIGNING FEATURES BOYD SAUNDERS

Book lovers and friends of the University Libraries gathered on December 3, 2015, for the South Caroliniana Library’s annual book signing and for the Thomas Cooper Society’s Holiday coffee. The events were held at the Ernest F. Hollings Library Program Room.

The event featured a presentation by Boyd Saunders, a USC Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Art and a renowned printmaker. Saunders delighted the crowd with the story of his life-long creation of Christmas cards to send to friends. His presentation showed images of dozens of cards some of which included drawings of Saunders’ children and pets. After the presentation, Saunders allowed each member of the audience to select one of the signed cards as a souvenir.

The book signing honored recent South Carolina authors including Katharine Thompson Allen, Walter Edgar, R. Mac Jones, Amey Lewis, Gerry McElroy, Ray McManus, Ellen Malphrus, Eric Morris, Patricia Moore-Pastides, Tom Poland, Aïda Rogers, and Elizabeth Cassidy West.

Boyd Saunders

Detail from one of Saunders’ Christmas cards
On the Horseshoe

A Guide to the Historic Campus of the University of South Carolina

By Meghan Sexton
Because Elizabeth Cassidy West has been telling and curating the story of the University of South Carolina for more than fifteen years in her role as University Archivist, she understands well that the University’s story is told most clearly in the buildings of the Horseshoe, the original campus for South Carolina College and the heart of today’s sprawling downtown Columbia campus.


“It’s about the buildings and the architecture but also about the people who lived, worked and studied here,” says West, who has written two other books about the University, University of South Carolina Football Vault: The History of the Gamecocks and The University of South Carolina. “The Horseshoe is still a very lived-in place and a vital part of campus.”

The idea for the current book came from Allen’s project as West’s graduate assistant to create an exhibit of a chronology of the Horseshoe. “Not being from South Carolina, there was a big learning curve for me to get started,” says Allen, who grew up in Dallas and came to Carolina from San Diego.

The pair created a booklet for the University Libraries for self-guided walking tours of the Horseshoe. When he saw the booklet, Jonathan Haupt, director of USC Press, asked them to do a book that would be more inclusive of everyone’s story than previous volumes, but that could still serve as a walking guide.

“A Concise Chronicle of the History of the Horseshoe”

“The Horseshoe is the heart of the campus and of the student, faculty and staff experience at USC,” Haupt says. “But the site as a whole and its many buildings and structures have lived so many lives beyond the encounters any one class or generation has had with the campus. I wanted to be able to share a concise chronicle of that history of the Horseshoe, and the building-by-building tour model seemed an opportune approach, not only for the benefit of those with immediate access to the Horseshoe but also for our alumni and friends who can revisit the campus vicariously through the book.”

The book is about the size of a diary or personal journal and is “written like a popular history,” West says. “We tried to include everyone’s story.”

Francis Lieber

Among the more colorful characters spotlighted is Francis Lieber (1800-1872), nicknamed “Old Bruin” by his students for being hot-tempered and impulsive. He supposedly tried at one point to have one student expelled for stupidity. “Francis Lieber was one of the institution’s most illustrious scholars,” the authors write. “Prior to joining the faculty of South Carolina College, Lieber founded the Encyclopedia Americana and was an internationally known professor of history and political economy, which he taught at the college from 1835 until 1855.”

The building that bears his name is across the Horseshoe from the South Caroliniana Library and was his home from its construction in 1837 until his departure from the college after a failed bid to become its president.

“Lieber owned slaves during his tenure at the college, although much of his scholarship argued for the implementation of wage labor,” the authors write. “He had a harder time disguising his increasingly hostile view toward secession, a position at odds with the majority of the students.” In 1855, Lieber moved to New York with most of his family, leaving behind his eldest son, Oscar Montgomery Lieber, who later fought for the Confederacy and was estranged from the rest of the family. He died from wounds sustained in battle at Williamsburg, Va.

—Meghan Sexton is a member of the University’s Media Relations staff.
The rains that came upon Columbia and the rest of South Carolina in October made 2015 memorable to many people. While my family members, both immediate and extended throughout the state, were not adversely affected by the October storm, we grumbled about not having potable water for almost two weeks, and my husband spent many days helping neighbors dry out their basements. However, there were many parts of Columbia where devastation was rampant. Creeks and rivers reached historic flood levels, dams gave way, houses were submerged, cars and household goods were swept away, and people died.

As I watched the news and saw people spreading their lives on their front yards to begin the recovery process, I knew I needed to do something. My neighbor Kathleen Robbins visited a colleague in one of these ravaged areas. Kathleen is head of the photography program in the School of Visual Art and Design at USC. As she and her colleague were walking around, they passed a house with photographs sitting in containers filled with flood water. She agreed to take them and try to salvage them. When she got home, she asked if I could help. The more we talked, the more we realized we had to let people know their photographs were not a total loss.

So Kathleen, another of her colleagues and I gathered supplies and headed back to the neighborhood. We knew that people were so overwhelmed with everything that the best way to get our message out was to talk directly with them. With permission of the recovery coordinator and a home owner, we set up “shop” on the lawn near “tent central.” We spread out plastic on grass still grey from the flood waters. Clean newsprint and craft paper went on top of the plastic, and each family was allocated a strip of plastic to keep the photographs from intermingling. Buckets of tap water for the initial bath and pans with distilled water and Photo Flo were set up at each place.

What to Do With Wet Photographs

I wrote a quick guide on what to do with photographs that we gave to the recovery coordinator, and she agreed to help spread the word. We walked around and talked with people, telling them what we were doing. Time and again people were amazed that we were there, and the amazement turned into relief that such treasures might be saved. That first afternoon we worked on three collections, and one couple worked with us on their own photographs. Kathleen set up a Facebook event that night, Photographic Preservation for Flood Victims, to round up volunteers and supplies. The response was wonderful as others were looking for ways to help as well.

The next day we walked around again, and more photographs came to us. Volunteers and supplies came, and...
salvage work went into the early evening hours. The first bath removed most of the muck from loose photographs and albums; photographs were removed from frames if possible. The second bath of distilled water with Photo Flo cleaned loose photographs and helped to ease photographs from album pages or frame glass. They were placed on the newsprint or craft paper to dry; we also used window screens for drying and to keep photographs from flying around when the breeze picked up. To facilitate the drying process later in the day, we used hair dryers on low settings. Once dry, the photographs were wrapped in acid-free tissue and placed in polyester bags with the family name. New bins were donated to house cleaned photographs for the families.

University Libraries and Columbia Churches to the Rescue

Then the rains came back, so we worked in Kathleen’s dining room, putting neighbors, family and friends to work. It became obvious very quickly that we needed to find a larger place for the work to continue as we were getting calls from the neighborhood about more photographs. University Libraries Dean Tom McNally allowed us to set up operations in the Moving Image Research Collections (MIRC) warehouse, so photographs, supplies, and people worked out of there for several days. It was a good space as there was plenty of empty shelving for laying out photographs and fans to keep the air circulating. Dean McNally went so far as to buy lunch for the volunteers and distilled water for the cleaning process.

However, concerns about access for the volunteers and undue burdens on MIRC staff to assist led us to look for another location. One of the volunteers was a non-active Presbyterian minister. She made arrangements with Shandon Presbyterian Church to use their fellowship hall, which we did until the church needed the room back. At that point, we were down to one very large collection, and Spring Valley Presbyterian Church offered to let us finish the work there. That collection alone totaled 3,000 photographs salvaged. During the fifteen days of the project, about twenty collections of photographs were salvaged, roughly 5,000 photographs, slides, and some artwork.

I have attended several workshops over the years that dealt with disaster preparedness and recovery. Some of those workshops included hands-on cleaning and drying of damaged materials. Those exercises took place in controlled environments with tables and fans available and materials soaked in clean water. I also helped a library several years ago after a leak in the roof soaked some of their stacks. Again, this was a controlled environment where the books could be set on tables to dry and fans could circulate the air.

What we faced in that neighborhood was anything but a controlled environment. We took some actions that others would consider bad for the photographs, such as drying in the sunshine, but the photographs were not adversely affected. Building trust with the people directly affected by the floods was important. They were in the mindset of everything being a total loss, so hearing their photographs might be salvageable was a great relief. Our being able to set up right by the recovery operations tents allowed them to see what was happening to possessions that had become immediately precious.

Through my work as the Visual Materials Archivist at the Library, I handle photographs every day. I see families; I see events; I see treasured memories. Working with the photographs from the flood victims was no different. So many people lost so much. Giving my time to help recover irreplaceable items was an experience I will never forget.

—Beth Bilderback is the South Caroliniana Library’s Visual Materials Archivist.
The Doom of Ravenswood
A new edition of Archibald Rutledge’s outdoor adventure tale *The Doom of Ravenswood* has been published by USC Press (2015) as a project of the South Carolina Humanities Council.

This is the second of five of Rutledge’s stories that were selected for the project. Like the first story, *Claws*, which was published in 2014, this book allows readers access to a work which has been virtually unavailable for many years. Well-known South Carolina artist Stephen Chesley was chosen to illustrate the books with charcoal drawings. Jim Casada has provided introductions to both books, setting the stage for each story and giving useful information about Rutledge’s life and work. *The Doom of Ravenswood* has an afterword by Charles W. Waring III.

As the book jacket explains, *The Doom of Ravenswood* “is a harrowing account of the power of the natural world and of the dangers for humans and animals alike to be found in the ominous swamps of the South Carolina lowcountry…. With fate and nature set squarely against him, the narrator must use his wits if he is to survive.”

Future stories in the series will include: “The Egret’s Plumes,” “The Heart of Regal,” and “The Ocean’s Menace.”
Summer 2015 was a heady time to be in Columbia, South Carolina, researching proslavery southern literature. As per usual, I arrived a day late—just twenty-four hours after Governor Nikki Haley oversaw the removal of the Confederate flag from the South Carolina State House grounds. By the time I arrived in state, all that remained of decades of fierce debate over this symbol of “hatred” and/or “heritage” was the concrete base that once held the flagpole. And by Monday, 13 July, my first day on campus, contractors were hard at work replacing that concrete with sod.

It was against this backdrop that I spent a brief but hugely productive residency at the South Caroliniana Library as the 2015 William Gilmore Simms Visiting Research Professor. My aim was to conduct research on two essays that focus on William Gilmore Simms and his circle. As these things go, my two projects quickly became four.

**THE EMERGENCE OF CONFEDERATE LITERARY NATIONALISM**

The first essay is called “Relocating the Charleston Poets: Simms, Hayne, Timrod, and the Birth of Confederate Literary Culture.” This project is something of an offshoot of my first book, *Apples and Ashes: Literature, Nationalism, and the Confederate States of America.* (Indeed, it is a direct response to a critique leveled against my book by the inimitable David Moltke-Hansen, who rightly took me to task for neglecting Charleston, South Carolina, as a crucial site of antebellum southern intellectual life.) The essay will treat the influence of the *Russell’s Magazine* circle—in particular Simms and his acolytes Paul Hamilton Hayne and Henry Timrod—on the emergence of Confederate literary nationalism. I will argue for the importance of locality to these poets’ fiercely nationalistic verse. The local histories of the city and of *Russell’s Magazine* are inseparable from the partisan poems all three men produced as their state seceded from the Union and engaged in a bloody fight for southern independence. As with so much of Confederate literature, their poems nest their nationalism in a steadfast localism.

In order to make sense of that nesting, I needed to learn much more about the *Russell’s Magazine* circle, which met regularly at John Russell’s bookstore—a remarkable “literary emporium” that may well have been the best bookstore in the nineteenth-century South—and Simms’s Charleston residence, “The Wigwam.” These two sites drew much of the lowcountry literati, including James L. Petigru, Basil Gildersleeve, Patrick N. Lynch, William R. Tabor, John Dickson Burns, William J. Grayson, and, of course, Simms, Hayne, and Timrod.

Needless to say, the South Caroliniana Library provided an ideal setting in which to study the intellectual milieu that helped produce an influential if short-lived “depository for Southern genius” (*Russell’s Magazine* I [1857]: 82). Guided by Moltke-Hansen’s work, as well as that of my new colleague Maurie McInnis, I was able to learn a great deal about the rhyme and reason of antebellum Charleston. (Full disclosure: A long, liquid week in the city certainly didn’t hurt matters.) I was particularly grateful for contemporary periodical accounts of the city that I discovered at the Caroliniana; I also gleaned a great deal from Hayne’s charismatic correspondence.

To my mind, Simms, Hayne, and Timrod are the three most important poets of the Confederacy. They were also part of a very tight literary circle in a relatively small city. If Charleston played an outsized role in the American Civil War, then it should come as little surprise that three of the city’s favorite sons made Charleston an outsized part of their Civil War poetry. The work before us now is to connect the antebellum, bellum, and postbellum careers of those sons and to limn their various networks—poetic and otherwise. The material I discovered this summer should go a long way in that direction.

**“THE LIBRARY OF AMERICAN BOOKS”**

The second essay-in-progress is entitled “Unpacking the Library of American Books: Sectionalism and the Literate South at Midcentury.” In this project I want to revisit a remarkable series of books published by Wiley and Putnam between 1845 and 1847, “The Library of American Books.” In particular, I want to consider how Simms’s relationship with the series editor, the ubiquitous Evert Augustus Duyckinck, helped to shape one of the most ambitious publishing events of the nineteenth century—and to offer midcentury readers an uncommon view of the literate South.

The author list for the series reads like a survey of great American literature: Margaret Fuller, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville, Edgar Allan Poe, William Gilmore Simms, and John Greenleaf Whittier, among others. And yet, despite its innate literary-historical interest, there remains a paucity of good work.
on the series. The lone essay on the series (by Ezra Greenspan) is now twenty years old; the only other major treatment of the series comes through Moltke-Hansen’s introductions to the Simms Initiatives editions of The Wigwam and the Cabin and Views and Reviews in American Literature, History and Fiction, Simms’s two volumes for the “Library.” It is well past time that we unpacked this remarkable “Library.”

My essay will offer a revisionary history of Duyckinck’s literary-nationalistic project, one that touts the surprising “southerness” that Simms (and, to a lesser degree, Poe) brought to the series. Building on Beth Schweiger’s recent work on literacy in the pre-Civil War South, as well as my own work on increasing literary sectionalism in the 1840s and 1850s, I will reconsider Simms’s place in the “Library of American Books” and rethink the stakes and status of southern literature at a remarkable moment of cultural transformation. What part did southern literature have to play in the late “Young America” movement? Was Simms right that national literature “must needs be sectional”? How did his articulate views and reviews help to shape the production and reception of Wiley and Putnam’s series?

In answering these questions, I was delighted to have access to Simms’s manuscripts and correspondence. Between the holdings of the Caroliniana and the Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library, I was also able to reconstruct the list of titles for both the “Library of American Books” and its sister series the “Library of Choice Reading.” This painstaking and often maddening work convinced me that there is much more to be said about Duyckinck’s tireless, midcentury literary boosterism. (To this end, I recommend heartily an essay in the most recent volume of The Simms Review, “Editing Young America: William Gilmore Simms and the New York Literary Wars” (22.1/2: 5-17), by a brilliant young scholar, Summar C. Sparks.) Indeed, I am now contemplating a book-length project on the “Library of American Books” and “Library of Choice Reading.”

In addition to these publications, my time in Columbia also gave rise to a “think piece” for the first issue of south: a scholarly journal (formerly The Southern Literary Journal). That brief essay considers the experience of shuttling back and forth between Columbia, South Carolina, and Austin, Texas, during a summer of fierce debate over the memory of the American Civil War. Finally, I am beginning to think about the material history of Simms’s late life, in particularly what remains of his Woodlands library. But that is a topic I hope to take up when I return to the Caroliniana in the spring of 2016 for a couple of additional weeks between the columns.

In closing, let me thank the Library’s incredibly patient staff—in particular Henry Fulmer and Todd Hoppock—as well as Bob Brinkmeyer, Todd Hagstette, and Julia Stern, all of whom made my time in Columbia possible.

—Coleman Hutchison is Associate Professor of English at the University of Texas at Austin.
Caroliniana Columns has arrived and I am jubilant! So many, many memories flood back. [While at USC] I lived in Tenement 18 (as it was called in the ’50s)—just three doors up from the Caroliniana Library, so the Library was always in my consciousness since I passed it every day in my daily routines. I’d have loved to have been there to see the packing and loading of all those materials … and to have seen it “empty.” I cannot imagine what it must have been like to pack paintings and such things. I’d have been a basket case. Still, in some positive way it’s probably been good that all these books, files, artifacts will get cleaned/reassessed in ways they might not have otherwise. I’m delighted that the money came through for the needed work on the building which is such an architectural treasure.

The article on the Woodrow Wilson home also brought back memories. I used to pass it often, and actually visited it on one occasion. I was always aware of its presence in Columbia, and I’m so glad it’s been “saved” and upgraded to preserve it for many more years to come. I have visited the Wilson home in Staunton, Va. His presidency was one I admired and followed over my studies. Thank you for including that article.

And then the wonderful article on Mary Crow Anderson. I never got to meet her, but her father was Dean of the School of Education when I was a student pursuing a degree in education. Orin F. Crow was a formidable fellow. Very formal, very proper, very erudite … from the “old school.” I’m sure Vietnam veterans coming back to USC in the late ’60s would have found him “Victorian.” But that was just the era. When I started teaching at the college level in the late ’60s, things had very much changed. Senior faculty were still “formal,” but younger faculty were out of the “flower power” times. Their dress and demeanor were a whole different ballgame. Dr. Crow was highly respected and any business I might have had with him would have been strictly business. He was not the kind of fellow you’d invite to go have a beer. I can’t imagine what we would have talked about. Ha!

In those days, the School of Education was “hidden” behind a row of faculty houses on Sumter Street. Dr. Havilah Babcock, my mentor in the English Department, lived in one of them. It was such a surprise to finally see the buildings (including Drayton Hall) when those houses were later torn down.

And the mention of Dr. Robert L. Meriwether. Oh my goodness. I had him for an American History course and he was a pixie on wheels. That white hair and bushy eyebrows. What a delight he was. I was honored one day when he sought me after class to say he was thinking of forming a student group who had a common interest in history. I’m not sure that group ever “happened,” but that he thought of me was a lovely validation. Of course, his work at Caroliniana Library all those years was such a rich legacy. Unlike “no socializing” Dr. Crow, I could have asked Dr. Meriwether out for a coke or something—and he’d probably have responded: “Where?” Dr. Meriwether was always in motion, giving the illusion he was levitating at least six inches off the ground, routinely. He was a joy.

And then the article on Margaret Hollis. While I didn’t get to know her either, I was VERY aware of her husband, Dan. I worked all four years from 1950-1954 at the USC Press, and the Press published Dan’s two-volume history of the University. He was a tall fellow who had impeccable and courtly manners, and had been teaching at USC only three years when I arrived there as a freshman. He was in his late 20s, strikingly handsome, and considered to be a “good catch.”

Underclassmen were fascinated to watch what we thought was a budding courtship between Dan and a charming young faculty member in the Business Department. They lunched often in the cafeteria that existed then on the street level of Cornell Arms. We couldn’t get over the fact that faculty members “dated” too. Ha!

I can’t begin to thank you for including the article about my adventure in the theatre. I read it and thought: “Gosh! That fellow has had some ‘fun’ experiences!” And indeed I did over the years. In all honesty, my time at USC prepared me for the life that followed. It was an incredibly valuable and validating time. I was well-trained, met fabulous people who are still friends, and USC provided the springboard for my career. Those four years at USC Press gave me an education about book publishing I couldn’t have gotten in a classroom. My editing The Carolina Review was a gift for all the other writing that followed. The brilliant professors I was lucky to know challenged me beyond imagination—and opened up new worlds (and also doors). The Fulbright Scholarship came as a result of those years, and that time in France changed my life forever. I’ve often said my four years at USC were the happiest years of my life, and I suspect, in many ways, that’s still true. Thank, you Nancy, for including “South Carolina” as a part of the focus. I wrote that song in Mandy Lou as a paean to my home state. Perhaps it will be ‘discovered’ and enjoyed by others.

Congratulations on a terrific issue and for allowing me to be a part of it. I send warmest of regards to you, Henry, and all the other delightful folks at Caroliniana Library.

Best,
C. Robert

(ditor’s Note: C. Robert Jones is in the process of donating his personal and professional papers to the South Caroliniana Library. His article “Just Being There: Adventures in a Life in the Theatre” appeared in the Spring 2015 issue of Caroliniana Columns.)
In Memory of:
- Mrs. Sarah Davis Burns
- Dr. W.H. Callcott and Mrs. Rebecca Callcott
- Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Dufford, Sr.
- Dr. and Mrs. Edward M. Schlaefer, Jr.
- Mr. Robert W. Shand (1840-1915)

Contribution from:
- Dr. and Mrs. William Walker Burns
- Mr. and Mrs. Frank D. Callcott
- Dr. William E. Dufford
- Professor Ellen Douglas Schlaefer
- The Reverend William M. Shand III

In Honor of:
- Mrs. Caroline Pope C. Boineau
- Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Kinney
- Dr. John Hammond Moore
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Contribution from:
- Dr. Marianne Holland
- Dr. Suzanne Hurley and Dr. Jack Hurley
- Mr. Sam E. McCuen
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- Mr. and Mrs. William L. Pope

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UPCOMING EVENTS CELEBRATING THE SOUTH CAROLINIANA LIBRARY’S 175TH ANNIVERSARY

March 19, 2016
11:00 a.m., Reception, South Caroliniana Library, USC Horseshoe
1:00 p.m., University South Caroliniana Society Annual Meeting and Luncheon, Capitol City Club, 1201 Main St., with speaker Orville Vernon Burton, Director of Cyber-Institute and Professor of History, Clemson University

April 7, 2016
5:30 p.m., “Creating the Caroliniana” with architectural historian John M. Bryan, Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library Program Room (Enter through Thomas Cooper Library.)

May 12, 2016
6:00 p.m., Address by journalist and author Cokie Roberts, Drayton Hall Theatre, 1214 College St. Reception to follow, South Caroliniana Library