Spring 2006

*Reflections - Spring 2006*

University Libraries--University of South Carolina

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Groundbreaking Ceremonies Planned for New Thomas Cooper Library Wings

Members of the University community are invited to attend groundbreaking ceremonies for Thomas Cooper Library's two new special collections wings. The ceremony for the South Carolina Political Collections wing will be held on May 10 at 5 p.m. and the ceremony for the Rare Books and Special Collections wing will be held on the morning of June 14 at 10 a.m. To view the main level floor plans for each wing, please see page eight.

Honorary Library Funds Established

Three library funds were recently established to honor longtime supporters of the University Libraries—Dr. Allen Stokes, Dr. John Hammond Moore, and Mrs. Davy-Jo Ridge.

Allen Stokes
Faculty and staff members at the South Caroliniana Library established the fund honoring Stokes, who is director of the library. The fund will be called the Allen Stokes Manuscript Development Fund at South Caroliniana Library. It will recognize Stokes’ ongoing work and contributions by providing for the acquisition and preservation of materials for the library’s manuscripts collection.

According to Nicholas Meriwether, oral historian at the library, who headed up the effort to establish the fund, “This fund will be devoted to a cause dear to Allen Stokes’ heart: the manuscript collection. With his extensive knowledge of the library’s manuscript collections as well as of the history of the state, he will be the ideal person to select new materials.”

John Hammond Moore

The John Hammond Moore Library Acquisitions and Conservation Fund will honor Moore’s lifelong pursuit of research and publication in the field of South Carolina history and will provide support for acquisition of new materials and conservation of existing holdings at South Caroliniana Library.

The fund was created by Moore’s longtime friend Dr. William C. Schmidt Jr. in appreciation of Moore’s role “as a friend of, mentor and inspiration to, and resource for, a legion of individuals doing research on Southern and South Carolina history, myself included.” Moore’s own extensive body of work, made available through publications, public lectures, and personal communications, has considerably advanced knowledge within various areas of S.C. history.”

Davy-Jo Ridge

An anonymous donor has established a fund to honor longtime Thomas Cooper Library administrator 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 J. Audubon.

(Cont. on page 8)
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 on the library's digital collections pages at www.sc.edu/library/digital/.

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, and some are native to Georgia and Florida. The gouaches were created by a single anonymous artist, most likely in the 1760s or 1770s, and were painted within the pages of a bound journal.

The collection was given to the University of South Carolina in 1991 by Mrs. Ethelind Pope Brown of Belton, S.C. 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 names for each species, as well as its contemporary scientific and popular name. Retaining the artist’s original nomenclature allows the viewer to look into pre-Linnaean species identification in the New World, many names of which have survived in various forms to the present day.

By their nature, watercolors are extremely sensitive to fading and discoloration from light. In addition, this group of artworks was created on very thin writing paper, not heavy watercolor stock, thus making them even more fragile to handle and display. For these reasons, the digitizing of these remarkable early American images will enable them to be enjoyed by a larger group of viewers, while preserving the originals for future generations to enjoy.

New Digital Collections

Sailfin flying fish and dolphin fish

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The USC Buildings and Grounds Collection is an ongoing digital project of the University Archives. The collection documents the evolution of the University’s physical plant from a handful of buildings on the Horseshoe to today’s sprawling, modern research campus. Images of academic buildings, residence halls, athletic facilities, and gardens are part of the collection, as well as some facilities, such as the Old Field House, that no longer exist. The initial phase of the project focused on reformatting a collection of oversized negatives dating from the late 1920s to the 1980s. Few of the negatives had accompanying photographic prints, making them difficult to access. Scanning the negatives and placing them online has dramatically improved access to rarely used images of the University. Future phases of the project will expand the visual documentation of the University.

This collection is online at www.sc.edu/library/digital/collections/uscbdgsgrds.html.

The South Caroliniana Library’s holdings of the Papers of William Drayton Rutherford (1837–1864) are online at www.sc.edu/library/digital/collections/rutherford.html. Rutherford was a native of the Newberry District and attended both The Citadel and South Carolina College.

The papers, which were donated by William F. Rutherford, comprise 153 manuscripts, mostly letters between William D. Rutherford and his wife, Sallie Henderson Fair, in the years leading up to and during the Civil War.

On Sept. 20, 1864, while serving as a colonel in the Confederate Army, Rutherford wrote to his wife, “… this thing of living after the war begins to occupy my thoughts! Always looking ahead for trouble! What am I to do, how to make my bread … Tomorrow I am twenty-seven years old, and have not begun life! The past seems a blank, the present only hurrying me into an unknown future big with fate and uncertainty.”

Less than a month later, on Oct. 13, 1864, Col. Rutherford was killed at the front of his regiment at the battle of Strasburg.
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM ESTABLISHED AT THE SOUTH CAROLINIANA LIBRARY

After only six months of what was intended to be a one-year, temporary position, the first oral historian in the South Caroliniana Library’s history, Nicholas Meriwether, was looking at a job that, in the words of director Allen Stokes, “would keep you busy for the next 20 years.”

The original oral history project rapidly expanded to involve a variety of duties, including conservation of the library’s recordings. Consisting of hundreds of reels, cassettes, and microcassettes donated over many decades, these recordings were scattered throughout the stacks and featured a dazzling array of content, from music recitals to office dictation. Most interesting are the interviews conducted by every level of professional from seasoned academic to high-school student, they illustrate one of the often ignored, frequently humbling, and most exciting aspects of oral history, that even an amateur can create an interview of enduring scholarly significance.

“These tapes are the stuff of history,” explained Henry Fulmer, curator of manuscripts, who is working closely with Meriwether to conserve the audio holdings. “We’re just thankful for the chance to see them made available again to researchers, with the help of modern technology.”

Before they can be used, however, all the materials need to be conserved, digitized, transcribed, and processed according to Oral History Association guidelines. Many treasures were immediate candidates for restoration: a set of field recordings of Gullah speakers on the coast, recorded in the 1930s; a revealing set of interviews done with South Carolina historian Mary C. Simms Oliphant, granddaughter of William Gilmore Simms, discussing his life and work; and a series of interviews conducted under the aegis of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America on several aspects of South Carolina history.

As the inventory progressed, the stacks began to yield additional nuggets such as an hour-long interview with James Dickey on poets and poetry; a moving speech on Southern manners that cloaked a call for integration by noted Civil Rights pioneer James McBride Dabbs; and a fascinating radio interview between General Westmoreland and one of the men who served under him, who telephoned while the general was on the air, producing one of the more fascinating pieces of evidence consulted by a recent visiting scholar.

With a new digitization station built to transfer the tapes to compact disc, the Oral History Program has embarked on an ambitious, long-term project to ensure that all of the library’s recordings are preserved.

With continuing support from Ms. Amelia Wallace Vernon, Meriwether is working to conserve Vernon’s archive of interviews with African Americans compiled during her research for her critically acclaimed book, African Americans at Mars Bluff, South Carolina, which was published by Louisiana State University Press in 1993. Now numbering more than 100 interviews and spanning more than 30 years, the archive, when complete, will represent the most significant single collection of oral history at the library.

Ten interviews have been recorded in the Carolina First oral history project, documenting the rise of one of the state’s most significant banking enterprises, and a story that completes the history of South Carolina banking in the 20th century begun by USC historian Dr. John Sproat. Completed in the late 1980s under the aegis of the South Carolina Bankers Association, Sproat’s interviews cover the state’s banking industry through the advent of interstate banking in the mid-1980s. By following the story of a single bank and carrying that history to the present, the library is also providing a more microcosmic, in-depth portrait of the challenges facing a new bank in the very different regulatory environment and challenging business landscape that emerged in the years since Sproat put down his tape recorder.

New projects are already taking shape and Meriwether is always interested in ideas for more. The library has had the opportunity to provide outreach and assistance to a variety of University and community groups conducting their own oral history projects and would welcome additional opportunities to help.

With the Oral History Program, the South Caroliniana Library continues to find new ways of fulfilling its mission to document, preserve, and present the history, culture, and lives of all South Carolinians.

Upcoming Exhibit

“John James Audubon and Ornithological Illustration” will be on display in the TCL Mezzanine Exhibit Gallery from May 1–July 30.

The exhibit will include examples from the artist’s double-elephant folio Birds of America, purchased for the South Carolina College by vote of the legislature in 1831.

“Audubon” from John James Audubon’s Birds of America
**MARJORIE KINNAN RAWLINGS EXHIBIT AND PRESENTATION DRAW APPRECIATIVE CROWD**

“Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings: An Exhibit Introducing the Robert D. Middendorf Collection” will be on display in the TCL Mezzanine Gallery through April 20. In connection with the exhibit, the TCL Department of Rare Books and Special Collections sponsored a presentation by Dr. Rodger Tarr, Distinguished University Professor of English at Southern Illinois University and a noted Rawlings scholar on Jan. 10.

Tarr delivered remarks on Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings’ role in the formation of modern American literature. Tarr, a scholar of Thomas Carlyle (and the source of Thomas Cooper’s noted Carlyle collection) 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). This exhibit covers the her entire writing career, from her earliest magazine stories for *McCall’s Magazine*, her discovery by *Scribner’s Magazine* and Scribner’s legendary editor, Maxwell Perkins, her first novels, and the success of her subsequent books, notably *The Yearling* and *Cross Creek* (1942).

The exhibit, curated by Dr. 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.

The Middendorf Collection complements other recent acquisitions made through the Donna Sorensen Endowment for Southern Women in the Arts. Through the Rawlings/Scribner/Perkins connection, it also relates closely to TCL’s other collections of Scribner authors: the Matthew J. and Arlyn Bruccoli Collection of F. Scott Fitzgerald, the Speiser and Easterling-Hallman Collection of Ernest Hemingway, the James Dickey Library, and the John Hall Wheelock Archive.

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**EDWIN E. GORDON ARCHIVE DEDICATED**

A reception was held March 7 to celebrate the dedication and opening of the Edwin E. Gordon Archive at USC’s Music Library. An accompanying exhibit displayed items from the archive.

Dr. Gordon is a noted teacher, lecturer, author, and researcher in music education and the psychology of music. He is currently a research professor, Gordon archive at the USC School of Music. The Gordon archive, which was donated by Gordon and his wife Carol, represents more than 40 years of work in music and music education. The archive houses all of Gordon’s publications, journals, recordings, manuscripts, the dissertations he supervised, and video and audiocassette tapes of various workshops and seminars. Among the personal items are his college diplomas, various honors and awards, his University of Iowa Ph.D. dissertation, as well as one of his many wooden sculptures.

For more information about the Edwin E. Gordon Archive, visit www.sc.edu/library/music/gordon.html.

To learn more about the Gordon Archive, please visit www.sc.edu/library/develop/gordons.html.

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**UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES JOIN LOCKSS PROGRAM**

“…let us save what remains: not by vaults and locks which fence them from the public eye and use in consigning them to the waste of time, but by such a multiplication of copies, as shall place them beyond the reach of accident.”

—Thomas Jefferson, 1791

In January, the USC Libraries joined more than 80 other libraries and 50 publishers from around the world in a project that involves working together to protect and preserve Web documents through the LOCKSS program. LOCKSS (for “Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe”) is open-source software that provides librarians with an easy and inexpensive way to collect, store, preserve, and provide access to their own, local copy of authorized content of electronic journals and collections.

Using the LOCKSS software, librarians are now able to cache online content from more than 50 subscribed journals whose publishers have given permission for the LOCKSS system to collect and preserve the journals. USC librarians are also caching content from open-access publishers including BioOne, Oxford University Press, The Johns Hopkins University Press, and Indiana University Press.

For more information about the LOCKSS Program, which was initiated by Stanford University Libraries, go to www.lockss.org.
BOWERS EXHIBIT AND PANEL PRESENTED AT TCL

An exhibit titled “Fredson Bowers and His Legacy: A Centennial Exhibit” was on display in the Thomas Cooper Library lobby from December through January. In addition, a panel discussion about Bowers’ contributions to descriptive and textual bibliography was held at the library on Jan. 31. The panel was moderated by Dr. Patrick Scott and 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.

He was a founder of the Bibliographical Society of the University of Virginia and founding editor of its journal, Studies in Bibliography (which is notable as the only scholarly journal still printed letterpress), and wrote extensively on the role of bibliographic scholarship in the academic enterprise. His Principles of Bibliographical Description (1949) has been continuously in print since its first publication and is the standard work in its field.

Bowers was also a prolific creator of the standard published editions of authors from Elizabethan English literature (Dekker, Marlowe, Beaumont, and Fletcher) to 19th-century American literature (Hawthorne and Crane).

The exhibit commemorated Bowers’ life, work, and influence on the centenary of his birth and was curated by Matthew J. Bruccoli and Jeffrey Makala.

FUND ESTABLISHED TO DOCUMENT THE RISE OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Thanks to an initial contribution by USC alumni and former Republican Party chairman Dan Ros, a fund was established recently at South Carolina Political Collections (SCPC) to support the documentation of the rise of the Republican Party in South Carolina. SCPC currently holds the papers of the party itself as well as papers of party leaders such as Charles Boineau, J. Drake Edens, James B. Edwards, Floyd Spence, William Workman, David Wilkins, Lindsey Graham, and Mark Sanford.

The fund will provide student assistantships to prepare materials and will support exhibits and publications designed to encourage research on the history of the Republican Party.

For information about this and other endeavors of SCPC, please contact its director, Herbert Hartsook at 803-777-0577 or herb@sc.edu.

In Memoriam

Carroll Ashmore Campbell Jr. 1940–2005

Members of the USC community joined other citizens of South Carolina to mourn the passing of Carroll Campbell, who had served in the State Legislature and in Congress before being elected to two terms as governor.

USC’s South Carolina Political Collections is proud to hold Campbell’s papers, although the collection is not currently open for study. The bulk of the collection documents Campbell’s personal activities undertaken while he was governor of South Carolina (1987–1995) and president and CEO of the American Council on Life Insurance (1995–2001). These activities include his work in the National Governors Association and the Republican Party, his education and tax-reform efforts as a member of several national policy groups, and his campaigns for public office.

Governor and Mrs. Campbell

The Newsfilm Library has moved to new quarters at 707 Catawba Street. Shown are just a few of the boxes of materials involved in the move. Library patrons and clients are cordially invited to visit the new facilities weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Family and friends of William Jennings Bryan Dorn have announced the funding of an annual William Jennings Bryan Dorn Young Scholar Prize. The $500 prize will be presented to an undergraduate enrolled in any college or university who submits the best paper based on research in South Carolina Political Collections (SCPC) holdings. The Dorn prize is being established to encourage the study of contemporary society and government and to promote research in primary source materials.

Dorn represented South Carolina’s Third District in the United States Congress for 13 terms between 1948 and 1974 and was a noted champion of both the Southern textile industry and the interests of America’s veterans. In 1974, Dorn retired from Congress and donated his congressional papers to the South Caroliniana Library. At that time, the collection was the largest ever received by the University, and it remains among the largest collections currently open for study.


Dorn Collection Exhibited in Greenwood

On Feb. 22, University South Caroliniana Society President Steve Griffith, in conjunction with University Libraries and South Carolina Political Collections, hosted a reception honoring the late Congressman Bryan Dorn in his native Greenwood. Society members, as well as friends and family of Congressman Dorn, were treated to a rare look at the Congressman’s public life, which was represented in numerous exhibits, documents, and memorabilia from the Dorn collection held by South Carolina Political Collections.

South Caroliniana Library displayed documents reflecting the history of the Greenwood area. Patrons of the event appreciated the extraordinary opportunity afforded them to view such a significant exhibit in their hometown.

Outreach at SCPC Continues

The SCPC’s mission is to document contemporary government and society. While some collections contain material going back to the First World War, most of the materials held by SCPC date from the 1960s to the present. Indeed, an accession received in mid-January contained several documents dated 2006. Few typical researchers, outside of journalists, would consider records only a few days, months, or years old to be the rough material of historical research. For that reason, SCPC must be particularly energetic in reaching out to potential researchers and in encouraging study of the holdings.

SCPC is planning a regular program of symposia and exhibits to increase public awareness about the holdings, and will work to raise endowed funding for additional research awards to help scholars who wish to visit the University and study its holdings.

Gold Tooling Workshop Held at Conservation Laboratory

USC’s Arthur E. Holman Jr. Conservation Laboratory hosted a gold tooling workshop in February. The 12 participants included conservators from North Carolina, Georgia, and South Carolina, as well as USC students. Stuart Brockman, a conservator from the United Kingdom, was the trainer. Brockman is teaching a similar workshop this spring to conservators in several other states including Texas, Illinois, Utah, and Pennsylvania.
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 at age 15 to study piano, and the Columbia Record covered her first public recital in 1924.

Dr. Henry Bellamann, Thode's professor at Chicora, urged her to follow him to New York and audition for a scholarship at the new music school he would direct. She did, and won the scholarship at the school, which later became the Juilliard School of Music. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees from both Juilliard and Columbia University. During her career, Thode performed internationally and taught at Juilliard, the New York Institute for the Blind, and in her own studio in Carnegie Hall. She cofounded the Bronx Conservatory of Music.

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 before the revolution.

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.

He taught for many years at Hunter College, City College, and the New York Institute for the Blind. In addition to his scholarly work, he was an accomplished oarsman, and well-known as a coach for both Fordham and Columbia University crew members.

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

Susan Vreeland Delivers Keynote Address 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 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 conducting 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 possessed it.

Other works include the novels The Passion of Artemisia (2002), The Forest Lover (2004) and 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.
CELEBRATIONS 
MARK SIMMS’ 
BICENTENNIAL YEAR

To celebrate the bicentennial observance of the birth of noted 19th-century South Carolinian William Gilmore Simms, the South Caroliniana Library hosted a conference on Simms’ work and his relationship with South Carolina and the South, April 6–8. The conference featured an exhibit of conserved items from the Charles Carroll Simms Collection of the Papers of William Gilmore Simms, as well as presentations from a variety of scholars known for their work on Simms and the broader circles in which he moved, and in many cases helped define. Some conference participants included David Aiken, Sean Busick, James Kibler, Jeff Rogers, and Kevin Collins.

Some of those broader circles in which Simms moved will be explored in a second academic conference, scheduled for later in April in Philadelphia, and celebrated at the final gathering in June, close to Simms’ ancestral home outside of Midway, S.C. Titled “Communities of Culture: The Geography of Americanism,” the conferences will emphasize Simms’ contributions to local, regional, and national culture. Simms shared an interest in geography with Young America, a concern that also ties him to Philadelphia-based actor Edwin Forrest, whose connection with Simms will be a major theme in the Philadelphia conference. Simms’ publishing connections with that city also reveal his importance to those who may not realize the extent of his stature outside of his native state.
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

In addition to their love of libraries, both Steve and Dottie 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 Romance languages department there,) Dottie not only worked in the library, but was 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 Bibliothequaire. 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 USC Faculty Senate, and as associate provost. Steve retired from that position in 1983 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 Dr. 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. Because both Dottie and Steve had taken a paleography course during a sabbatical trip to Spain, they were able to conduct additional research on what was first dubbed “the mystery book.” Eventually Dottie resumed working on the Cohen papers, a substantial project that the staff of the rare books department would not have been able to begin without outside help. After completing work on the Cohen Collection, Dottie tackled a project assigning subject headings to the department’s collection of photographs taken at various library events over the past 10 years.

In spite of all the time and effort Steve and Dottie have already expended for TCL, both have indicated 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 all pleased that these “good as gold” volunteers will continue their work at TCL.

TCL Joins RAPID Consortium for Faster Interlibrary Loan Service

Thomas Cooper Library is the newest member of an interlibrary loan consortium called Rapid Access Processing and Information Delivery (RAPID). The consortium was developed at the Colorado State University Library after a devastating flood in 1997 destroyed most of its collections, forcing the library to use interlibrary loan to supply even basic materials for its patrons during the lengthy recovery process.

Under RAPID, requesting methods for patrons will not change; improvements will involve staff activities, which will result in much quicker provision of materials and desktop delivery. The program gives fast and free access to the journal collections of participating research libraries, including the Center for Research Libraries, Columbia University, Cornell University, the Linda Hall Library, and even the University of Hong Kong Library.

Please contact the head of TCL’s interlibrary loan department, Marna Hostetler at 803-777-6333 or hostetler@sc.edu with questions or for more information.
IRISH LITERATURE EXHIBIT PRESENTED AT TCL

An exhibit, “Irish Literature from the 18th Century to the Present” was on display in TCL's Graniteville Room from January to March in conjunction with a February meeting of the Southern Regional Conference of the American Conference for Irish Studies.

The exhibit used materials from the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections to illustrate major phases of Irish literature from the 18th century to the present. 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.

The exhibit was curated by Jeffrey Makala and Patrick Scott. For more information about the items in the collection, please call 803-777-0296 or send an e-mail to makalaj@gwm.sc.edu.

TCL MOUNTS EXHIBIT ON AFRICAN-AMERICAN ABOLITIONISTS

An exhibit titled “African-Americans and Abolition: Sources and Stories” was on display in the main floor exhibit area of TCL in February and March.

The exhibit 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 library acquisitions: 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).

The Abolitionist Movement

From its inception in Pennsylvania in the late 18th century, the American abolitionist movement attempted to include the voices and experiences of African Americans. Former slaves, both free and fugitive, were sought as speakers to describe conditions in the South authentically and to rally support for abolition. Free blacks in the North formed “colored anti-slavery societies” in many cities and participated in larger state and national gatherings of abolitionists. The first African-American newspapers were founded with close ties to abolition groups, and other print sources, such as narratives and memoirs, were published to convert 19th-century public opinion.

For more information, please contact the exhibit’s curator, Jeffrey Makala at 803-777-0296 or makalaj@gwm.sc.edu.
“We have all been impacted by the institution of slavery, and we have a shared history.”

—Felicia Furman, producer and director of PBS film, Shared History

In the discussion about race, many whites dismiss the impact of slavery on contemporary society by claiming “it was a long time ago” or remove themselves from the discussion by saying, “my ancestors didn’t own slaves.”

For some of us, however, the reality is much different. As a little girl, my now octogenarian mother recalls accompanying her mother, Mary C. Simms Oliphant, on visits to “Maum Sallie” bearing gifts of coffee, sugar, and tobacco. Maum Sallie was Sallie Laboard. She had been a slave at Woodlands Plantation, the home of American writer William Gilmore Simms and 70 members of enslaved African-American families. For me, my mother’s memories place slavery very much in the present. And, unlike many in this country, my ancestors did, in fact, own slaves. Do I then have a special responsibility to acknowledge this history? I think I do. My “acknowledgment” has come in the form of a 13-year project titled Shared History, an effort to document the lives of all the families connected to Woodlands Plantation. Woodlands, located in Bamberg County, is still owned by Simms’ descendants. Several African-American families stayed on at the plantation after the Civil War and maintained a relationship with my family, which continues to the present.

Shared History is now a PBS film sponsored by the SC-ETV Endowment with support from The Humanities CouncilSC and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The film tells the story of descendants of slaves and slave owners as they explore their 260-year relationship at Woodlands Plantation. Shared History is narrated by three of these descendants: myself; Rhonda Kearse, who is descended from Jim Rumph, a slave foreman who stayed on at Woodlands after the Civil War; and Charles Orr, who is descended from Isaac Nimmons, the coachman of Woodlands and William Gilmore Simms’ personal manager. Nimmons left Woodlands after the war and purchased land nearby.

In the course of the project, I spent many days at the South Caroliniana Library. I am indebted to the library’s extraordinary staff, who always knew more about what I was looking for than I did. Much of the research was done through conversations and interviews with the descendants of the families connected to Woodlands and in my mother’s attic, which held a treasure of materials about life at Woodlands, which were saved by my grandmother. These materials, specific to the lives of the slaves and their descendants, included photographs, letters, legal records, genealogies, and reports of daily life. They had never been available to the African-American families. I wondered how many other South Carolina families, whose ancestors had owned slaves, might not also have this same kind of historical material—material stashed away in the attic that would be essential for African Americans researching their family roots and for scholars who use family records to tease out the details of slavery and its aftermath.

I hope Shared History will encourage others to explore the contents of their attics. And, perhaps, through a donation to the South Caroliniana Library, make this important historical material available to families and other researchers.

Editor’s note: Shared History aired on SCETV in February. For more information, visit www.sharedhistory.org.

Felicia Furman is a descendant of William Gilmore Simms, the last slave owner at Woodlands. She left South Carolina in 1978 and now lives in Boulder, Colo.

Furman began making films in her 40s with a mission to create high quality, social culture and history documentaries for television and theatrical distribution. She is the producer of Passing It On: A Tap Legacy (1997 Denver International Film Festival and 1998 Dance on Camera festival) and documentaries on African-influenced religious practices in Cuba for the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race in America at the University of Colorado, Boulder, among other video projects.
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 on modern literature 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 an edition of Dickey’s *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 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 forthcoming 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.

Books from all of these collections will be featured in a major library exhibition to coincide with “James Dickey: A Celebration of the Life and Works,” a major international conference planned at USC in January 2007, the 10th anniversary of Dickey’s death.