Fall 2002

Reflections - Fall 2002

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George Plimpton Speaks at Thomas Cooper Society Luncheon

Noted American author and *Paris Review* editor George Plimpton spoke to the members of the Thomas Cooper Society at a luncheon on August 19. Following his remarks, Plimpton was presented with the Thomas Cooper Medal for Distinction in the Arts and Sciences for a lifetime of achievement in literature. The luncheon also gave society members an opportunity to meet the University’s new president, Dr. Andrew Sorensen and the University Libraries’ new dean, Paul Willis.

Plimpton was introduced by USC’s Jefferies Professor of English, Dr. Matthew J. Bruccoli, who characterized Plimpton as “the busiest literary figure in...”
Upcoming Exhibits and Events

October 10–December 15, Thomas Cooper Library, Mezzanine Exhibit Area, Exhibit of “The Joseph Heller Papers”

November 11, 5 p.m., School of Music Auditorium, “Songs of World War I,” Program of WWI songs featuring Professors Dorothy Payne and Donald Gray

November 11, 6 p.m., Music Library, Reception and exhibit of WWI sheet music

November 11, Thomas Cooper Library, Main Level Lobby, Exhibit of “Isaac Rosenberg and World War I Writers” from the Joseph Cohen Collection

February 2003, Thomas Cooper Library, Graniteville Room, Exhibit of “Robert Burns and Others” to welcome the Southeast Association of Eighteenth Century Studies conference

March, 2003, Thomas Cooper Library, Mezzanine Exhibit Area, Exhibit for the Ralph Waldo Emerson Bicentenary

New Faces

Kate Boyd,
Reference Librarian
Thomas Cooper Library
Music Library Updates Collections and Services

If you go to the Music Library and ask the librarian, Jennifer Ottervik, “What’s new?” you should first look for a chair, because that is a question that will take awhile to answer.

During the past school year, Ottervik and her staff have become involved in several innovative projects to augment and utilize the Music Library’s collections and to offer updated services to the School of Music students and faculty. These projects include: founding the Center for Southern African-American Music (CSAM), setting up a method to facilitate students’ access to music listening materials called Network Digital Music (NetDM), and establishing a digital sheet music archive and index.

Center for Southern African-American Music

Unique in the South, the School of Music’s Center for Southern African-American Music has a three-pronged mission involving creating a music archive, curriculum initiatives, and an educational outreach program. Working with Ottervik in setting up the center was Assistant Professor of Music Dr. Julie Hubbert. The present co-director is Assistant Professor of Music Dr. Willie Strong.

The Music Library is the designated keeper of the Center’s archive which is the basis of the curriculum and outreach programs. According to the Music Library Website, the library will “collect, preserve and curate the music of African-Americans in the South (with a special emphasis on the music of South Carolina); preserve the history and heritage of this music first through the acquisition and preservation of commercial and non-commercial recordings, books, music, and other appropriate materials; capture this music as it exists today through contemporary field recordings and audio/videotaping; and be a repository for any and all materials relating to African-American music in the South.” Included in the archive are books, hymnals, scores, vertical files, sheet music, documents, photographs, memorabilia, field recordings, and oral histories related to all types of African-American music such as spirituals, gospel music, Gullah music, blues, ragtime, jazz, and protest songs.

All of the materials in the archive will be preserved through current archiving procedures and will be made available to scholars and enthusiasts via the Music Library’s Website. The Website presents recordings, photos, scores, and curated presentations enhanced by visual material from the USC Film Library’s Fox Movietone News Collection. Movietone News film clips taken between 1919 and 1936 cover such topics as “Gullah Musicians,” “Piedmont and Low-Country Blues Artists,” “Southern Gospel Choirs,” “African-American Brass Bands,” “Southern Work Song Traditions,” “Dance Bands and Orchestras,” and “Early Jazz Artists.”

Eventually the Website will be expanded to provide an online directory of resources in other Southern libraries, museums, and repositories.

CSAM was officially launched with a one-day symposium and benefit concert on October 25. The symposium featured invited scholars and the concert included the performing ensembles the Hallelujah Singers, the BJ Scott Choir of Husbah Baptist Church, and Kenny and the Tigers, a shout band. Hosting the event was South Carolina artist, Jonathan Green, who granted the reproduction of one of his paintings for use on the symposium’s poster and program booklet.

Future plans call for USC to be the hub for a statewide directory of sheet music and other items related to African-American music in the South. Contributors to the directory would include colleges such as Claflin, Benedict, and the College of Charleston as well as churches throughout the state. The Music Library staff would collect the needed data, do the scanning, act as consultants, and help with preservation of the original materials. The owners could opt to deposit their holdings with the Music Library for reasons of climate control, security, and access.

Network Digital Music

Jennifer Ottervik praises Tony McLawhorn, director of Educational Software Development in the College of Science and Mathematics, for making his NetDM system available to music students in several courses offered by the School of Music. For a small cost, students are provided with a CD which gives them access to recordings of assigned music selections. Students can access the CD from any PC or Mac computer rather than having to come to the Music Library for their listening assignments. The music is stored on the Music Library’s server, so it is available to all students all the time.

Advantages to the library of this system include fewer staff hours issuing and reshelving CD’s, tapes, and records, as well as the saving of wear and tear on library equipment and media.

Digital Sheet Music Project

In the spring of 2002 a Music Library supporter, Mary Elizabeth Newton, was looking for a way to enhance the library’s offerings and, at the same time, to honor her head librarian, Jennifer Ottervik. Ottervik mentioned her dream of establishing a digital sheet music database, and Newton realized she had found her project. The project involves entering information about all of the library’s 10,000 pieces of classical, popular, and sacred sheet music (defined as a cover and up to nine pages of music) into a Web-accessible database. The database record for each item may be searched by keyword, title, composer, arranger, lyricist, first line of text, publisher, date published, subject, and donor. After purchasing a scanner and appropriate software, Ottervik trained about seven graduate students to begin adding the records. So far about 500 items have been cataloged.

The only other institutions with similar projects are Duke, Brown, and Johns Hopkins Universities and the Library of Congress.

Ottervik comments, “This project will allow many pieces of music to be discovered, studied, and performed by students and scholars who otherwise would never have known the music even existed.”
USC Acquires Joseph Cohen Collection of World War I Literature

A major collection of works by the World War I poet-painter Isaac Rosenberg (1890–1918) has been acquired by the Thomas Cooper Library. The collection includes Rosenberg’s first and rarest book, Night and Day (1912) as well as material on other Great War poets. The new collection came by gift-purchase from Rosenberg’s biographer, Prof. Joseph Cohen. In announcing the acquisition, Paul Willis, dean of libraries, said, “Combined with the Joseph M. Brucelli Great War Collection, this new material positions the TCL collection among the leading American research resources for the study and teaching of the literature, history, and culture of World War I.”

Told of the new collection, the literary critic Harold Bloom, Sterling Professor of Humanities at Yale University and Berg Professor of English at New York University, called Rosenberg “comparable to Wilfred Owen in terms of genius and imaginative endowments.” Owen is also strongly represented in the Cohen Collection. Rosenberg’s best poems, Bloom said, “are among the permanent contributions to the poetry of the English language. Any archive or discovery of Rosenberg’s work is an important contribution to literary scholarship.”

Isaac Rosenberg, recognized as the first significant Jewish poet in English literature, was, with Rupert Brooke and Owen, one of the three major poets killed in the Great War, and the only one who served in the ranks. He died on the Somme in 1918.

Items in the Collection

Before his death, Rosenberg published three poetry pamphlets. Produced by a small print shop in London, they are among the great rarities in 20th-century English poetry. The Cohen Collection’s copy of Night and Day has an additional manuscript poem by the author. Copies of Rosenberg’s other two pamphlets are in Thomas Cooper Library’s Joseph M. Brucelli Great War Collection.

Only two other libraries in the world (Yale and Oxford) have all three of Rosenberg’s publications.

Other highlights of the Cohen Collection include a letter from the trenches in July 1917, where Rosenberg reports, “I managed to jot down some ideas for poems now & then...They are actual transcripts of the battlefield”; Rosenberg’s charcoal drawing “Hark, Hark, the Lark” (1912), together with a self-portrait, and other sketches; autograph letters from Robert Graves, Ezra Pound, Osbert Sitwell, and others; extensive research files preserving Cohen’s contacts in the 1950s with those who had known Rosenberg and Owen before and during the Great War; over 300 volumes by or about the Great War poets (notably Owen, Graves, and Siegfried Sassoon); and contemporary anthologies and periodicals.

The Collector: Professor Joseph Cohen

Professor Joseph Cohen’s World War I literature collection was started in 1952 when he was a graduate student in the English Department of the University of Texas. Cohen, undertaking research for a dissertation on Wilfred Owen, began to identify and contact surviving family, friends, and acquaintances of the poet; to locate and acquire the poet’s work including all his appearances before his death in 1918 and all posthumous editions and appearances; and to collect all related published literary criticism, scholarship, memoirs, and ephemera. While his primary focus was on Owen, Cohen began simultaneously to collect material on Isaac Rosenberg, Siegfried Sassoon, Robert Graves, Rupert Brooke, and other Great War figures. 

Joining the English faculty at Tulane University, Cohen continued to build his Great War collection. His research in the field culminated in his book Journey To The Trenches: The Life of Isaac Rosenberg 1890–1918 (London and New York, 1975).

World War I Collections at USC

At Thomas Cooper Library, the Cohen Collection joins and enhances the Joseph M. Brucelli Great War Collection. Dean Paul Willis described the new collection as “a notable example of the library’s policy of building to strength, complementing the Brucelli Collection.” The Joseph M. Brucelli Collection was begun in 1997 by Arlyn and Matthew J. Brucelli. It is an in-progress research archive for the literary, historical, and cultural aspects of World War I. Its fields of specialization are the literature of the American Expeditionary Force, British novels and poetry of the war, the air war, and trench warfare. The collection includes sheet music, posters, original art, manuscripts, correspondence, photo albums, scrapbooks, and glass slides. Among recent additions donated by Professor and Mrs. Brucelli are a large group of French Great War posters.
“The Joseph Heller Papers” Exhibition Opens at Thomas Cooper Library

Thomas Cooper Library’s current exhibition features the life and writing of American novelist Joseph Heller (1923–1999). The exhibition is chiefly drawn from USC’s Joseph Heller Archive which houses over 150,000 pages, drafts, typescripts, and items of correspondence documenting Heller’s achievement over a period of 30 years.

To mark the opening of the exhibition, the Thomas Cooper Society sponsored a talk by American author, Christopher Buckley, on October 10 which constituted the Thomas Cooper Library event in this year’s USC Literary Festival. The exhibition, the first since the archive came to USC, will continue until the end of December.


Alongside the manuscripts for several novels are the distinctive file cards on which Heller recorded ideas and tried out one-liners for his novels. Also on display is Heller’s scrapbook of reviews and publicity for *Catch-22* as well as posters for the film.

The Joseph Heller archive, acquired by USC in 1997 with Heller’s active involvement and support, is the largest single collection anywhere supporting research on Heller’s work. Since then, Valerie Heller has donated a substantial group of the foreign editions of her late husband’s books.

Regularly ranked among the top 10 American novelists of the 20th century, Heller did air-crew training in South Carolina during World War II, and he returned here most recently in 1996, to receive USC’s Thomas Cooper Medal for Distinction in the Arts and Sciences.

Prof. Matthew J. Bruccoli and Prof. Park Bucker, of USC-Sumter, have recently co-authored *Joseph Heller: A Descriptive Bibliography* (University of Pittsburgh Press/Oak Knoll, 2002).

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world which has itself become increasingly competitive. Much of the information which scholars use in 2002 is in a digital format so that, in some instances, information from the USC Columbia libraries can be shared not only with the other USC campuses, but also with citizens throughout the state of South Carolina. It seems to me that expanding access to information resources—be it to a physician, K–12 teacher, professional, business person, those involved in distance learning, or the public at large—has the potential to influence economic development in the state as well as to enhance the general quality of life. Working in cooperation with other college, university, school, and public libraries as well as the South Carolina State Library, the University Libraries are pursuing the goal of a state-wide virtual library.

My vision for the research library of the 21st-century is to provide students, faculty, and staff with all relevant information products when needed, with coverage that is both current and comprehensive. We must provide a single entry point to this information from computers in the libraries, offices, labs, homes, and residence halls where our patrons do their research. The USC libraries must continue to position themselves to manage the digital information environment in which they now work and must prepare themselves to deal with other significant changes close at hand which impact scholarly communications.

The libraries at USC must collect and preserve the intellectual and cultural heritage of South Carolina by building on the great strengths in the South Caroliniana Library and expand access to these collections by digitizing key primary source materials. By the same token, the distinguished special and rare collections in Thomas Cooper Library must be maintained and strengthened.

I have two major University library initiatives underway this year. These include a review of the libraries’ organizational structure and working toward a rare books addition to and renovation of Thomas Cooper Library. Private funding will be required for the rare books addition.

I look forward to meeting you, the USC faculty and staff, in the coming months. I am anxious to hear your concerns about library services and I welcome and appreciate your support.
Giving New Life to Old Books

In March of 2002, Holly Herro, from the USC Conservation Facility, organized the Thomas Cooper Library Book Repair Unit. The goal of the unit is to repair damaged books from the library’s general collections so they can again be available to users.

The participants, who are library faculty, staff, and student volunteers, learn how to assess various types of book damage. They also learn many book repair techniques, such as rebacking and recasing. When possible, all of the original components of the damaged books are retained and used during the repair process.

Ready to get busy with their mission of saving old books are, seated, left to right, Sallie Ruff, Laurel Baker, Allison Thiem, Ashley Wight, and Tonia Simpson. Standing, left to right, are Jeff Berg, Jody Mack, Holly Herro, Joe Henderson, Clara Farnstrom, and Lavrahn Henderson. Other staff members who work on the project include: Pat Harwell, Mae Jones, Ben Peterson, Nathan Scott, Sharon Verba and Greg Wilsbacker.

In Memoriam

University Libraries’ faculty and staff members were saddened to learn of the passing on September 30 of Darrick Hart, preservation archivist and assistant conservator at the Arthur E. Holman, Jr. Conservation Laboratory.

Darrick earned two degrees from USC, a BA in history (1995) and an MA/MLS in public history, archives track (2000). He participated in a field school in England in 1998 as part of his work in the public history program and, in 1996-99 he worked on a committee to create a museum for the Columbia Fire Department. The oral history interviews which he conducted with African-American firemen who integrated the department became the basis for his MA thesis.

All of Darrick’s colleagues at the libraries will miss him and extend to his family their sincere condolences.

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America” and the Paris Review as “the best journal in the English language.” During his remarks, Plimpton reminisced about his long and varied literary career and about other awards he has received recently including induction into the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the French Legion d’Honneur as a Chevalier. Following his remarks, Plimpton presented Bruccoli a framed, hand-written manuscript page from Ernest Hemingway’s short story, “The Battler.” The page had been given to Plimpton by Hemingway in the 1950s in connection with an article for the Paris Review. The article was instrumental in revising public perception of Hemingway from a writer who liked to role-play as a tough guy into a sympathetic figure who was a committed artist. The manuscript page had hung in Plimpton’s office for the many intervening years and Plimpton presented it to Bruccoli in appreciation for his support of the Paris Review and his literary accomplishments, including publishing the Dictionary of Literary Biography. Bruccoli stated that he was very surprised and pleased to receive the unique gift and that, after enjoying it awhile, he would present the framed page to the Thomas Cooper Library Department of Rare Books and Special Collections.

Libraries Offer New Online Databases

ABSEES Online: ABSEES Online is the online version of The American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies. ABSEES covers North American (U.S. and Canadian) scholarship on East-Central Europe, Russia, and the former Soviet Union. It contains bibliographic records for journal articles, books, book chapters, book reviews, dissertations, online resources, and selected government publications. USC receives updates monthly and has coverage from 1990 to the present.

WorldCat: WorldCat is the world’s foremost bibliographic database, with over 46 million bibliographic records representing 400 languages. It covers information from before 1,000 B.C. to the present, and includes holdings information from libraries in 45 countries. A typical record in WorldCat contains a physical description of an item and information about its intellectual content. Some records also include tables of contents, cover art, book summaries, and notes about authors. Publications covered include books, visual materials, computer files, Internet resources, serial publications, sound recordings, archival material, articles, musical scores, and maps. USC receives daily updates.

EconLit: EconLit is the American Economic Association’s electronic bibliography of economics literature throughout the world. It contains abstracts, indexing, and links to full-text articles in economics journals. It abstracts books and indexes, articles in books, working papers series, and dissertations and provides the full-text of JEL book reviews. USC receives monthly updates with coverage from 1969 to the present.

Bibliography of the History of Art/ Bibliographie d’Histoire de l’Art (BHA): BHA is the world’s most extensive abstracting and indexing service for current literature on the history of art in Europe and the New World. It surveys the visual arts from late antiquity to the present, offering researchers access to more than 4,000 periodicals published in 45 languages, as well as art-related books, exhibition and dealers’ catalogs, conference proceedings, dissertations, and bibliographies. USC has coverage from 1973 to the present.
USC Dedicates Arthur E. Holman, Jr. Conservation Laboratory

The USC Libraries’ conservation laboratory was dedicated on September 18 to the memory of Arthur E. Holman Jr. The facility, which opened in 1999, will be called the Arthur E. Holman, Jr. Conservation Laboratory. Honoring Mr. Holman in this way was made possible by a donation from John E. Swearingen who was Mr. Holman’s USC classmate and lifelong friend.

Present at the dedication ceremony were Mrs. Arthur E. Holman Jr. of Anderson, and her children, A. Elliott Holman III, and Emily Holman Sands (Mrs. George), as well as Mrs. Andrew Sorensen, wife of the University’s new president, and Mr. and Mrs. Guy Lipscomb. Mr. Lipscomb was a classmate at USC with both Swearingen and Holman Jr. Those attending the dedication were welcomed by Paul Willis, dean of the University Libraries. Willis expressed his gratitude for Swearingen’s generosity in support of the conservation facility, regretting that Swearingen could not be present for the event. He recalled that the late George Terry, former dean of University Libraries, had toured the Library Annex and Conservation Laboratory with Swearingen shortly after it opened.

A. Elliott Holman III, spoke about his recollections of the friendship between his father and Swearingen and of their mutual love for the University. He also mentioned his father’s love of history, especially South Carolina history, and expressed his certainty that his father would have been very pleased to be associated with the work of a conservation laboratory and its dedication to preserving precious literary and historical materials. In conclusion he said, “On behalf of my mother, my sister, and our ‘extended’ Carolina family, I thank John Swearingen and his powerful example of loyalty, friendship and generosity to my father and to the University of South Carolina.”

The Arthur E. Holman, Jr. Conservation Laboratory contains 2,300 square feet of work space. It houses state-of-the-art conservation equipment including custom-made moveable work tables, fume hoods, an industrial-strength dust collection system, a leaf caster, a surgical-grade microscope, and a large collection of finishing tools for fine bindings. Preservation Librarian and Conservator Holly Herro is in charge of the laboratory’s operations.

Shown at the dedication of the Arthur E. Holman, Jr. Conservation Laboratory are, left to right, A. Elliott Holman III, Mrs. Arthur E. Holman Jr., and Emily Holman Sands.

News from South Caroliniana Library

SCL’s collection of the papers of education reformer M. Hayes Mizell will be arranged and described through a grant of $99,000 from the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation. During his career, Mizell played an important role in furthering the debate over improving the American education system. In 1987, he became director of the Clark Foundation’s Program for Disadvantaged Youth, now known as the Program for Student Achievement.

Work on the project began in April 2002 and should be completed by 2005. Supervisory staff for the project are principal investigator, Henry Fulmer, of the manuscripts department, and Herb Hartsook of Modern Political Collections. The project archivist is Craig M. Keeney, a graduate student in public history/library and information science.

This past December, the Modern Political Collections division of the South Caroliniana Library received a major federal grant of $848,130 to promote its activities. The bulk of the funds have been deposited in a state endowed account and will generate income to support the arrangement and description of collections and, beginning in 2005, a biannual symposium on contemporary government, politics, and society. These symposia will feature noted scholars, leaders in government, and others and will highlight the division’s holdings and the research to which those collections lend themselves. Issues currently being considered for the inaugural symposium include the federal budget, rise of the Republican Party in the South, and rethinking of the welfare system.

Treasures from the Film Library

The Newsfilm Archive Preservation Endowment, begun in 1999, has provided funds to preserve a number of unique, exciting, and sometimes vital motion picture film clips. “Caddies of the Shady Rest, the first and only all African-American Country Club, 1925” shows a frame from one of the most recently preserved reels of Movietone News film.

For more information, visit the Newsfilm Library Website at www.sc.edu.newsfilm.
Library Receives New James Ellroy Materials

American novelist, James Ellroy, has donated a major group of research materials for his literary archives at Thomas Cooper Library. Ellroy, author of 15 books including *The Black Dahlia* (1987), *L.A. Confidential* (1990), and the memoir *My Dark Places* (1996), selected USC as home for his literary papers in 1999.

Since then, Ellroy has added a second group of papers, and Dr. Richard Layman, a USC alumnus and former president of the Thomas Cooper Society, has donated the autograph manuscripts for *L.A. Confidential* and Ellroy’s novel, *White Jazz* (1992). “Of the writers of this generation,” Layman believes, “Ellroy is among those most likely to be read by the next.”

This summer, as Ellroy prepared to move back from Kansas to his native California, he made a third major donation: the manuscript and multiple typescripts for his latest novel *The Cool Six Thousand* (2001); file copies of his magazine contributions; over 300 different editions, reprints and translations of his books; and a large collection of framed posters, photographs and other visual materials.

“Ellroy’s writing has a worldwide following,” says Tom McNally, University Librarian for Public Services, who went to Kansas City to arrange transportation for the latest gift. “The books and visual materials in this latest gift complement the manuscripts by showing the huge public response to his work.”

Since the original gift, Thomas Cooper Library’s Rare Books & Special Collections staff have worked with several television and other media projects on Ellroy and his work. The James Ellroy Archive is part of USC’s continuing initiative to build research collections documenting modern American literature, publishing, and the profession of authorship.

Gift Supports Assistantship

General and Mrs. T. Eston Marchant Jr. have recently donated a gift of property to the USC Educational Foundation, the proceeds from the sale of which will benefit the William Davis Melton University Archives Graduate Assistantship at the South Caroliniana Library.

The Marchants have long been avid supporters of the University. Gen. Marchant is a Carolina alumnus (BS 1942, JD 1947). He chaired the Board of Trustees from 1970–1978. After service in the United States Marine Corps during World War II, Marchant continued to serve his country in the South Carolina National Guard, ultimately as its Adjutant General from 1978 to 1995.

Caroline Bristow Marchant is the granddaughter of Dr. William Davis Melton who was president of the University from 1922 to 1926. She and her brothers, Walter James Bristow Jr., and William Melton Bristow, established the endowment earlier this year.

University Libraries

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*Reflections* is a publication of the University Libraries. Correspondence may be addressed to the editor at Thomas Cooper Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, 29208 or to NancyHW@gwm.sc.edu

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After a one-year hiatus, *Reflections* is resuming publication in print format. No issue was published in fall 2001, and the spring 2002 issue was published only online. Back issues may be found on the Libraries’ Web site at http://www.sc.edu/library/publications/pub.html.