

# The Thomas Cooper Society Newsletter

FALL 2009

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, COLUMBIA, SC

## LIBRARIES RECEIVE MAJOR CHURCHILL COLLECTION



A photograph of Churchill taken during the war years

A reception in September served to welcome to the University Libraries a major new gift, the Dr. E. Conyers O'Bryan Jr. Collection of Winston S. Churchill.

Dr. O'Bryan assembled this collection of the great British statesman's writings, signed books, artwork, and memorabilia over several decades. In his remarks, he told a group of library supporters about his lifelong admiration for the person he characterized as "the man of the century" and the ways that admiration prompted his collecting efforts. "Wouldn't it be wonderful," he recalled thinking, "if hundreds of people could have the opportunity to see and use the things from this collection."

Dean of Libraries Tom McNally, President of the University Harris Pastides, and University Trustee Darla Moore expressed appreciation to O'Bryan for his generosity.

President Pastides reminded the audience of Churchill's renown as a writer as well as a statesman, and that he had been named *Time* magazine's "Man of the Year" three times in recognition of his multiple talents. Pastides also pointed out the research advantages of coupling this new collection with the

*continued on page 2*

## UNIVERSITY RECEIVES GIFT OF UNIQUE MILTON PORTRAITS

Dr. Peter Koblenzer and Dr. Caroline Koblenzer of Philadelphia have donated oil portraits of the 17th-century English poet John Milton and of his mother, Sara Milton, to the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. The gift was announced and the portraits were unveiled at a Thomas Cooper Society reception during the recent Southeastern Renaissance Conference hosted by the Department of English Language and Literature.

The John Milton portrait, depicting him as a 21-year-old Cambridge University student, was painted by Benjamin VanderGucht in 1792 from an earlier portrait by Cornelius Janssen, dated 1629. For nearly two centuries Vander-

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Shown left to right are Patrick Scott, Robert J. Wickenheiser, Dr. Peter Koblenzer, Dr. Caroline Koblenzer, Harris Pastides, Patricia Moore-Pastides, and Tom McNally.

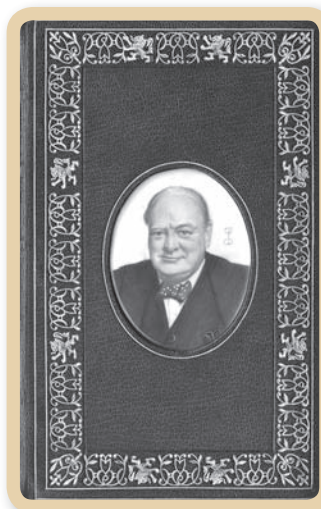
*Churchill, continued from page 1*



**Churchill's painting "The Garden at Wilton," ca. 1935, oil on canvas**



**Shown at the reception honoring Dr. Conyers O'Bryan's gift of Churchill materials are Patricia Moore-Pastides, Tom McNally, Harris Pastides, Darla Moore, and O'Bryan.**



**Cover of *My Early Life: A Roving Commission* (1930) with red Morocco and gilt Cowsay-style binding**

72 film clips about Churchill available in the University's Movietone Newsfilm Collection. Several of these film clips ran on a film loop during the event.

Dr. Patrick Scott, director of the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, described the collection as "a very significant addition to the University's special collections in 20th-century world history, especially for the two world wars."

#### **THE DR. E. CONYERS O'BRYAN JR. COLLECTION OF WINSTON S. CHURCHILL**

The O'Bryan collection includes more than 80 volumes of Winston S. Churchill's (1874–1964) writings published during his lifetime, many of which are first editions. Among these are a rare copy of Churchill's first book, *The Story of the Malakand Field Force* (1897), a true-life adventure story of British military activity on the Indian frontier; copies of Churchill's only novel, *Savrola* (1899); several of his books on the Boer War in South Africa; signed presentation copies of his multivolume biography of his ancestor, the Duke of Marlborough; and his multivolume histories of the first and second world wars.

Also part of the collection are five volumes from Churchill's library at Chartwell, that were passed down to his only son, Randolph, and bear the bookplates of both men. One is a presentation copy of a work on Danish history given to Churchill by the king of Denmark in 1950. There are several contemporary photographs of Churchill in the collection, including one signed portrait. There is also a gentleman's silver pillbox with the initials "WSC" given to Churchill as a birthday gift by a friend.

Two highlights of the collection are artworks: an original oil painting by Churchill and a large limited-edition mezzotint portrait of him in front of the prime minister's official residence at Number 10, Downing Street. The painting is an original landscape painted circa 1935, when Churchill was in the political wilderness, a lonely voice against the appeasement of Nazi Germany. It depicts the tranquil water garden at the Wilton estate, near Salisbury, in Wiltshire, England, the ancestral home of the earls of Pembroke. The painting has been initialed by Churchill and is included in the authoritative catalogue raisonné of Churchill's paintings authored by David Coombs.

#### **DR. EDWARD CONYERS O'BRYAN JR.**

Conyers O'Bryan was born in Kingstree, S.C., and earned his BA from the University and his MD from the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). He served as a medical officer in the United States Marines before returning to MUSC for his residency.

O'Bryan is now in private practice in cardiology in Florence, and he holds a full clinical professorship at MUSC. He has been a member of the MUSC Board of Trustees since 1976, serving as chair from 1994 to 1998 and again in 2000. His civic activities include serving on the Board of Directors of the Kiwanis Club, the Big Brother Association, and the Family YMCA. In 1995, O'Bryan was awarded the Order of the Palmetto. He and his wife, Jennie, have one child.



**Portrait of John Milton**

*Gift, continued from page 1*

Gucht's version was the only record of this image, as the whereabouts of the original Janssen portrait was lost until the 1960s. Commissioned by the Earl Harcourt, the Vander-Gucht portrait remained in his family until Dr. Koblenzer, who had been at school near the Harcourt family home, Nuneham, purchased it at auction in 1993.

The second painting, the only known portrait of Sara Milton, shows her in stern Puritan dress and dates from 1621. It also was probably painted by Cornelius Janssen, though a second artist, Robert Walker, who had strong Puritan connections, has also been proposed. The provenance of this painting, documented in detail from the mid-18th century forward, suggests that Arthur Onslow may have bought both it and Janssen's portrait of John Milton from Milton's widow.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Dr. Charles Brent Weasmer** (1930–2009), who taught political science at the University from 1959 until his retirement in 1987, passed away on May 14. During his retirement years, he continued to serve the University as a volunteer with McKissick Museum, the South Caroliniana Library, and Thomas Cooper Library.



**Portrait of Sara Milton**

## NEW GIFT SUPPORTS EXISTING MILTON COLLECTION

The Koblenzers chose the University for this gift when they learned of the library's Robert J. Wickenheiser Collection of John Milton, acquired in 2006 with the leading support of the William L. Richter Family Foundation. The portraits and selected items from the Wickenheiser collection will be displayed together in the Richter Seminar Room in the new Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library, scheduled to open next spring.

"The Koblenzers' generous gift brings into focus the significance of the Wickenheiser collection, both for teaching and research," said Dr. Patrick Scott, director of special collections. "The continuing display of these beautiful portraits will remind visitors and students that the library has a world-class collection of one of the world's most influential poets."

For more information, please see: [www.sc.edu/library/spcoll/britlit/milton/koblenzer.html](http://www.sc.edu/library/spcoll/britlit/milton/koblenzer.html).

**The Reverend Delos Corderman** (1937–2009) passed away May 9. He served as a Thomas Cooper Society board member from 2006 to 2008. He was a retired minister in the United Methodist Church.

## THE THOMAS COOPER SOCIETY EVENTS—2008–2009



**Tom McNally, Susan Gibbs Robinson, and John Lee at the society's annual general meeting**

### REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

I have enjoyed being president this year as the Thomas Cooper Society continued its tradition of sponsoring and supporting an array of multidisciplinary events for students, faculty, and the community. Ever since Judith Felix handed me the gavel on Aug. 12, 2008, it has been a pleasure to work with the board, the library leadership, and our membership.

During the year we have watched, with satisfaction and pride, the construction of the Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library and the appointment of Tom McNally as dean of libraries.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

The society provided funds to support audio tours of major library exhibits during the year. Purchases included five iPod Shuffles, a digital voice recorder, and a lapel microphone. We thank Jeffrey Makala for his work on this project.

A memorial gift honoring Dr. Matthew J. Bruccoli was purchased by the society for the Joseph M. Bruccoli Great War Collection. It is *The Lafayette Flying Corps*, edited by James Norman Hall and Charles Bernard Nordhoff (Houghton Mifflin, 1920, 2 vols.).

The board voted to fund one exhibition catalogue to be chosen by the library staff.

The following were sponsored or cosponsored by the society this year:

- an exhibit opening and reception for “Mapping the History of Cartography in Rare Books and Special Collections”
- support for the Victorians Institute’s exhibit, lecture, and reception

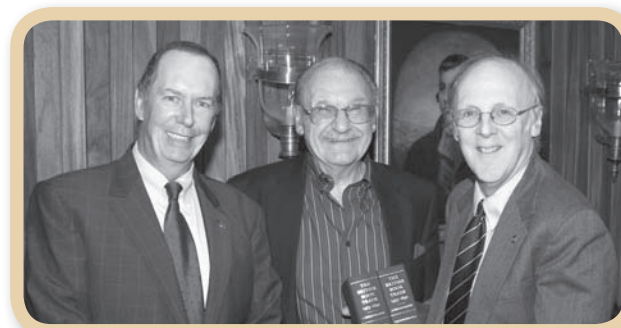
- a reception for the opening of the Medieval Voices exhibit at the Music Library
- a reception honoring novelist David Baldacci during the University’s Fall Festival of Authors
- a holiday coffee for University faculty and staff retirees
- a booth at the annual South Carolina Humanities Council Book Festival
- a program honoring Professor Trevor Howard-Hill on the publication of his book *The British Book Trade, 1495–1890*
- a reception after the A.C. Moore lecture titled “Darwin, Dover, and Intelligent Design”
- a screening of the film *The Curious Mr. Catesby*, followed by a reception.
- a reception at the international conference “Robert Burns at 250: An Exhibition from the G. Ross Roy Collection of Robert Burns and Scottish Poetry.” A highlight of the reception was the announcement of Elizabeth Sudduth’s book *The G. Ross Roy Collection of Robert Burns, An Illustrated Catalogue*.

The featured speaker at the annual general meeting was Dr. David Shields, author of *Pioneering American Wine: Writings of Nicholas Herbemont, Master Viticulturist*. He spoke about the world-renowned Herbemont variety of grapes and their beginnings here in Columbia.

Ann Stewart Plein was named winner of the 2009 Thomas Cooper Library Student Book Collecting Contest for her collection “Beautiful Bindings: The Designs of Margaret Armstrong.” The runner-up was Thomas Maluck for his collection of English-language manga by Osamu Tezuka.

Thanks to Warren Darby and the membership committee for its work this year. Our total current membership is 650. Upon the committee’s recommendation, the board voted to increase the cost of memberships to \$35 for an

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**Tom McNally, Trevor Howard-Hill, and Patrick Scott**

## RENAISSANCE ASTRONOMY BOOKS GIVEN TO UNIVERSITY

Robert B. Ariail, a 1955 Carolina graduate, recently gave the University three important illustrated works of early astronomy. These are the first books in a planned new major collection, The Robert B. Ariail Collection of Historical Astronomy.

Included in the donation are Alessandro Piccolomini's *De la Sfera del Mondo* (Venice, 1540), the first printed atlas of the stars, illustrated with 48 woodcut charts; Johann Bayer's *Uranometria, Omnium Asterismorum Contines Schemata* (Augsburg, 1603), which added 12 new constellations and developed a new way of referencing the stars in each constellation using the letters of the Greek alphabet; and John Gabriel Doppelmayr's *Atlas Novus Caelestis* (Nuremberg, 1742), a comprehensive star atlas with 30 double-page hand-colored engraved plates that dealt with the then-modern astronomical systems of such giants as Copernicus, Tycho, Kepler, and Newton.

### ROBERT B. ARIAIL

Ariail, a longtime amateur astronomer, has built an extensive collection of more than 5,000 astronomy books to support his work in scientific observation, which involves correspondence with astronomers worldwide. The books, like his collection of modern and antique telescopes, have been essential tools in his ongoing research. These recent gifts to the University will enable Ariail to share these resources with a much larger group of researchers.

"These first gifts are books of great beauty and historical significance," said Dr. Patrick Scott, director of special collections. "The Ariail collection will be of continuing importance both for teaching and research. The scheduled opening in spring 2010 of the Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections

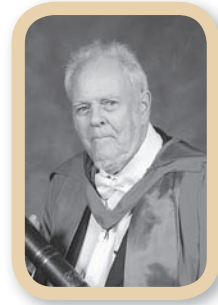
Library will provide improved facilities for ensuring large collections such as Mr. Ariail's are well-housed and can be utilized fully."



A star map from John Gabriel Doppelmayr's *Atlas Novus Caelestis* (1742)

## BURNS SCHOLAR DR. G. ROSS ROY RECEIVES HONORS

Dr. G. Ross Roy, Distinguished Professor Emeritus and curator of the University's G. Ross Roy Collection of Burnsiana and Scottish Literature, recently received three outstanding honors.



Dr. Roy in Glasgow

In April, he was presented with South Carolina's highest civilian honor, the Order of the Palmetto. In June, he was awarded the degree Doctor of Letters from the University of Glasgow at the Scottish university's annual Commemoration Day. And, finally, to mark his 85th birthday, a festschrift is being prepared in his honor.

Roy received the Order of the Palmetto during a major Burns conference held at the University last spring where many Burns materials which Roy had presented to the University were on exhibit. The award was given to Roy for his service to the state in promoting Scottish literature, for his role in furthering the recognition of the University as a center for its study in the United States and abroad, for his own scholarship on Burns, for the Roy collection ([www.sc.edu/library/spcoll/rarebook.html](http://www.sc.edu/library/spcoll/rarebook.html)), and for his 45-year editorship of *Studies in Scottish Literature*, described in the citation as a publication "justifiably famous all over the English-speaking world."

The Doctor of Letters degree recognizes Roy for his contributions to the understanding and advancement of Scottish literature. "Professor Roy is one of the greatest Burns scholars of the modern era," said Dr. Gerard Carruthers, head of Glasgow's Scottish literature department. After the award ceremony, the Scottish Arts Council announced that a new annual award, the Ross Roy Medal, will be given to a student enrolled at a Scottish university for the best essay in Scottish literature.

The festschrift honoring Roy's work, edited by Dr. Patrick Scott and Dr. Kenneth Simpson of the University of Glasgow, is titled *Robert Burns and Friends*. It contains essays by 15 scholars who have visited the University as W. Ormiston Roy Research Fellows, a tribute to Roy, and a list of his many publications.

Dr. and Mrs. Roy established the W. Ormiston Roy Research Fellowship in 1990 to honor Roy's grandfather, who first introduced him to the poetry of Robert Burns.

## EXHIBITS FROM RARE BOOKS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



Audubon's "Wild Turkey"

The Department of Rare Books and Special Collections' traveling exhibit "Southern Naturalists—Audubon in Context" is currently showing at Hickory Hill House Museum in Thomson, Ga., owned by the Watson-Brown Foundation Inc. The exhibit, which is free and open to the public, will be on display until Dec. 12. Featured are works of

pioneer 18th- and 19th-century naturalists, including Mark Catesby and John James Audubon.

The traveling exhibit is part of the University Libraries' outreach program designed to give a broader audience access to some of its treasures. This exhibit was previously on display at the Upcountry History Museum in Greenville, S.C. and at USC Lancaster. In January, it will be on view at the Sandcastle on Kiawah Island, S.C.

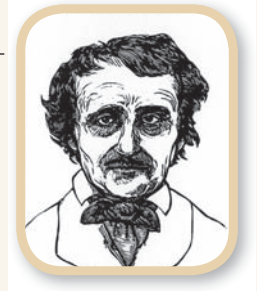
The selected texts for the 2009 First-Year Reading Experience were Marjane Satrapi's recent graphic novels *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood* and *Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return*. An exhibit at Thomas Cooper Library in the late summer provided context and historical material on Persia and Iran to enhance the students' reading experiences.

An exhibit, "Recent Gifts and Acquisitions, 2008–2009," of about 80 items was featured in Thomas Cooper Library's Graniteville Room during the summer and early fall.

Included in the exhibit were an illuminated manuscript given by Frances Glazebrook, John Milton books donated by Professor John T. Shawcross, the Gibbes-Robinson

Catesby, the first published description and illustration of a camellia (funded by the Ethelind Pope Brown Endowment), 18th-century books from Professor Edward Gregg and from the Taylor family, LeVaillant's illustrations of African birds (donated by Professor John Kenneth Adams), an important Darwin resource (funded by the Irvin Endowment), and Alfred Lord Tennyson proofs (funded by the Pope Rice/Rice Davis Library Treasures Endowment).

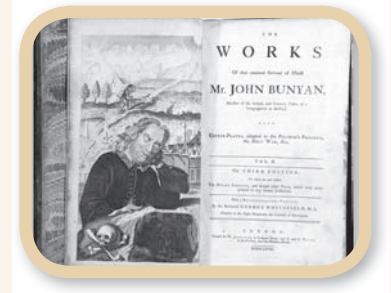
"Radical Errors": Edgar Allan Poe at 200" was on display in Thomas Cooper Library in the summer. The exhibit showcased the earliest of Poe's works held by rare books and special collections, including many of his writings that first appeared in various contemporary periodicals.



Wood engraving portrait of Poe done by Alan James Robinson for the 1984 Cheloniidae Press limited edition of *The Black Cat*

On display through Dec. 31 in the Thomas Cooper Library's Main Floor West Gallery is an exhibit titled "'The Similitude of a Dream': John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* from the Robert J. Wickenheiser Collection."

The exhibit features highlights from the full collection, which contains more than 900 separate editions of *The Pilgrim's Progress from This World to That Which Is to Come, Delivered under the Similitude of a Dream*, first published in 1678, as well as early editions of many of Bunyan's other works. It comes to the library with a generous gift element from Dr. and Mrs. Wickenheiser, who also built the library's Milton collection.



*Events, continued from page 4*

individual and \$45 for a family. Our membership has been enriched this year by the participation of Ex Libris Society members.

We appreciate our treasurer, Professor Lucille Mould, for an excellent job reporting the society's finances. We have maintained our fiscal strength in both the operating budget and the endowment.

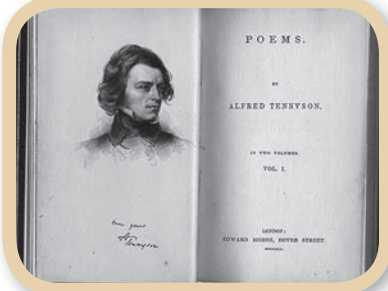
*The Thomas Cooper Society Newsletter* has been informative and attractive. Thanks to Nancy Washington for her continuing leadership as editor.

The committee proposed and the board approved honorary life memberships to Drs. Peter and Caroline Koblenzer, donors of 17th-century oil portraits of John Milton and Sara Milton.

Thanks for all your support.  
John C. Lee



David Shields



## “A USE IN MEASURED LANGUAGE”

The fall exhibit from rare books and special collections “A Use in Measured Language: An Exhibition for the Bicentenary of Alfred Tennyson,” which marks the bicentenary of the English poet, will be on display through February 2010.

Dr. Patrick Scott commented, “Born in 1809 in the tiny village of Somersby, Tennyson was hailed while still a student in Cambridge as ‘the greatest poet of our generation, perhaps of our century.’” His longer works, such as his religious poem “In Memoriam” (1850) and his Arthurian epic *Idylls of the King*, soon established themselves among the central, canonical works of English literature. Many of his shorter poems, such as “The Brook,” “The May-Queen,” and “The Charge of the Light Brigade,” entered popular culture as songs or recitation-pieces.

The current exhibit includes Tennyson’s first coauthored book, *Poems by Two Brothers* (1827), his posthumously published volume, *The Death of Ænone* (1892), one of his school textbooks, a book on the philosophy of science that he annotated in the 1830s, and two of the early proofs or “trial books” with which he tested readers’ reactions to his first *Idylls of the King*.

## NEWS BRIEFS

The **James Dickey Room**, displaying portraits, memorabilia, and selected books, has been relocated with new furniture to the east side of the Thomas Cooper Library’s Mezzanine level (near the administrative offices). The Dickey room was established as a teaching and conference room in 1997, when the University acquired the poet’s extensive personal library.

The University’s dean of libraries, Tom McNally, was the recipient of the **2009 Rempel Award**. The award is presented each year to a faculty or staff member who shows particular concern for the welfare of the student body.



**Tom McNally with the 2009 Rempel Award**

The University community has again benefited from an anonymous endowment gift that has supported a **Fall Festival of Authors** on campus for several years. The festival, which is free and open to the public, is conducted jointly by the University Libraries and the Department of English Language and Literature. Authors who presented readings during the October festival this year were Masha Hamilton, Billy Collins, and Kwame Dawes.

The University Libraries have joined forces with the University of South Carolina Press to launch **AccessAble Books**. The project republishes important out-of-print volumes of scholarship and regional history from the collections of the Thomas Cooper and South Caroliniana libraries. The volumes are available online via the libraries’ Web site ([www.sc.edu/library](http://www.sc.edu/library)) and in paperback editions from the press.



**Christina Rossetti, age 18, pencil drawing by her brother, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, from *New Poems* (1896)**

Donations to the libraries’ Treasures Acquisition Program (TAP) have funded the purchase of materials for a new research collection about the Victorian British poet **Christina Rossetti** (1830–1894). Department staff members were able to buy first editions of all but two of Rossetti’s books, as well as some of the magazines and anthologies to which she contributed poems.

A second gift to the TAP fund, from James P. Barrow ’62, allowed the purchase of Rossetti’s rarest book, *Verses* (1847), privately printed by her grandfather Gaetano Polidori when she was just 16. This copy is not just rare, but unique, because it includes

a set of the unbound sheets of the book, which preserves both the first and second versions of a page that Rossetti revised, and Polidori reprinted.

A recent addition to the University’s **Ernest Hemingway** collection is his corrected typescript for a 1935 article about deep-sea fishing off Florida. It was purchased for the library with a gift from the Edward Hallman trustees. Titled “Key West Letter” when it was published that May in *Esquire* magazine, the article anticipates some of the themes of Hemingway’s later best seller, *The Old Man and the Sea* (1952).

**The Thomas Cooper Society Newsletter  
Fall 2009**

The Thomas Cooper Society Newsletter is published twice a year by the society. Correspondence may be sent to the editor at Thomas Cooper Library, Room 417, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208, or to nancyhw@mailbox.sc.edu.

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