Willis Retires as Dean of Libraries; McNally Becomes Interim Dean

After five years of dedicated service to the University of South Carolina, Paul A. Willis retired as dean of the University Libraries on June 30. Thomas F. McNally was named interim dean.

During his tenure as dean, Willis provided exceptional leadership to staff members in all areas, enhancing development efforts and planning for a new special collections library for the Columbia campus. His work at the University culminated a career of 41 years of service, primarily at the University of Kentucky.

Upon Dean Willis’ retirement, the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries passed a resolution which “recognizes, applauds, and celebrates the career of Paul Willis, thanks him for his leadership and counsel, and wishes him well as he takes on new challenges in his retirement.”

Thomas F. McNally came to the Thomas Cooper Library in 1991 as University librarian for public services. In 2003, he was named director of Thomas Cooper Library.

McNally holds a BS Ed. degree from Kent State University and an MLS degree from the University of Washington. Prior to coming to Carolina, he worked in libraries at Ohio State University, the University of Michigan, and Loyola University of Chicago, primarily in the areas of reference, instruction, and management.

McNally intends to build on the foundation laid down by Paul Willis and his predecessor George Terry as the libraries continue to offer patrons the latest in electronic research materials, enhanced reference and interlibrary loan services, and improved physical facilities.

Allen Stokes Receives Honors

The South Caroliniana Library’s director, Allen H. Stokes Jr., has received two honor awards this year, the 2007 Governor’s Archives Award and an honorary degree from Wofford College in Spartanburg.

Governor’s Archives Award

The South Carolina State Historical Records Advisory Board (SC SHRAB) presents the Governor’s Archives Award annually. The board’s chair, Roy H. Tryon presented the award to Stokes at the annual meeting of the University South Caroliniana Society on April 21. In part, the nomination said, “We wish to nominate Allen H. Stokes Jr. for the Governor’s Archives Award in recognition of his lifelong dedication and invaluable contributions to our state in promoting a knowledge of and appreciation for the state’s history, particularly through his association with the South Caroliniana Library at the University of South Carolina as Manuscripts Librarian, 1972 to 1983, and director, 1983–2003 and 2005 to date.”

Wofford Honorary Degree

Stokes returned to the town where he grew up and the institution where he earned his first academic degree to receive an honorary degree on May 20. Program materials offered the following quote about Stokes: “Within the past 20 years, virtually no major work on the history of the South, and especially the history of South Carolina, has been accomplished without major praise for Stokes in contributing significantly to the making of each of these books. He is recognized nationally as one of the best archivists and directors of research collections in the country.”
JOHN MONROE JOHNSON PAPERS, 1894–1964

BY ALLEN STOKES

Born in the Pee Dee town of Marion, S.C., in 1878, John Monroe Johnson (1878–1964) was a son of John Monroe and Emma Grider Johnson. Young John studied at the University of South Carolina from 1895 to 1896 and at Furman University from 1896 to 1897. In 1898, he began to serve as acting color sergeant in the Heavy Battery, South Carolina Volunteer Artillery, in the Spanish-American War.

Johnson married Helen Barnwell in 1900, and the couple settled in Marion, where John practiced as a civil engineer in the firm of Johnson & Roberts. The bulk of the correspondence in the library’s collection of five linear feet consists of Johnson’s letters to Helen while he was serving with the 117th Engineer Regiment in the Rainbow (42nd) Division in France. Also included are World War I maps, a roster of the 117th Engineer Regiment, several issues of the Rainbow Reveille, and a photograph album of the 117th.

FOXHOLES IN FRANCE

Johnson was appointed a major in the First Battalion of the 117th Engineer Regiment before the unit’s departure from South Carolina. The unit arrived in France in November 1917, and on Dec. 8, Johnson thanked his wife for a Thanksgiving box: “I tell you it did not last long we tore into it in great shape.” He advised her not to pay attention to what she read in the press; “they publish the thing to make the public feel patriotic.” This was a theme which he often addressed, as in a letter of March 27, 1918, in which he commented: “Lot of stuff in the papers about offensive and guns the Germans have that shoot 75 miles, are hell. There is an offensive and a serious one, but it will be managed.” Again, in a letter of April 27, he remarked on news coverage in the press: “You ought to hear us laugh at the American papers in what they publish about Rainbow etc., etc. Biggest bunch of fudge you ever read. More men are casualties by health than by wounds from the enemy.” Two days later Johnson was promoted to lieutenant colonel.

During the winter months of 1918, the 117th served with French troops and was involved in the construction of shelters, the laying of barbed wire obstructions, and the excavation of trenches. Johnson’s letters could not inform his wife about his location or military operations, he could always comment on the mundane events of a soldier’s life. When writing Helen on April 22, he noted that he had just stepped out of “a good hot shower … and feel much more civilized, also I shave every morning, think of that.” Shaving was facilitated by “a funny little alcohol stove” he inherited from the chaplain. It was not suitable for making coffee “but heats my shaving water.” A fox terrier was assigned to the unit to perform duty as “the official rat killer. But he does not know anything at all about a rat, and refuses to have anything to do with rats whatever.” Johnson was scheduled to deliver two speeches on Memorial Day. He found humor in “a man from South Carolina making a speech on Yankee memorial day; and two at that.”

“SOLDIERS AS COURAGEOUS AS … ANY THE WORLD HAS EVER PRODUCED”

By July 1918, the 117th Engineer Regiment had relocated to the Champagne front and became more actively involved in combat as a German offensive was launched in this sector. In a letter of July 13 he tells of an adventure over territory “once held by the Bosch.” One week later, he recounts a recent battle in which his unit participated: “It is a wonderful sight to look over a real battle field and this was a real one & the Bosch got one in the nose and has a lot more coming to him from day to day. The American soldier’s the best in the lot without a doubt.” Commenting later on the performance of American soldiers, Johnson informed his wife, “I had the privilege of seeing some work by American soldiers as courageous as that performed by any soldiers the world has ever produced.”

ARMISTICE DAY

The following month, Johnson sensed that “this war is coming to a close according to schedule & we will see each other before for ever.” Johnson was promoted to colonel and chief engineer of the 42nd Division in October and anticipated a fight “that I commanded the Regt. from the first.” By the end of the month he speculated that the fighting would end soon. On Oct. 31, he wrote, “Things are moving fast towards the end, and I do not see how it can go much further.” The cessation of fighting came 11 days later, which prompted Johnson to speculate on when they might depart for home. The following day they were to move out of France, where they had spent “1 year & 21 days” and “were out of the battle scared country for the first time since Feb. & it looks funny to see towns intact & children & citizens all around.” Johnson considered the United States “the luckiest country … that ever did anything & will hereafter be listened to even more than heretofore in world politics & no one will itch to go to war with her.” Responding to a letter from his wife, Johnson observed that the Seabrooks were Republicans, which explained their condemnation of President Wilson. He
thought it advisable to “[k]eep out of these discussions & when people say all that fiery stuff you can bet your life they are out of range of the biggest gun. We wanted unconditional surrender & we got it.”

Although plans for returning home were uncertain by the first of the year, Johnson was giving thought to what model car he might acquire: “I understand that Cadillac is about $3,000, can’t stand that and if steamer does not suit me it will be another Cadillac of course.”

Along with making preparations to stand down, Johnson was pleased that a night school was being offered: “Many of the men are learning to read and to write & many in elementary arithmetic.” He was not happy that he had to participate in “another fool terrain exercise. Do not know why they insist on this fool stuff. Takes every officer & lots of men … & they go back disgusted.” Shortly before departure, Johnson informed his wife of an unfortunate incident that involved some soldiers who “went out wine hunting & it seems they had trouble locating wine so rapped a dutchman on the head with a stick to such an extent that he died.”

Johnson criticized the policy of allowing soldiers “to buy or drink the damned stuff” and remarked: “The record of the Am soldier would have been much better had it not been allowed.”

**AFTER THE WAR**

Johnson returned to his civil engineering practice in Marion in 1919. He participated actively in the American Legion and in reunions of the Rainbow Division. In 1927, the members of the American Legion returned to France. Among the mementoes of that gathering are a luncheon program hosted by Field Marshal Earl Haig and the Councils of the British Empire Service League and the text of the address delivered by French Prime Minister Poincaré at the banquet given by the French Government to the American Legion. Colonel Johnson was a strong advocate for veterans, and the collection contains letters of appreciation from a number who served in the Rainbow Division. Among the decorations bestowed on Johnson were the Legion of Honor of France and the Order of Leopold II of Belgium.

Monroe Johnson remained in South Carolina until 1935, when he was appointed assistant secretary of commerce under fellow South Carolinian Daniel C. Roper. Thus began a period of 21 years of service in various positions in the federal government. In June 1940 he filled a vacancy on the Interstate Commerce Commission and was reappointed in 1942 and 1949. Beginning in April 1944, he received a concurrent appointment as director of the Office of Defense Transportation. He remained in that post until the office was terminated in 1949. He retired from federal service in 1956 after serving as chair of the Interstate Commerce Commission in 1949–1950 and again from 1953 to 1956.

**WAR CLOUDS AGAIN**

There is only routine correspondence during the period of Johnson’s federal service, but he did receive a letter from Manila dated Aug. 2, 1941, which was written by his former Rainbow Division comrade Douglas MacArthur. MacArthur expressed appreciation for a letter from Johnson and stated his expectations as commander of Far Eastern Forces: “This pleases me very much especially as I have full confidence that we can successfully defend the integrity of this Archipelago. If we fight I will always have before me the vision of the Rainbow.”

Monroe Johnson received a three-page typed letter of April 15, 1942, from personal friend Louis Johnson, who represented President Roosevelt in New Delhi. This letter cited the deteriorating situation in India but expressed the writer’s admiration for Nehru, “who in my humble opinion, is the ultimate hope in the Indian situation. He is universally trusted by everyone except the British, their satellites, and a few Musselmens.” Louis Johnson was clearly disturbed by Whitehall’s repudiation of the negotiations conducted by Sir Stafford Cripps: “I think Sir Stafford returns to London a sadly disillusioned man and if he has the guts I think he has, you will be hearing much more of the inside of this story.” He thought that the masses of the people “want to help America” and “their willingness to help … exceeds their hatred and distrust of the British and particularly of the Indian Civil Service Commission.” He was incredulous that after Cripps’ departure “the Viceroy went on a 12-day shooting trip. He and the Indian Civil Service do not yet understand there is a war on.”

John Monroe Johnson was much in demand as a speaker in his various federal posts, especially while serving as director of the Office of Defense Transportation during and immediately after World War II. The collection contains one and a quarter linear feet of speeches and transcriptions of radio broadcasts and panel discussions. His most frequent topics included land, sea, and air transportation. Managing the nation’s transportation systems was of critical importance during the war, and Johnson proved to be a tough and able administrator of the nation’s transportation network.
“DRINKISM”: AN INTERVIEW WITH BLUESMAN DRINK SMALL

BY NICHOLAS MERIWETHER

A lengthy interview with famed South Carolina bluesman Drink Small is the subject of one of the most interesting recent donations to the South Caroliniana Library’s Oral History Program.

Conducted by former student assistant Timothy Landholt, the wide-ranging interview focuses on Small’s approach to the blues as a musical form and is peppered by songs and musical phrases that demonstrate his musical philosophy and wide-ranging talents. “I’ve been a fan of Drink’s ever since I was a boy,” Landholt explained recently. “When I saw him perform at a Five Points festival, I asked him afterward about one of his songs and our conversation didn’t want to end, so he ended up inviting me back to his house.” Small and Landholt were joined by local reggae musician Frank “Moses” Mitchell, and the three men spent a memorable and fascinating afternoon talking, singing, and playing the blues, with Small expounding on his distinctive and virtuoso interpretation of the Piedmont blues style.

Landholt’s interview makes a powerful and detailed addition to earlier interviews with Small conducted by retired University of South Carolina English professor Ben Franklin, whose interviews with South Carolina jazz and blues musicians comprise a vital collection at the library. USC Press will issue Franklin’s interviews in a book slated for publication in 2008, but the Oral History Program will continue to add interviews with South Carolina musicians on an ongoing basis.

“We’re grateful to donors like Mr. Landholt who not only take the time to conduct these interviews but who also are willing to undertake the work to make them available to our researchers here,” Allen Stokes, director of the library, commented. With this interview, music lovers can not only hear the legendary “Blues Doctor” explain his musical philosophy—nicknamed “Drinkism”—but also hear him demonstrate its expressiveness, vitality, and enduring emotional appeal.

EXHIBITS AND EVENTS

SOUTH CAROLINIANA LIBRARY

“The Great Adventure: The University of South Carolina in World War I”—Lumpkin Foyer, April 6, 2007–March 31, 2008

S.C. Authors Book Signing—Reading Room, Dec. 5, 5:30 p.m.

BOOK SIGNING FOR SOUTH CAROLINA AUTHORS HELD AT SOUTH CAROLINIANA LIBRARY

Seven South Carolina authors celebrated their achievements with a book signing and reception at the South Caroliniana Library on Dec. 5.

“WITH LOYAL DEVOTION, REMEMBERING THE DAYS ...”

BY NANCY WASHINGTON

These words from the University’s alma mater aptly describe two of the institution’s most devoted alumni, Deward and Sloan Brittain of Hartsville. The Brittain family was part of Carolina during the dark war years of the early 1940s. Deward graduated in 1942 and Sloan finished in 1943. After an eight-day honeymoon, Deward was on his way to serve his country in the South Pacific, and it was two years before the couple was reunited at the end of WWII. They celebrated the 64th anniversary of their marriage this year.

STUDENT DAYS

Both Deward and Sloan were journalism majors, and they met while working on The Gamecock. Deward was the editor and asked Sloan to write a story about daily life in the women’s dorms. He must have been pleased with the story (or with Sloan) because she gave him a byline. Later the story was reprinted in the Charlotte Observer and she got a byline there too. Deward remembers spending every Thursday evening at The State printing plant laying out the Friday issue of The Gamecock. Both Deward and Sloan worked for The Columbia Record, and Deward also worked for the Associated Press while still a student. After WWII, he worked for The Herald (Rock Hill) and later embarked on a career in manufacturing. Over the years the Brittain family lived in Ohio, North Carolina, and several places in South Carolina, eventually settling back in Hartsville, Sloan’s hometown.

Deward tells the story of working after high school in a textile mill in Rock Hill, sweeping the floors for 35 cents an hour. Of his $13.30 take-home pay, he put away $5 each week to save for his first year of college. While on campus, he made ends meet by writing term papers for law students who lived in his residence hall (Rutledge). He recalls, “I learned a lot about law doing those papers even though I never took a law class.” He also sold snacks in the dorms and helped the fraternities decorate the Longstreet gym for dances. An added bonus to that job was that he got to go to the dances free.

Sloan began her college career as a music major at Coker College in Hartsville. After two years there, she decided she wanted to finish at the University and also wanted to change her major. She was encouraged in her study of journalism and literature by her father, John C Hungerpiller, himself an author and educator who was principal of Hartsville High School. Sloan recalls her college days living in Sims residence hall, eating in Steward’s Hall, shopping at Tapp’s, and going to football games. One year in September, when Carolina played The Citadel in Orangeburg, she wore a beautiful new wool suit with a fur collar. (“Students always dressed up for games in those days,” she remembers.) By mid-afternoon she found the suit to be uncomfortably warm but decided to grin and bear it rather than take off the jacket and ruin her fashion image.

Deward and Sloan’s shared love of language and writing led both of them to enroll in Dr. Havilah Babcock’s famous “I Want a Word” vocabulary-building course. According to Deward, there was standing-room only with many of the law students present as auditors.

GIFTS TO THE UNIVERSITY

The earliest financial support Deward Brittain offered his alma mater occurred while he was serving in the Navy during WWII. Even though he was thousands of miles from Columbia, he took part in a program called Buck-A-Month (BAM), which asked alumni to send $12 a year to support the University. In return, the donors received perks such as special seating for football games. Since that time, both Deward and Sloan have been staunch supporters of the University and, especially, the libraries.

THE JOHN C HUNGERPILLER PAPERS

In 1978, Sloan undertook the monumental task of going through her late father’s personal and professional papers to select the letters, photographs, and documents that now constitute the John C Hungerpiller Papers (1872–1978), housed in the South Caroliniana Library.

The papers are a rich source of information about the literary and educational life of South Carolina during the late 19th century and most of the 20th century. One item is Mr. Hungerpiller’s master’s degree thesis, a biography of the University’s first president, Jonathan Maxcy. In it he offers the following description of the need to establish South Carolina College: “Now that the necessity of making this heterogeneous population [i.e., Low Country and Upcountry] into a homogeneous citizenship was seen, statesmen put their heads together and brought about the enactment of a law establishing a college in Columbia, believing that the desired effect could be produced by putting together the young men of the various sections to study the same subjects under the same faculty. Association thru (sic) the months and years would bring about a community of interests and ideas, and mutual friendships that would cause the State to coalesce. Thus the act establishing South Carolina College was passed December 19, 1801.” (“A Sketch of the Life and Character of Jonathan Maxcy,” by John C Hungerpiller, published in the Bulletin of the University of South Carolina, no. 58, July 1917).
Aug. 29, 2007, marked the 200th anniversary of manuscript collecting at the University of South Carolina. It was on that date in 1807 that John Drayton (1766–1822) wrote to the trustees of South Carolina College, as the University was originally known, transmitting a manuscript of his own devising on the flora of his native state. The story of the gift was recounted by longtime South Caroliniana Library director E.L. Inabinett in the preface to the 1982 published guide to the library’s manuscript holdings. “In August 1807, John Drayton, who as governor of South Carolina in 1801 was instrumental in founding South Carolina College, gave the college library its first manuscript, his unpublished botanical work entitled ‘The Carolinian Florist.’”

TWO COPIES, BUT VERY DIFFERENT

Drayton’s first copy of “The Carolinian Florist” manuscript had been presented by its compiler to the Charleston Library Society and proved little more than an English translation of the Latin plant list, with scientific descriptions omitted and popular names, blooming seasons, and stations added, from Thomas Walter’s first regional American botany published by John Fraser in 1788 as Flora Caroliniana. Margaret Babcock Meriwether, who edited Drayton’s manuscript for publication by the South Carolina Library in 1943, speculates in her introductory notes that when Drayton gave the earlier manuscript to the library society he likely had no idea of developing his translation into anything more elaborate. Nonetheless, he kept a second copy and added to it as more botanical information came his way. Anything that he may have contemplated with regard to a more complete work on the state’s flora appears to have been put aside in 1806, the year before he gave the manuscript “Florist” to the new college. For in that year, another Charlestonian, Dr. John L.W. Shecut, published the first volume of Flora Carolinaensis, which promised to be a more learned and exhaustive treatise on regional botany than Drayton, who lacked professional scientific training, could hope to produce. The former governor and amateur botanist subscribed to two “sets” of Shecut’s work and gave one to the college, along with his copy of Michaux’s Flora Boreali-American and his own little manuscript “Florist.”

SOUTH CAROLINIANA LIBRARY’S FIRST MANUSCRIPT

The unpublished volume was treated as a regular book acquisition, and there seems to have been no further efforts made by the library during the 19th century to collect other manuscripts. But by the time of the 100th anniversary of Drayton’s gift of the small green leather bound volume plans had been formulated, as reported by the Department of Political Science and History in a University Bulletin (January 1906), to establish “a depository for MSS” that was envisioned as “the richest depository in the world of all that will illustrate South Carolina in natural features and economic resources, in History, Literature, and institutions, and in the promise of a great future.”

Through the hard work of several committees and the formation of a friends group, the University South Caroliniana Society in 1937, the school’s holdings of Caroliniana—literally things pertaining to South Carolina—grew to such an extent that when the University’s general library collection moved to McKissick Library in 1940, the former South Carolina College library building, into which Drayton’s manuscript volume had been moved when the building was completed a century earlier, was set aside as a repository wholly devoted to the history and literature of the Palmetto State.

Today the volume resides in the Manuscripts Division of the South Caroliniana Library, one among literally hundreds of
An important document in the collection is a manuscript copy of “Specific Working Plans for the Co-operative Teaching of English in All Subjects,” a paper presented by Hungerpiller to the South Carolina Teachers of English in 1924. Other items include correspondence with South Carolina authors (Henry Bellamann, John Bennett, DuBose Heyward, Julia Peterkin, Archibald Rutledge, and Stanhope Sams among others) in connection with Hungerpiller’s book, *South Carolina Literature* (1931).

Funds from the estate of Sloan Brittain’s sister, Gladys H. Ingram, were used to establish The John C Hungerpiller Library Research Fund. Interest proceeds from this permanently endowed fund will provide support for research and preservation of the Hungerpiller papers and to acquire and preserve other materials for the South Caroliniana Library.

**THE DEWARD B. AND SLOAN H. BRITTAINE ENDOWMENT FOR THE SOUTH CAROLINIANA LIBRARY**

In 2004, the Brittain’s took a major step to support study and research at the University by establishing an endowment at the Caroliniana Library through a gift annuity. Ultimately, the endowment will provide funds for the acquisition of appropriate published and manuscript materials and the preservation of collection items, as well as internships, assistantships, professional staff development, and outreach activities such as exhibits and publications.

**THE DEWARD B. AND SLOAN H. BRITTAINE CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY**

Through this gift annuity, created in 2006, the Brittain’s extended their generosity to the Thomas Cooper Library. Proceeds from the sale of property will be used in the building of a special collections addition to the library. In recognition of their gift, an area of the new building will bear their names.

“Here’s a health, Carolina, forever to thee.” And, from the University Libraries, “Here’s a health to you, Deward and Sloan Brittain, with thanks for your loyal devotion through the years.”

**LEAVE A LEGACY**

Charitable annuities such as those created by Deward and Sloan Brittain are a way in which donors may receive income from a financial gift during their lifetime, knowing that the University Libraries, together with future generations of students, will be the eventual beneficiaries of their generosity.

For information about this and other ways to support the libraries, please contact Pamela Cowart (803-777-0692, cowartp@gwm.sc.edu) or Carol Benfield (803-777-1278, benfield@gwm.sc.edu).
By Henry Fulmer

Once described by The State newspaper as “truly the renaissance Man,” Columbia resident George Dan’l Hoffman (1915–1999), exhibited signs of precocity in the arts of painting and music from an early age. As a boy in Buffalo, N.Y., Hoffman was a member of a well-known local boy’s choir that performed a weekly radio show. And as a young teenager, he won several drawing contests in the Buffalo Times.

Hoffman’s papers, which are housed at the South Caroliniana Library, are all but silent about the years between his graduation from the Buffalo School of Fine Arts (1936) and the State University of Buffalo (1937) and his tour of duty with the United States Air Force beginning in 1945. However, it is known that when Hoffman was honorably discharged in 1947, he moved to New York City, where he continued to study art at the Parsons School of Design and the Commercial Workshop. It was at this time that he began pursuing a full-time career as a portraittist.

By the early 1950s, Hoffman had established himself as a successful high society portraitist, having landed contracts with such celebrities as the Albert Warners and the Spyros Skouras family (movie moguls), Harriet Annenberg Ames and Rita Allen (Broadway producers), Frances Greet (opera singer), and Lady Beatrice Graham. During this period, Hoffman also pursued a music career, singing with the 1950 world premiere of the Lukas Foss and Jean Karsavina adaptation of Mark Twain’s classic tale, “The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County,” as produced by New York’s After Dinner Opera Company, and ultimately performing a solo recital at Carnegie Hall in 1952. In conjunction with the latter performance, a selection of Hoffman’s finest portraits was exhibited in the Carnegie Hall green room, including his most famous portrait, that of quintessential American folk artist Grandma Moses.

Hoffman had been commissioned in 1950 by Otto Kallir of Gallerie St. Etienne in New York City to paint Anna Mary Robertson Moses’ official portrait. She made several dozen sittings for her portrait, and Hoffman maintained a visual journal to document the portrait from first sitting to the project’s conclusion. After its completion, the portrait was exhibited on tour by the Smithsonian Institution. Moses’ portrait has been shown in a number of notable museums over the decades, and there is no doubt that Hoffman’s success with this portrait catapulted his art career to a higher plane. The portrait is now on display in the Grandma Moses Gallery at Vermont’s Bennington Museum.

In the late 1950s, Hoffman moved south, settling first in Selma, Ala., and then in Columbia in 1963. His art career continued to flourish over the next three decades as he painted political luminaries John C. West and George Bell Timmerman and other South Carolinians of prominence—Episcopal Bishop William A. Beckham, Henry J. Cauthen, Dr. Maceo Nance, Judge John Grimball, Hyman Rubin, and University of South Carolina President William H. Patterson.

Hoffman remained in Columbia for the rest of his life and continued to be an active participant in the local arts community until his death. Although Hoffman was primarily a portraitist, he also specialized in still-life, floral, and landscape paintings. In 1996, the Waterloo Museum of Art, in Iowa, held a retrospective exhibit that honored and showcased Hoffman’s entire career. His works were also exhibited in major shows in Clinton, Iowa; Morgantown,
George Dan'l Hoffman's self-portrait

Sketch for the Grandma Moses portrait

N.C.; and Charlottesville, Va. Major museum exhibitions were held at the Arthur U. Newton Gallery, the Hammer Gallery, the IBM Gallery, and Gallerie St. Etienne.

The South Caroliniana Library’s collection of Hoffman’s papers consists of 16.25 linear feet of materials plus five oversize flat file boxes spanning much of the 20th century. Of greatest significance are the original works of art, including Hoffman’s sketch books, loose drawings, studies, and full-scale paintings embracing the entire span of his career. Other items in the collections include a series of placard studies and a full-scale postproduction cartoon drawing of his Grandma Moses portrait, multiple examples of his annual Christmas card art, and a pastel self-portrait executed while the artist was in his early 20s.

Other materials relating to his art career are inventories, registers, exhibition programs, and price listings of Hoffman’s collected paintings and major exhibitions, from his earliest published drawing (in a 1928 edition of the Buffalo Times) to his mature period.

The artist maintained a vigorous epistolary existence, and his correspondence includes postcards, greeting cards, and letters dating from 1931 until his death. Correspondents included Lady Beatrice Graham, John C. West, the Spyros Skouras family, Faye Wattleton, Sal Cilella (director, Columbia Museum of Art), Jeffrey Day (art critic, The State newspaper), Bob Jones, and Hyman Rubin, as well as family members and other friends. Also included are letters between Hoffman and Grandma Moses, other members of the Moses family, and Otto Kallir, the prominent Austrian art collector who owned Gallerie St. Etienne and functioned as Grandma Moses’ agent.

Works of art by other artists include original drawings and prints by Kathleen O’Brien and Miné Okubo, a prominent Japanese-American artist (and author of Citizen 13660) who corresponded frequently with Hoffman and included many prints and original drawings in her letters.

Hoffman’s long-standing association with Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Columbia led to the publication in 1979 of a series of architectural renderings celebrating that congregation’s sesquicentennial. It was here too, at age 83, that Hoffman gave the final solo performance of his recital career.
CATALOGUE OF BOOKS BELONGING TO THE SOUTH-CAROLINA COLLEGE LIBRARY (1807)

BY NANCY WASHINGTON

The South Caroliniana Library owns a bound copy of the South Carolina College library catalogue, which lists the books available to the members of the first graduating class during their college years more than 200 years ago. Daniel and J.J. Faust printed the catalogue in 1807. The library’s copy was given by Dr. R.W. Gibbes on May 25, 1852. Many of the books from this catalogue are still available to students today, a few in the Law Library, some in the South Caroliniana Library, and the majority in Thomas Cooper Library’s Department of Rare Books and Special Collections.

BOOKS IN THE CATALOGUE

The 1807 catalogue lists about 1,200 titles covering history, literature, travel, foreign languages, natural history, science, music, and art, among other areas of study. The works are listed alphabetically within categories of size (folio, quarto, octavo, duodecimo) and were shelved in the same way. (Two hundred years later, the University Libraries follow a similar method of shelving by size in the Library Annex.)

According to Patrick Scott, head of special collections, “At the time of the 1807 catalogue, the library was upstairs in the South Building (now Rutledge College) in one of the rooms over the chapel. The students were allowed to come to the library once a week, but they couldn’t get in to browse the books. Instead, the students requested books at a counter or doorway, the librarian or his assistant fetched them, and the students took them back to their rooms. The borrowing period went by size as well (one folio for four weeks, one quarto for three weeks, an octavo for two weeks, or two little duodecimos for a week).”

Some of the titles in the catalogue are: Addison’s Works (four volumes); American Atlas; Babington’s Mineralogy; Black’s Chemistry; Bligh’s Voyage to the South Sea; Boswell’s Life of Johnson (four volumes); Botanical Magazine (10 volumes); British Theatre (34 volumes); Bryan’s Astronomy; Burney’s State of Music (three volumes); Caesar’s Commentaries; Camper’s Anatomy; Carlyle’s Arabic Poetry; Catesby’s Natural History of Carolina; Dallaway, On the Arts; Darwin’s Phytology; Designs of Inigo Jones; Dickson’s Agriculture; European Magazine (45 volumes); Fuseli, On Painting; General Dictionary (10 volumes); Gentleman’s Magazine (62 volumes); Groses’ Antiquities (10 volumes); Henry’s Great Britain (12 volumes); History of Japan; Horace’s Art of Poetry; Johnson’s Dictionary (two volumes); Lysons’ Environs of London (five volumes); Plates to Cook’s Voyages; Pliny’s Natural History; Raleigh’s History of the World; Transactions of the Linnean Society; Virgil’s Works; and Warton’s English Poetry.

The University’s bicentennial Web exhibit “Two Hundred Years of USC’s Libraries” (www.sc.edu/library/scoll/usc/libhist/libhist.html) provides further information about the college library, including pages from the librarian’s borrowing register showing the books being read by students in the different classes.

R.W. GIBBES

R.W. Gibbes, a native of Charleston, graduated from South Carolina College in 1827. He remained in Columbia as an assistant to Dr. Thomas Cooper, who taught classes in chemistry, geology, and mineralogy, in addition to his duties as president of the college. Gibbes obtained his medical degree from the state’s Medical College (now University) in Charleston in 1834 and became a nationally recognized authority on typhoid pneumonia. His interests also extended to history, literature, and fine art. He was elected mayor of Columbia for two terms and, during the Civil War, served as South Carolina’s surgeon general.

PIERCE BUTLER LETTERBOOK TO BE PUBLISHED

BY TERRY W. LIPSCOMB


This represents the first complete publication in book form of the Caroliniana’s Pierce Butler letterbook, one of at least three letterbooks of the South Carolina U.S. Constitution signer and U.S. senator that are known to exist. This volume is better-informed about South Carolina than previous Butler studies that have emphasized his politics, his slaves, or his Georgia plantations and will satisfy readers curious about Butler’s Irish background, his plain-spoken opinions of contemporaries ranging from Alexander Hamilton to Catherine the Great, and his dealings with Andrew Pickens and others involved in Native American diplomacy.

The original manuscript letterbook was purchased by the University South Caroliniana Society in 1976 and its publication will honor Dr. George D. Terry (1950–2001), the University’s late vice provost and dean of libraries.
“Broadsides from the Colonial Era to the Present” and “Travel Journal and Album of Collected Papers of William Tennent III, 1740–1777” are the newest additions to the South Caroliniana Library’s growing digital collections. Both collections may be accessed at www.sc.edu/library/digital/index.php by researchers around the world.

“Broadsides from the Colonial Era to the Present”
This collection includes broadsides (posters, one-page fliers, advertisements, and other types of ephemera) from the library’s manuscript collections dating from the 1700s to the present.

Recent additions include “Anniversary Commencement of the South-Carolina College, Dec. 7 1812, Order of the Exercises,” “Catalogue of the trustees, faculty, and students of the South Carolina College, January, 1834,” and “Venerable Old Citizen.”

The 1812 commencement program was quite different from those of today. Following a prayer by the college president, Jonathan Maxcy, there were a total of eight addresses, orations, and “disputes on the question” (some in Latin) on topics such as “The Usurpation of Bonaparte,” “Were the Europeans justified in taking possession of America unauthorized by the consent of the aborigines?,” “The Love of Fame,” “The Character of Jefferson,” and, finally, the valedictory address by Henry L. Pinckney on “The comparative excellence of the American government.”

Interspersed among the speeches were several selections of “Musick” and the conferring of degrees by the president.

The 1834 catalogue of the college’s inhabitants lists 36 members of the Board of Trustees (including Governor Robert Hayne, Lt. Governor Charles Pinckney, and Secretary to the Board E.H. Maxcy), eight faculty (including President pro temp Robert Henry; Thomas Cooper, MD; Thomas Park, professor of languages; and Edmund J. Johnston, librarian), 24 seniors, 18 juniors, and eight sophomores. Many of the students were from the Midlands area, but they also came from Charleston, Greenville, Edgefield, and “Orangeburgh.”

“Venerable Old Citizen” is a broadside about an old Ramage Press which “passed through two wars, nearly a century apart.” The text says, “The press was used by the Confederate States Government in Columbia, S.C., and Richmond, Va., during the war, and on it large quantities of Confederate money were printed. The farewell address of Gen. Robert E. Lee to his army was printed on this press.” The broadside shows a picture of the press, a reproduction of a $500 Confederate bill, and a copy of Lee’s address.

“Travel Journal and Album of Collected Papers of William Tennent III, 1740–1777”
Tennent’s journal covers his trek though the South Carolina backcountry, at times in the company of William Henry Drayton and the Rev. Oliver Hart, in an effort to persuade Loyalists to join the Patriot cause. The album contains papers documenting Tennent’s life as a Presbyterian minister in the colonies of N.J. and Conn., his courtship of his future wife despite her mother’s objections, and his 1772 arrival in Charleston, S.C., to serve the Independent or Congregational Church.

In addition, this collection contains a 1974 essay titled “The Back Country Commission of Drayton, Tennent, and Hart: 1775” by former South Caroliniana Library staff member Loulie Latimer Owens and two maps of the backcountry route.

USCS MEMBERS GAIN ACCESS TO RESEARCH DATABASES

The University Libraries have recently partnered with the Alumni Association to provide access to Academic Search® Alumni Edition, Business Source® Alumni Edition, and Health Library for members of the Alumni Association, the Thomas Cooper Society, the University South Caroliniana Society, and the Ex Libris Society.

For more information please see www.sc.edu/library/alumni. Members of the Libraries’ friends groups may contact Stephanie Learner at 803-777-5564 for assistance in signing up for the service.
“Natural Curiosity” Exhibit Features Items from Libraries’ Collections

“Natural Curiosity: USC and the Evolution of Scientific Inquiry into the Natural World,” a new semipermanent natural environment exhibition, went on display at McKissick Museum on Oct. 13. The exhibit explores the process of collecting and displaying natural specimens and artifacts and what they reveal about man’s relationship with and obligations to the natural world. It features an array of specimens collected during the University’s past 200 years.

In part, the exhibit looks at how scientists and academics at the University—from Thomas Cooper, to A.C. Moore, to Lawrence “Rock” Smith, to present faculty—have collected fossils, gems, minerals, and other specimens and how their explorations as naturalists have contributed greatly to the field of science.

In addition to the above, other South Carolinians in the natural sciences represented in the exhibit include John Bachman, Richard B. Dominick, Lewis R. Gibbes, Robert W. Gibbes, John and Joseph LeConte, Rudy Mancke, William Gaillard Mazyck, Henry William Ravenel, Steven Taber, Michael Tuomey, Lardner Vanuxem, and James Woodrow.

The exhibit draws heavily upon University Libraries holdings, including facsimiles from the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Thomas Cooper Library, and the South Caroliniana Library’s manuscript, published materials, visual images, and University Archives units.

McKissick Museum is located on the University’s historic Horseshoe. Exhibits are free and open to the public. Museum hours are 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Friday; 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Saturday. The museum is closed on Sundays and University holidays. For more information, call 803-777-7251 or go to www.cas.sc.edu/MCKS.