

WILLIAM STANLEY HOOLE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY

Organized by University Librarian Dr. William Stanley Hoole in 1945, the library was named in his honor in October 1977. The library moved from the fourth floor of the Gorgas Library to its current location in 1993. It is located on the second floor of Mary Harmon Bryant Hall, 500 Hackberry Lane, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

The Hoole Special Collections Library's Gandrud Reading Room is open from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and on Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m., when the University is open.

ALABAMA COLLECTION

The Alabama Collection is a continually expanding collection consisting of published materials in a variety of formats including books, pamphlets, sound recordings, maps, microfilm, newspapers, photographs, electronic records, and video recordings. These materials document the unique cultural and historical experience of Alabama, and include materials written by Alabamians, about Alabama and its people, places and culture, as well as materials published within the state. All University of Alabama Press publications are included, as well as archival copies of all theses and dissertations completed at the University of Alabama. It is the largest collection of Alabamiana in the world.

WADE HALL COLLECTION OF SOUTHERN HISTORY AND CULTURE

A continuing gift of Union Springs, Alabama, native Dr. Wade Hall, this rich collection contains books, sheet music, sound recordings, photographs, and other materials that reflect the culture and history of the South. Among its strengths are several signed first editions of prominent southern writers.

RARE BOOK COLLECTION

The Rare Book Collection consists of a broad range of materials that complement and support the diverse curriculum at the University of Alabama. Included among these treasures are a collection of first editions of Sir Walter Scott's works, the works of Robinson Jeffers, the works of Lafcadio Hearn, Confederate Imprints, and a nearly complete set of the Armed Services Editions of paperback books designed for American servicemen during World War II. Among the earliest imprints housed in the Rare Book Collection is a rubricated copy of Thomas A Kempis, *De Imitatione Christi*, dated 1488, and */Missale Romanum/*, dated 1483.

SUMMERSELL COLLECTION

Named in honor of this distinguished member of the history faculty, the Summersell Collection is composed of publications relating to the maritime history of the Gulf of Mexico.

RUCKER AGEE COLLECTION

A gift of noted Alabama book collector Rucker Agee, this collection of books, pamphlets, and maps reflect the rich history and culture of Alabama.

BOOK ARTS COLLECTION

The hand-produced book in all its manifest guises is the focus of the Book Arts Collection. It features contemporary bookbinding, unique artist's books, as well as printed works from the world's leading fine presses and printers. The collection is well represented by both student and leading professional book artists, and is continually growing. Also included in this collection is the archive of decorated papers. This rich collection supports the School of Library and Information Studies' Master of Fine Arts program in the Book Arts.

WILLIAM STANLEY HOOLE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY (continued)

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

The Hoole Library collects manuscripts that reflect the history and culture of Alabama from the colonial period to the present. Collections include papers of a number of former Alabama congressmen and senators, records of businesses ranging from general stores to iron and coal companies, records of churches and social and professional organizations, and personal papers of individuals and families. The collections document the lives of people of diverse backgrounds, from farmers and plantation owners to soldiers, politicians, educators, and others.

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT

The University of Alabama Archives consists of materials generated by university departments and offices from its founding in 1831. These include records of administrators, faculty, and cadets/students. The later records (after 1920) encompass the entire operational aspect of The University of Alabama. Noteworthy items include the papers of all of the former University of Alabama Presidents and other key administrators.

The University Archives also contains a broad range of University publications that are catalogued in the Hoole Library. Notable among these are the school yearbook (*Corolla*), the school newspaper (*Crimson White*), University catalogs, and the records of some student organizations.

MAP COLLECTION

Maps in this collection cover Alabama and the Southeast from the 16th century through the late 20th century as well as elsewhere in the world. An important subset of this group, the Warner Map Collection, contains over sixty very fine examples of 16th, 17th and 18th century cartography. The earliest of these is a 1585 Ortelius map of the world that clearly outlines the southeastern portion of what is now the United States. Another important component of this collection is an extensive set of Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for the State of Alabama.

EXHIBITIONS

The lobby of the Hoole Library features exhibitions on a continuous basis. The exhibitions highlight materials from the collections including books, sheet music, photographs and art. Visitors are welcome and encouraged.

GENERAL INFORMATION

When the University of Alabama is in session, the Hoole Special Collections Library is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Thursday, when hours extend until 9:00 p.m. Library patrons and visitors are welcome during these hours. The use of materials is restricted to the Gandrud Reading Room. Admittance to the Reading Room requires compliance with all library policies regarding security, use, and appropriate conduct. While no advance appointment is required, it is recommended that researchers call ahead to inform Special Collections staff of their project and upcoming visit.

The University of Alabama actively seeks and welcomes donations of materials appropriate to the William Stanley Hoole Special Collections Library and encourages support for the preservation, restoration, and use of the collections.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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