

THE W.S. HOOLE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY
Part of University Libraries, The University of Alabama

The W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library supports a broad range of research and scholarship, attracting researchers from around the world. Organized in 1945 by Dr. William Stanley Hoole, the library was named in his honor in 1977. It is located on the second floor of Mary Harmon Bryant Hall (on the University of Alabama campus) at 500 Hackberry Lane.

The Hoole Library's holdings consist of historical and literary primary and secondary sources in numerous formats. The collections have been acquired through donation, purchase, and University of Alabama origination.

COLLECTIONS

◆THE ALABAMA COLLECTION

The Alabama Collection is a continually growing group of materials in a wide range of formats, including books, manuscripts, pamphlets, sound recordings, maps, microfilm, newspapers, electronic records, sheet music, film, and video. 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. Manuscript collections include significant holdings of business records, personal papers, scrapbooks, diaries, and photographs. Considered the largest collection of Alabamiana in the world, it is the ideal starting point for any researcher interested in any aspect of Alabama history and culture.

◆THE WADE HALL COLLECTION OF SOUTHERN HISTORY AND CULTURE

A continuing gift of Union Springs, Alabama native, UA alumnus, and scholar Wade Hall, this rich collection contains books, sheet music, sound recordings, photographs, and other materials that reflect the history and culture of the American South. According to Dr. Hall, his collection contains one of the most comprehensive libraries of books signed by Southern authors, both past and present.

◆THE RARE BOOK COLLECTION

The Rare Book Collection contains a broad range of materials that complement and support the diverse curriculum of The University of Alabama. Among its many strengths is a significant collection of early works on the Mississippi River and Louisiana. The earliest works in the collection are a rubricated copy of *De Imitatione Christi* dated 1488, and *Missale Romanum*, dated 1483.

◆BOOK ARTS COLLECTION

The hand-produced book in all its forms 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. The collection supports the School of Library and Information Studies' MFA program in the Book Arts, a unique and world-renowned program.

THE W. S. HOOLE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY (continued)

◆DISCRETE/NAMED COLLECTIONS

In addition to the Wade Hall Collection of Southern History and Culture mentioned above, the Hoole Library holds other discrete collections that focus on a particular subject or author. Included in these are the *Summersell Maritime Collection*, composed of publications relating to the maritime history of the Gulf of Mexico; the *Lafcadio Hearn Collection*, one of the largest collections of its kind containing first and early editions of Hearn's works; the *Rucker Agee Collection*, a gift of noted book collector Rucker Agee, this collection of books, pamphlets, and maps reflect the rich history and culture of Alabama; the *Sir Walter Scott Collection*, made up of first editions of Sir Walter Scott; the *Robinson Jeffers Collection*, made up of first and early editions of this well-known American poet and playwright; and a collection of *Confederate Imprints*, books printed in the South during the period of the Confederacy.

◆MUSIC COLLECTIONS

The Hoole Library holds an impressive collection of sheet music and sound recordings, including popular, gospel, folk, country and blues recordings. A large portion of these collections are part of the Wade Hall Collection of Southern History and Culture. A room with audio equipment is available for users wishing to listen to recordings from our collections.

◆PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTIONS

The Hoole Library houses a growing and diverse collection of historic and contemporary photographs. Included are photographs of individuals, structures, and scenes from around Alabama and The University of Alabama. *The Wade Hall Photographic Collection* contains over 24,000 images on subjects ranging from farm life in rural America to historic events and locations. Photographs of African-Americans make up a significant part of the collection. The collection also contains examples of almost every type of popular 19th and 20th century photographic process. *The Roland Harper photographs* consist of more than 8,700 images, primarily views of plants and their environs taken over a fifty-year period, most of which were taken in Alabama. Numerous other collections make up the holdings in photographs.

◆MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

The Hoole Library collects manuscripts that reflect the history and culture of Alabama from the colonial period to the present. Collections include the papers of a number of former Alabama congressmen and senators, records of businesses, churches, religious, social, and professional organizations, and the personal papers of individuals and families associated with Alabama. These collections document the lives and work of people of diverse backgrounds, from farmers to soldiers, writers, politicians, educators, and others. Other manuscript holdings reach beyond the state of Alabama. Researchers planning to travel to use our collections are encouraged to contact the library beforehand.

◆UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT

The University of Alabama Archives contains materials generated by UA departments and offices from its founding in 1831, including the records of administrators, faculty, and students. The later records (after 1920) encompass the entire operational aspect of the University of Alabama. Noteworthy items include the papers of former UA presidents and other key administrators. The University Archives also contains a broad range of University publications, including the University yearbook (*Corolla*), the student newspaper (*The Crimson-White*), UA catalogs, and the records of some student organizations.

THE W. S. HOOLE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY (continued)

◆MAP COLLECTION

The Hoole Library holds maps of Alabama and of the southeast from the 16th century through the present. Many of our maps are featured on the Alabama Maps website at alabamamaps.ua.edu. One important subset of this collection is the Warner Map Collection, which is available in its entirety as an online exhibition accessible at www.lib.ua.edu/libraries/hoole/digital/warner/.

◆VIRTUAL EXHIBITIONS AND COLLECTIONS

The Hoole Library continually develops new exhibitions and collections to be made available online. Examples include, *Publishers' Bindings Online, 1815-1930: The Art of Books* at bindings.lib.ua.edu; *Alabama Mosaic* at www.lib.ua.edu/almosaic; The Warner Map Collection at www.lib.ua.edu/libraries/hoole/digital/warner/; *Over There and Back Again: Sheet Music from the First World War* at www.lib.ua.edu/libraries/hoole/digital/overthere/index.htm; *University of Alabama Presidential Portraits* at www.lib.ua.edu/libraries/hoole/digital/presidents/index1.html; Historic Postcards of Alabama at www.lib.ua.edu/libraries/hoole/digital/pcards/pcard/htm; and the *CSS Alabama Digital Collection* at www.lib.ua.edu/libraries/hoole/digital/cssala/main.htm.

OUTREACH

◆EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

The W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library regularly hosts exhibitions that highlight materials from the collections. The library hosts a wide arrange of events during the year including book signings, lectures, films, etc. Visit the website for information on upcoming exhibits and events, or contact us at 205-348-0500 or via email at archives@bama.ua.edu.

◆LIBRARY INSTRUCTION, TOURS AND TALKS

Classroom visits and tours of the facilities are welcome, but require advance notice. Please contact us to arrange a visit. Professors should be prepared to provide us with a syllabus when initializing arrangements.

GENERAL INFORMATION

◆GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

The W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library actively seeks and welcomes donations of materials appropriate to the library's collections policy. Potential donors are encouraged to contact the Curator, W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library at 205-348-0500 or via email at archives@bama.ua.edu.

◆ HOURS, CONTACT INFORMATION, AND POLICIES

Hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with Thursday evening hours until 9:00 p.m. when the University is in session. The library is closed on weekends and holidays. Use of materials is restricted to the reading room. Admittance to the reading room requires compliance with all Hoole Library policies. Pens, bags, and clothing not worn are not permitted in the reading room, and all visitors are required to fill out a registration form and request permission to bring notes and laptops into the library.

While no appointment is necessary, it is recommended that out of town researchers call ahead to inform staff of their project and upcoming visit. The mailing address is: The W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, Box 870266, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0266 USA. Telephone is 205-348-0500, and fax is 205-348-1699. You may email the library at archives@bama.ua.edu. Our web address is www.lib.ua.edu/libraries/hoole/

Source: William Stanley Hoole Special Collections Library.