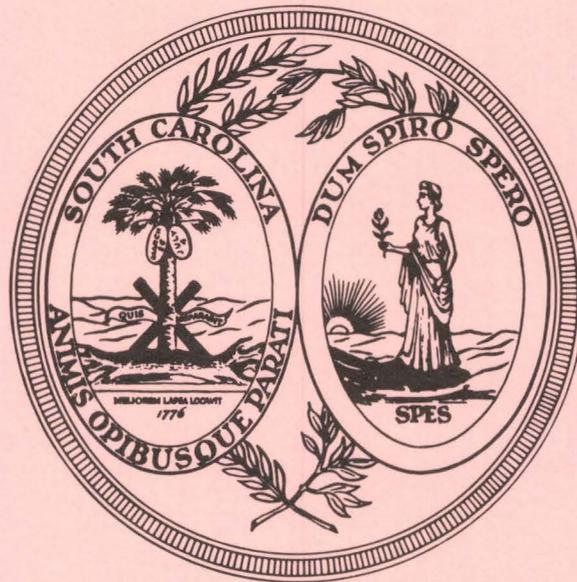


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# SOUTH CAROLINA CONFEDERATE RELIC ROOM AND MUSEUM



## ANNUAL REPORT 1992-1993

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL  
FROM THE  
SOUTH CAROLINA CONFEDERATE RELIC ROOM & MUSEUM

To his excellency, Governor Carroll A. Campbell, Jr. and the Honorable Members of the General Assembly of South Carolina:

With pleasure, we submit the annual report of the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Museum for fiscal year 1992-1993.

Our primary function is telling the story of South Carolina's heritage in an educational and interesting way. Teachers, students, authors, researchers and the general public have rewarded the museum with their compliments, continued interest and support.

John A. Martin, Jr.  
Director

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**CONFEDERATE RELIC ROOM & MUSEUM**  
Accredited by the American Association of Museums

**DIRECTOR**

John A. Martin, Jr.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

Bonnibel G. Moffat

**CURATORS**

John M. Bigham  
Dotsy L. Boineau  
Christopher H. Craft

The Director is responsible for the day to day operation of the museum. In addition to supervising the every day operation the Director is responsible for locating and acquiring gifts, keeping abreast of the latest methods of conservation and display, and identifying objects for the public.

The Administrative Assistant is responsible for office management, personnel records, accounting and expenditure of all monies, payroll, preparing the budget request, annual report and attending all meetings pertaining to fiscal and personnel subjects.

The Curators are responsible for scheduling and conducting tours and meetings, providing information to visitors, inventory of artifacts, performing research, acquiring and accessioning gifts, conservation of artifacts, exhibit preparation, keeping the museum neat, clean and attractive.

**HISTORY OF THE MUSEUM**

The collection was started in 1895 from a room provided in the Library of the South Carolina College. Soon after, the collection outgrew this facility and in 1901, the Legislature assigned a room on the Senate side in the State House. In addition to seeking and cataloging gifts, keeping the collection available to visitors five days per week had become burdensome for the volunteers, so in 1909, the Legislature appropriated funds for the maintenance of the collection and has continued to do so ever since. The authority for the operation of the museum is vested in the Annual Appropriation Act, commencing in 1909 and running continuously to the present.

Initially interested in collecting and preserving artifacts from the Confederate period, it was soon realized that we should be collecting artifacts from all periods of South Carolina history, lest the items be lost. Being the only historical repository in this area, Constitutional Officers and Legislators placed

artifacts in the collection as early as 1901. Some of the early accessions included the vest of John Huger, first Secretary of State of South Carolina (1776), a wedding dress made from draperies (1868), and a cannon marked 1778. Many gifts are received from throughout the country as far away as California.

A portion of the collection is insured in excess of \$1.8 million dollars. The current market value steadily increases.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MUSEUM**

We have received re-accreditation by the American Association of Museums. Less than 11% of the museums in the country have received accreditation. Re-accreditation demonstrates that we have continued to operate on a professional level in accordance with standards of excellence set forth by the American Association of Museums.

Our function is to provide museum services. We collect, preserve and display items of historical value from all periods of South Carolina history. Additional functions include research, aiding other museums upon request, organizing and conducting tours for school, civic groups, historical organizations, and senior citizen groups. We also supply speakers for the aforementioned and homes for the elderly. We make the museum available for meetings of historical and civic groups. Primarily, we are an educational institution and education is the justification for what we do. Our services are for the benefit of the public.

To adequately serve as a museum, the Director and staff must become involved with other museum professionals and organizations. We hold memberships in and attend meetings of the American Association of Museums, Southeastern Museums Conference, South Carolina Federation of Museums, American Association for State and Local History and the Smithsonian Institution.

### **COLLECTIONS**

Artifacts are our primary concern. We make every attempt to acquire as many South Carolina items of historical value as possible. Too frequently, however, relics appear in antique shops while many others drift out-of-state. By attending museum and historical meetings, we have cultivated and maintained good contacts and are able to form new ones in acquiring relics. Each acquisition must be accessioned, catalogued, inventoried in a cross reference file, then placed either on display or in storage.

The Lower Gallery exhibits reflect various periods of South Carolina history with an emphasis on the Confederate Era to include: clothing, dolls, quilts, stamps, medals, firearms and edged weapons. There is also an excellent display of uniforms and battle flags.

In the Upper Gallery we pay tribute to South Carolinians in the military, both past and present. There are firearms, uniforms, flags and accouterments from the Colonial Era up to and including Desert Storm. Also featured are South Carolinians in the Space Program.

It is necessary to know the latest techniques in conservation of relics. Firearms and edged weapons must be cleaned and oiled periodically. Woods and leathers must be treated and often extensive sewing is necessary in affording proper care to fabrics, including flags and clothing.

Restorations are very tedious and slow in progress. We continue to work on them as time permits.

#### **ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES**

As we are primarily an educational institution, letters are sent each year to schools throughout South Carolina urging teachers to bring their classes to Columbia for tours. The response to our museum has been excellent.

In addition to tours, the museum is host to the University of South Carolina ROTC ceremonies and meetings. We also serve as a host each month for the Columbia Chapter of the Genealogical Society.

In recent years there has been a tremendous upsurge of interest in the Civil War Era and South Carolina's military history. This is attributed to many factors such as feature films, documentaries, publications and current events. The number of visitors, requests for research and referrals have increased accordingly.

The museum has received national and regional exposure with a direct result of increasing numbers of tourists visiting our state. We contribute each year to the Time-Life Series on Confederate History. We also have had several articles, written by one of our curators, published in "Military Images" magazine.

#### **FINANCES**

During fiscal year 1991-1992, approximately 68% of our appropriation was expended for personal service and approximately 32% for operating expense. According to a survey, published by the American Association of Museums, a healthy situation would be a ratio of 75% for personal service and 25% for operating expenses.

Due to the fact that we pride ourselves on being an educational institution, we do not have admission fees so that school tours may enjoy our services without the burden of expense. We attempt to operate our museum on a minimal budget only asking for funding which is absolutely necessary in the day to day operation.

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