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News from the South Carolina Museum Commission

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news

from the south carolina museum commission



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STATE DOCUMENTS

PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

As South Carolina and the nation begin to celebrate the American Revolution Bicentennial in a wide variety of programs and events, citizens of this state will unknowingly be missing a great deal. Thousands of valuable artifacts from hundreds of collections that reflect the rich history of the Palmetto state are gone from South Carolina. The treasures have become major elements in museums and private collections in other states and many have been lost forever due to lack of care or appreciation by their owners.

One sees museum treasures from South Carolina in institutional galleries all over America, especially in the larger cities of the eastern United States. In addition, there is no way to estimate how many Carolina treasures are in the vaults and libraries of colleges and universities or in the homes of private collectors outside the state.

During every week of the year, important losses of historic material still occur in South Carolina. The volume has not diminished with time as the market values of artifacts continue to soar. A reasonable estimate holds that more than one-million-dollars worth of irreplaceable items leave the state every year. The estimate is considered moderate.

Among recent transactions, Colonial furniture went to a Florida museum; Carolina portraits were for sale in Boston, New York, and Oklahoma City; fossils were sold in Florida and New York; while Indian artifacts and Civil War relics were shipped to Georgia and New Jersey. North Carolina college graduate students bought every diary, letter packet, and commercial ledger they could find in a border community for their history project. The list could be extended considerably.

How can this happen? The losses have occurred year after year in great part because there has been until now no coordinated statewide museum program and no State Museum in South Carolina. No one has been minding the store! No single agency has been charged until now to see that the educational and cultural assets of the state are retained and protected for the present and future generations.

Where state museums are well established, those institutions act as caretakers for the state agencies and they are the depositories for collections and individual specimens of significance to the state as a whole. The facilities, staff, and programs of a well conceived state museum program serve all citizens.

HEARTS A 'BUSTIN' WITH LOVE

Euonymus americanus Linnaeus

A southern species that adds a special note of color to South Carolina's autumn is this shrub that occurs commonly statewide in most woodlands. Its brilliant red fall fruit bursts from a fleshy, rough strawberry-like husk; the fruit is longlasting and is edible for many wildlife species. The shrub bears greenish cream flowers through May and June. The exuberant crimson seeds "a 'bustin'" from the deeper red envelope inspired the common name. The shrub grows three-to-six-foot high and has frequently been transplanted to home gardens where it thrives.

The museum leads the way in preservation and conservation; its staff and associates are experts in their fields.

A state museum acts to halt the losses of all materials that are a part of the state's heritage. The staff is charged to know where specimens of importance are located, to suggest the proper care and use of collections. The staff develops and guides research and publishing efforts that serve all levels of education — advance knowledge generally — and encourage a sense of pride in the people.

South Carolina now has a State Museum Commission whose staff is acting to slow down the losses of collections and specimens. The preservation and conservation of the state's heritage is a primary goal of the growing museum program. What is needed now is the awareness of people all over the state that the program exists.

It is time to get involved now, become a part of an exciting plan for the Bicentennial era and for the future.

THE STATE MUSEUM, BICENTENNIAL RECOGNITION

The South Carolina American Revolution Bicentennial Committee has officially recognized the South Carolina State Museum as a significant project in this state's celebration of the nation's 200th birthday.

Museum commissioners and staff are currently preparing final gallery plans and beginning to assemble the varied assortment of artifacts that will be required to create a museum interior that adequately reflects the rich history of South Carolina.

Every citizen interested in this most appropriate Bicentennial undertaking is urged to assist in locating

and acquiring the treasures of the state that should be in a museum. The era of the American Revolution, from 1775 to 1882, will be treated as a major attraction in the galleries of the Museum. The involvement of citizens from every county in this preliminary collecting phase will, in great part, determine the quality of the collections and exhibits for the future.

LUNCHEON AT THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION

Governor and Mrs. James B. Edwards were co-hosts to a number of members of the South Carolina Legislature, members of the South Carolina Museum Commission, and staff on Wednesday, October 29. The occasion was the first in depth discussion with state officers and legislators of plans for a State Museum in Columbia that is to serve the entire state of South Carolina.

Commission chairman Guy Lipscomb reviewed the background of the project and the plans; director William Scheele described what the State Museum would mean to the citizens and educational systems of the state; and designer Peter Capone of Edward Durrell Stone Associates presented floor plans and a scale model of the first building phase of the State Museum.

Governor Edwards led those present in a lively discussion of the entire project and offered warm encouragement to the commissioners. Following the meeting, Mrs. Edwards accompanied guests on a tour of the Mansion's historic rooms and accessories. The meeting ended with a broad discussion of possible services to the governor's Mansion Committee which are available from the staff and volunteers in the Museum Commission offices.

FEDERATION NEWS

What the new Conservation Laboratory at the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology can do for statewide museums was a featured discussion at the fall meeting of the South Carolina Federation of Museums.

Federation members pledged support for the facility directed by Alan Albright, underwater archeologist of the Institute. Albright remarked, "We are equipped to take conservation measures on metal, artifacts, pottery, and bone. In the future we plan to work with cloth and paper and broaden our capabilities. A federal grant, now pending approval, will make this more feasible."

Federation members attending elected Don Herold, of the Charleston Museum, president; Dennis Lawson, of the Rice Museum in Georgetown, vice president; Sonia McDuffie, of the Spartanburg Art Association, second vice president; and Bill Anderson, of the South Carolina Museum Commission, secretary.

Rodger Stroup of Historic Columbia Foundation hosted the fall meeting; the spring Federation meeting will take place in Charleston.

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

A gift to the State Museum represents a deductible contribution on your federal income tax return. With the year's end approaching rapidly, those willing to share family collections or individual specimens of value may wish to help further the goals of the museum in this fashion.

PREHISTORIC EXHIBIT BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA MUSEUM COMMISSION

Tyrannosaurus Rex

This fall South Carolina's public schools are working on a study unit dealing with prehistoric life. To enhance student concept of extinct animals, the Science Museum in collaboration with the State Museum Commission has installed an exhibit featuring dinosaurs and ancient plants.

The highlight of the gallery is a five-foot skull of Tyrannosaurus Rex, the largest carnivorous dinosaur known. The cast is from an original in New York's American Museum of Natural History, and was purchased by the Commission for the State Museum.

Supplementing the skull is a full scale body and skeletal outline, a fossilized dinosaur track, a leg bone fragment, a model of dinosaur eggs hatching, and charts showing how animals of the past were related.

GOVERNOR EDWARDS APPOINTS COMMISSIONER

Mrs. R. Maxwell Anderson of Charleston was appointed by Governor James B. Edwards to a four-year term on November 7 to an at-large position on the South Carolina Museum Commission.

A native Charlestonian, Mrs. Anderson received a Bachelor of Science degree from the College of Charleston and is married to R. Maxwell Anderson, a Charleston physician. The Andersons have four children.

Mrs. Anderson's interest in collecting, researching, repairing, and exhibiting miniature furniture and antique toys has linked her with the Charleston Museum where she has been a volunteer worker for the past two years. Shadow boxes containing her arrangements of these 19th and 20th century toys are valued additions to the museum in Charleston.

Mrs. Anderson joins Mrs. Ridgeway Hall of Beaufort in representing the coastal region of South Carolina on the Museum Commission.

MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

This fall several museums in the state are exhibiting new acquisitions with pride.

In early September, the **Gibbes Art Gallery** displayed a selection of watercolor paintings from the estate of the late Edward von Siebold Dingle. Dingle lived at Middleburg Plantation in Berkeley County until his death in late 1974. As an ornithologist, he was especially interested in wandering tropical species that were forced to relocate due to hurricanes. Dingle added at least five species to the official South Carolina list of birds.

Sixty-one watercolors were left to the Gibbes Art Gallery by Dingle; the Charleston Museum was left his collection of natural history specimens.

Six early watercolor miniatures by Alice Huger Smith have been given to the Gibbes Art Gallery in Charleston.

The Price House of the **Spartanburg County Historical Association** has received an 18th century walnut dining table with "falling leaves", a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Claud E. Cudd.



RED-EYED
TOWHEE

WHITE-THROATED
SPARROW



MUSEUM HAPPENINGS AROUND THE STATE

BROOKGREEN GARDENS

Murrell's Inlet, S. C.

Open daily except Christmas 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The relocation of the wild-life park to a new site one-half mile north of the present site continues. This move will make possible construction of a new road system which will enhance the approach to the sculpture garden.

COLUMBIA MUSEUM OF ART

Columbia, S. C.

Nov. 2 — 28, 1975

Watercolors by Helen Plowden

Nov. 2 — 30

Prints by Robert Bonsac

Nov. 2 — 26

Paintings by Barclay Hendricks

Nov. 15 — Dec. 15

Seth Eastman's "Mississippi"

Nov. 30 — Dec. 28

Kaleidoscope Paintings by Michael Mewborn

Nov. 28 — 29 — 30

"Christmas Show" by South Carolina Craftsmen Art School

Dec. 7 — Jan. 4, 1976

Paintings by Hope Davis

Jan. 4 — 25

Expressions of Nature in Art

Jan. 7 — Feb. 1

Springs Mills Exhibition

Jan. 20

Bicentennial Exhibit of the Kent Collection

Jan. 29 — Feb. 29

"Americana" — A Collection of 30 American painters from the C. Thomas May Collection

Jan. 25 — 31 (Tentative)

South Carolina National Bank's Birthday Celebration

CONCERTS

Sun., Jan. 11, 1976 3 p.m.

Dr. Bong Hi Kim, pianist

Sun., Feb. 8 3:00 p.m.

University of Georgia Woodwind Quintet

Sun., March 28 3:00 p.m.

Collegia Musicum

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Mon., Jan. 11

Opening: Second Semester of Richland Art School

Thurs., Jan. 29

Annual Meeting of Columbia Art Association, 8:00 p.m.

COLUMBIA SCIENCE MUSEUM

Columbia, S. C.

NEW EXHIBITS

Underwater Archeology by the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, USC, in cooperation with the Columbia Science Museum.

Tyrannosaurus Rex, Prehistoric exhibit by the South Carolina Museum Commission.

PLANETARIUM

Planetarium shows on Saturday and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Shows begin promptly, no late admissions. Minimum of six people required for a program. Not for children under six.

Oct. — Nov. 23

Probes- Missions of Mariner 10 Pioneer and ASTP

Nov. 29 — Dec. 21

Star of Bethlehem, A spiritual and scientific investigation of the Christmas star.

Dec. 27 — Jan. 18

What's Up, Doc? Stars of the winter season.

The Family Show:

The Sky at Night.
Children under six welcome.
First Saturday, monthly, at 1:00 p.m.

Science Films:

Saturdays 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
Sundays 3:30 and 5:00 p.m.

Nov. 22 — 23

Strange Creatures of the Night (National Geographic)

Dec. 6 — 7

Beaver Valley (Walt Disney)

Dec. 13 — 14

Island of the Sea (Walt Disney)

Dec. 20 — 21

Prowlers of the Everglades (Walt Disney)

Dec. 27 — 28

The Olympic Elk (Walt Disney)

GIBBES ART GALLERY

135 Meeting Street, Charleston, S. C.

EXHIBITS

Nov. 7 — 30

Robert Marks Photographic Collection.

Nov. 11 — Jan. 4

Selections from the Ballard Collection. Dunkin Print Room.

Nov. 18 — Dec. 17

America, The Third Century
An exhibition of original lithographs by America's leading printmakers.
Main Gallery.

Dec. 19 — Jan. 14

Graphic selections from the Permanent collection.
Garden Gallery.

GREENVILLE COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART

Greenville, S. C.

Nov. 1 — 30

Corridor Exhibit, student pottery from summer and fall sessions 1975.
Museum School of Art.

Nov. 23 — Jan. 1

Expressions of Nature in Art, organized by the Gibbes Art Gallery.

Nov. 23 — Jan. 1

Tom Griscom Exhibit.
Nashville artist exhibiting bird sculptures in conjunction with Natural History Art Exhibit.

Nov. 30 — Dec. 30

12th Annual Piedmont Graphics Exhibition.
Annual competition for printmakers in all media, including drawing (no photography). Contact Edwin Riits, Museum Chief Curator.

Dec. 1 — 31

Corridor Exhibit, student advertising design from fall session 1975.

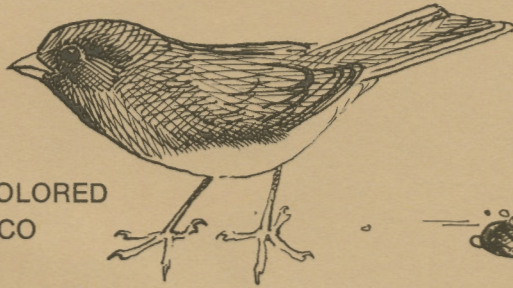
Nov. 25

Informal Lecture, Eliot Wigginton, editor of Foxfire, 3:00 p.m.
Museum Film Theatre.

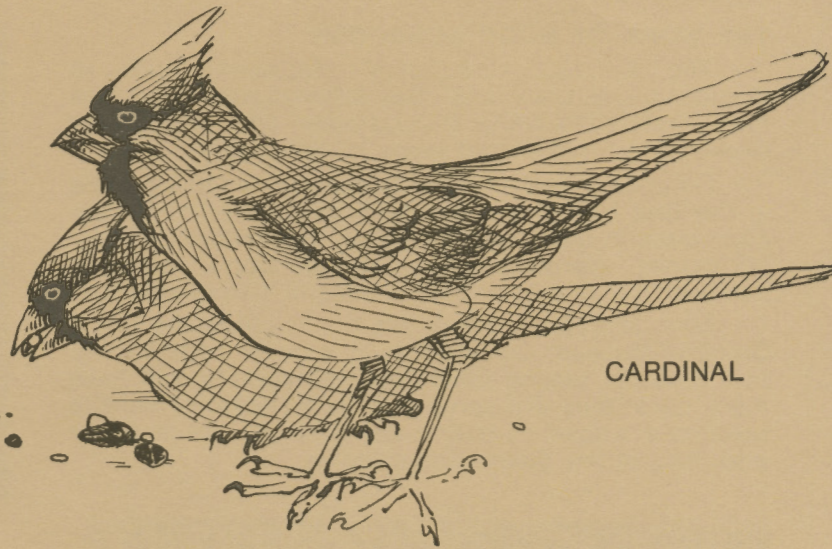
Pre-registration for spring semester classes in the Museum School of Art begins Dec. 8 and runs through December 12.

Spring semester for Museum School of Art begins January 26.

BIRDS OF SOUTH CAROLINA



SLATE COLORED
JUNCO



CARDINAL

IN THE MUSEUMS

As versatile as the exhibits within them, museums of the Palmetto state ready themselves for a new fall season and are involved in varied projects.

The Sixth Annual Decorative Arts and Architecture Symposium in late October quintupled its attendance over last year's figure. Sponsored by the **Historic Columbia Foundation** and the **Columbia Museum of Art**, the two-day meeting offered lectures by Wendell Garrett, editor of *Antiques* magazine; Mrs. Margaret Klaphor, curator of the Collection of Dresses of the First Ladies of the White House, Smithsonian Institute; Dr. John Sproat, USC History Department chairman; William Burns, director of The Florence Museum, Dr. Porter Barron, professor of English at Erskine College, and Marvin Schwartz, consultant and lecturer, Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Gibbes Art Gallery in Charleston closed its north and south galleries on October 13 for renovation. Displays will continue to be installed in other galleries of the museum until the first floor galleries are completed and open again in January, 1976.

The first Anderson car built was installed in the galleries of the **York County Nature Museum** this fall. The car was a gift from Rock Hill's Anderson family.

The **Greenville County Museum of Art's** Amerindian Collection is being researched by James Lawless II under a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. He will prepare a program of acquisitions, exhibitions, research papers and other activities.

English puppeteer, Doug Ward, will spend one year working with the Greenville County Museum of Art as well as with Furman University, the public libraries, and Greenville City Department of Parks and Recreation. Ward's residency is made possible by grants from the Greenville Metropolitan Arts Council and the South Carolina Arts Commission.

The Greenville County Museum has been accepted for membership as an education center by the Southern Highland Handcraft Guild.

Intermuseum planning by **The Gibbes Art Gallery**, **The Greenville County Museum of Art**, and **The Columbia Art Museum** has produced "Expressions of Nature in Art", to be viewed statewide this winter. Opening first in Greenville, November 23, the exhibition will include expressions of artists in several media. Primarily South Carolina artists who have sought to communicate their feelings and attitudes toward nature through art will be featured. Columbia will display the collection beginning January 4, while The Gibbes Art

Gallery will honor artists and their works with a reception January 31 in two newly refurbished galleries.

Spartanburg opened its **Center for Art and Community Activities** on Sunday, September 21. Diligent volunteers transformed an old school building at 385 Spring Street into a freshly-painted environment for creative expression. Offices of **The Spartanburg County Historical Association** are housed on the second floor of this new Center.

Musgrove's Mill State Park was dedicated on September 6. The facility includes 355 acres that are part of three counties: Spartanburg, Laurens, and Union. The acreage includes a cave where "Horseshoe" Robinson hid, the grave marker of Revolutionary heroine Mary Musgrove, plus the Battle of Musgrove's Mill historic marker.

Approval of a Historic Preservation matching grant allocated by the S. C. Department of Archives and History paved the way for **Spartanburg County Historical Association** to begin acquiring furnishings for the restoration of the Jammie Seay House. Estate papers given by Mrs. Mary Mills Emory provide an inventory for the home. A quilt bin, a gift of Mrs. Brenda Hays, is temporarily exhibited in the Association offices.

Re-enactment of the Revolutionary Battle of Camden, for the fifth time annually, occurred at Historic Camden November 8th and 9th. Skirmishes "broke out" on schedule each of the two days of the observance, reports the **Camden District Heritage Foundation**.

A research project covering the history of the South Carolina coast has been announced jointly by Robert N. Pryor, president of the **Hall of Fame**, Dr. Paul E. Stanton, academic dean, and James Branham, associate professor of history, representing the **Coastal Carolina Regional Campus of the University of South Carolina**.

A senior thesis project for five undergraduates, the research will cover four periods of South Carolina's History: Beginning to 1763; 1763 to 1840; 1840 to 1895; and 1895 to 1976.

Targeted for completion June 1, 1976, the project will also include an in depth study of the Revolutionary period. According to Mr. Pryor, "We were made aware that the Hall of Fame had the potential to become an educational facility if it could undertake a research project covering the history of the South Carolina coast. We are pleased to have been able to effect an arrangement with the History Department of Coastal Carolina branch of USC."

THE WORK OF HUGO SCHRODER

The National Geographic Magazine, Audubon Magazine, Life, Look, and other international magazines have featured wildlife photographs and articles by Greenwood ornithologist Hugo H. Schroder.

Schroder's collection of prints and negatives made in the first half of the twentieth century primarily depicts birds in their natural habitat. His record of sandhill cranes, everglade kites, and Audubon's caracaras has been called outstanding by natural history scholars.

Mrs. Schroder's gift of this collection to the South Carolina Museum Commission is a major contribution. In a museum setting these fine photographs will have many uses; they will serve also as a record of wildlife resources whose numbers and diversity are a prime attraction of the Southeastern states.



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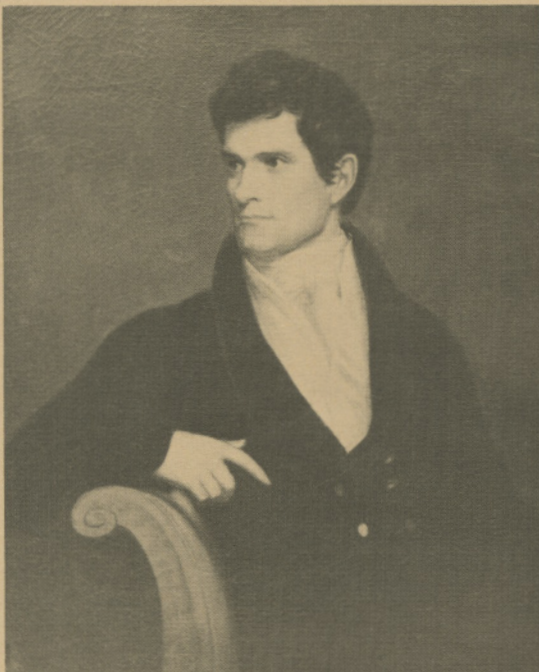
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THE SOUTH CAROLINA MUSEUM COMMISSION NEWS is published quarterly. To receive the newsletter and other announcements, request to be placed on the mailing list.

William E. Scheele, Director
William L. Anderson, Assistant to the Director
Rudolph E. Mancke, Staff Naturalist
Rachel Haynie, Executive Secretary

JOHN C. CALHOUN
by Charles Bird King



A previously unknown portrait of John C. Calhoun by Charles Bird King, a rare treasure that should be part of the Museum's portrait collection, has been offered for purchase to the South Carolina Museum Commission. Mrs. William McClure of Oklahoma City inherited the painting from her aunt and has expressed the hope that it be returned to South Carolina. The McClure family bought a Calhoun owned house near Abbeville in the 1930s; it contained furniture, books, and paintings which were taken to Oklahoma City after the death of Mr. McClure.

The portrait is very much like the King painting of Calhoun owned by the National Portrait Gallery. The Washington painting shows a plump faced young man wearing sideburns. The present example is considered to be the earliest portrait of Calhoun, probably painted during his first year in the capitol city. His face is lean, without sideburns, and his good looks and glowing health are clearly evident.

Charles Bird King is best known for his portraits of American Indians. He was a popular figure in Washington's political society during the early 1800s. This portrait is a fine, large example of his work.

An effort to secure contributions toward the painting's purchase has been initiated. The South Carolina American Revolution Bicentennial Commission is considering a grant request; however, \$10,000 more remains to be raised. Governor James B. Edwards has expressed his personal interest in seeing that the painting remains in South Carolina.

If you wish to assist in this matter, please send your contribution to the South Carolina Museum Commission, 1023 Woodrow Street, Columbia, S. C. 29205. Your gift is tax deductible.