

# hapter One

For Friends of the George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida

Fall 2001

## Agricultural History Collections in the Libraries

by *Vernon N. Kisling, Jr.*  
*Collection Management Coordinator,*  
*Marston Science Library*

### Agriculture and rural life collections in the libraries

**A**lthough Florida's frontier status officially ended with statehood in 1845, it remained a frontier state up through the Second World War. During this time, from first settlement in the 1500s through the 1950s, agriculture, forestry, naval stores, and minerals were Florida's primary economic resources. Even today, these are significant economic resources for the state. Because of its size and climate, the state has had a unique mix of subtropical crops, temperate crops, winter vegetables, and horticultural plants.

From its outset in 1905 the University of Florida has been the state's land grant university. Of the four institutions consolidated to create the University of Florida, the Florida Agricultural College provided the university with its first librarian and most of its library books. While this college library contained basic texts on literature and the sciences, its emphasis was on agricultural publications.



**Above photo from the brochure "Canning in Florida," published by State of Florida Department of Agriculture, 1942 (Bulletin, no. 117).**

With this emphasis, the university's agricultural library developed alongside the main library, both of which were established during the first academic year. In 1956 the agricultural library was named in honor of Harold H. Hume and was consolidated into the Marston Science Library in 1987.

While most agricultural books, journals, and government documents are found in the Marston Science Library, the rare books have been moved to the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections. There are also historically important older

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## Agricultural History Collections *(Cont. from page 1)*

books, journals and ephemera in the P.K. Yonge Library of Florida History (Special and Area Studies Collections) including Agricultural Commissioner Nathan Mayo's papers. In addition, the university archives have agricultural collections, including the IFAS records and the Braga Brothers Cuban sugar cane plantation records.

Together, the libraries have Florida's most comprehensive collection of agricultural publications, including the only complete collection of IFAS and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services documents. Because of UF's collections, the libraries are a nationally important resource center for agricultural materials.

### Preserving Florida's historically important agricultural literature

UF was among the first to cooperate in a national project to identify and preserve agricultural literature. This ongoing effort coordinates the work of land grant universities in each state to identify and preserve that state's agricultural literature published between 1820 and 1945. Once identified, this literature is preserved through microfilming and is archived for long-term use. Over 2,500 publications were compiled for Florida and the UF Libraries' preservation office has microfilmed them. However, because of the age of these publications, quite a few of the key publications either could not be located or were too brittle to microfilm.

John L. Capiner, professor and chairman of the Entomology & Nematology Department at UF, uses the collection's old government publications that preceded scientific journals. He says the documents are absolutely critical in developing complete biological information and management options.

"Unfortunately, the government document section is not in very good shape. For example, the Bulletins of the Bureau of Entomology are not bound, and issues are missing. These are, how-ever, immensely valuable if incomplete resources."

### Continuing the agriculture and rural life collections into the future

Agriculture has always been, and continues to be, of significant importance to Florida's economy and lifestyle. At the turn of the twentieth century Florida's population was still 90% rural. Despite post-World War II urbanization and the increasing

importance of tourism, agriculture and the rural lifestyle was still predominate in many parts of the state. In turn, agricultural literature has been,

and will continue to be, important to Florida. Older material is not only important to the historian, but to contemporary agricultural and environmental researchers as well.

The libraries are continuing to add to the collections and are especially in need of the older material. This historically important agriculture and rural life material needs to be preserved before it disappears. Grant funding allows for identification of important items and preser-

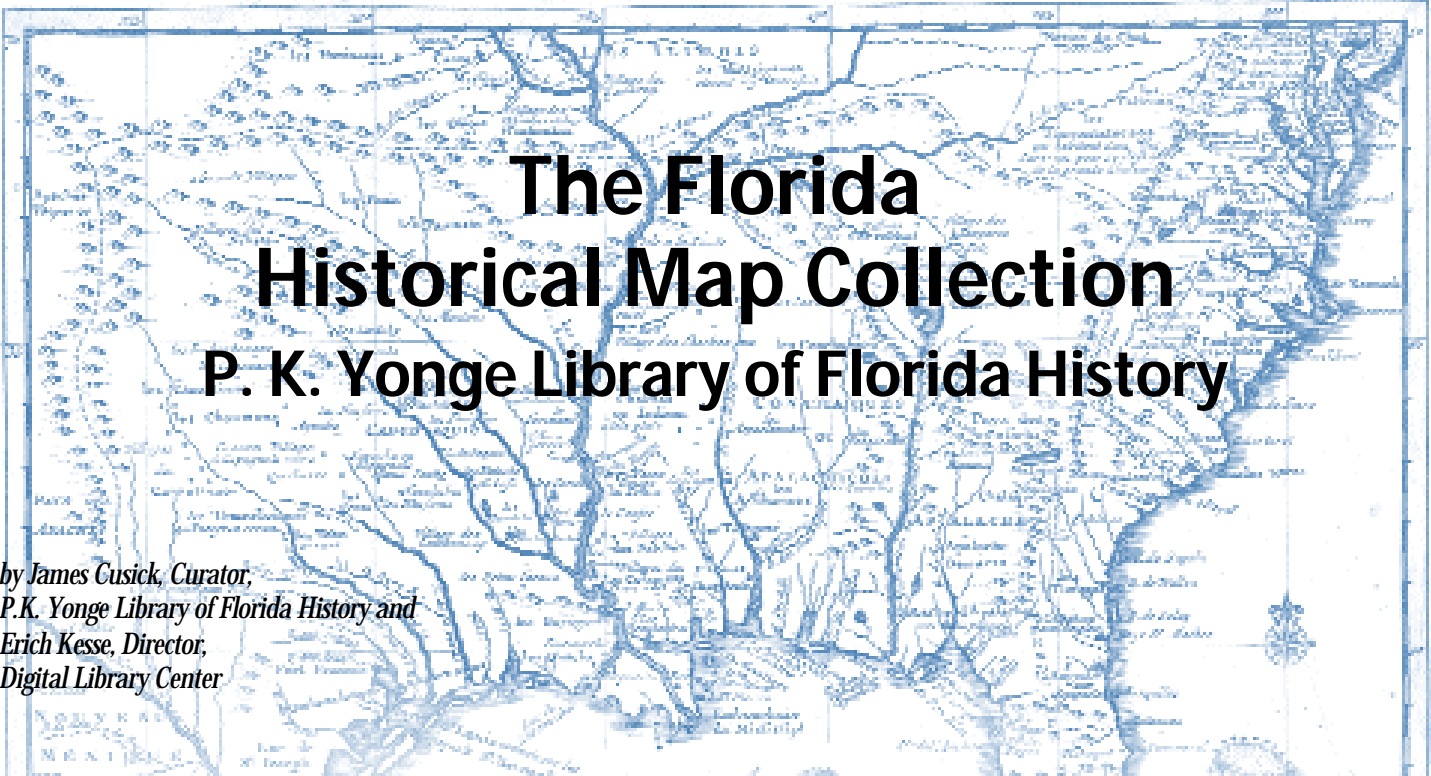


**The Seminole Indians in Florida, compiled by workers of the Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of Florida, Tallahassee, Fla., Florida State Department of Agriculture, 1941**

vation through microfilming.

The libraries want to provide access to this valuable collection. Funding for this would support the development of a digital library site specifically for Florida agriculture and rural life. The first digitized, full text publications to be made available would be our unique collection of historic IFAS and Florida Department of Agriculture publications. They are part of the national core literature in American agricultural history and should be readily available to those who need to use it.

A brief introduction to the agricultural history of Florida is provided online at <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/msl/flaghist.html>. ~



# The Florida Historical Map Collection

## P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History

by James Cusick, Curator,  
P.K. Yonge Library of Florida History and  
Erich Kesse, Director,  
Digital Library Center

**T**he Florida historical map collection is one of the treasures of the P.K. Yonge Library of Florida History in the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections. It contains more than 2,300 images of Florida between 1564 and 1926. Other images of the state, including Sanborn Insurance maps, aerial photos, satellite imagery, and U.S.G.S. topographic maps, are housed at the Map & Imagery Library in the Marston Science Library.

Approximately half of the images are original prints or drawings. The collection also contains images of important Florida maps held by other institutions and reproduced as photographic or photostatic duplicates in our collection. These reproductions feature items from the National Archives, Library of Congress, Archivo General de Indias (Seville), Public Record Office (London), and other museums and libraries.

UF's maps include beautiful examples such as the hand-colored Abraham Ortelius map of Florida

from the *Additamentum; Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, of 1584, which shows Native American towns mentioned in the de Soto chronicles; and the 1606 Mercator and Hondius map of *Virginiae Item et Floridae* with its inset of Timucua Indians. From the era of the American Revolution comes Bernard Romans' *Seat of War in the Southern British Colonies*, printed in 1776, and Thomas Kitchin's *North America from the Latest and Best Authorities*, showing the continent at the time of the Treaty of Paris, 1783. The works of such important map-makers and cartographers as Guillaume Delisle, Jacques Nicolas Bellin, Pieter van der Aa, Johann Baptist Homann, and Thomas Jefferys are prominently represented in the collection.

Original hand-drawn maps include an 1802 sketch of the town of Pensacola and its environs; an 1839 Second Seminole War map of Lake Okeechobee showing the location of military camps and an ancient Indian mound; David H. Burr's and Henry Washington's 1846

map of the Arredondo Grant between Micanopy and Gainesville; and a survey book of Alachua and Levy counties by J.M. Rickards made in 1885-1886. The library also owns many books, atlases, and government documents containing fold-out maps, as well as a collection of railroad and land promotion maps.

Online digital collections are an ongoing cooperative project between the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections and the Digital Library Center. They are especially valuable for widening public access to materials that consist largely of images, such as UF's collections of photographs, maps, postcards, and illustrated rare books and manuscripts. Through the use of digital technology, the doors of our special collections can be opened to a broader audience than ever before. Digital images from the historical map collection can be viewed at <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/spec/pkyonge/flmaps.html> ~

## Faculty feedback

July 21, 2001

Dear Ms. Canelas,

You may be interested in a tale I have to tell of serendipity, synergy, and your most excellent and burgeoning Special Collections.

When I retired from working for the Congress, I determined that I was going to work on a nearly-lifetime project of translating poetry, mainly Norwegian. In a sense, I was sidetracked when I was asked to edit the translation journal, *Delos*.

A few months ago I agreed to serve as a judge for The American Literary Translators Association's annual translation prize. I was asked to evaluate Tiina Nunnally's new translation of Sigrid Undset's *Kristin Lavransdatter*, the book which was largely responsible for Undset's Nobel Prize for literature in 1928.

I had been sent a copy of the new translation, but received only a few xeroxed pages of the original. Since, naturally I wanted to check a bit more thoroughly with the original, I repaired to the Library West stacks. In doing my normal *de rigueur* browsing, I came across a marvelous find. After publishing three novels, Undset had published a book of poetry, *Ungdom* (Youth), virtually unknown in this country, and scarcely better known in Norway. I had never heard of it, which was also true for most Norwegians I knew. I resolved to translate it, which I have done.

The people in Norway sent me a copy of a bibliography and recommended that I check out the Undset letters in the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings holdings that are part of Special Collections. The two literary giants had exchanged letters during the period 1942-1949, part of which time Undset was in exile in the United States. Undset's eldest son was killed in the early futile resistance to the German invasion. Undset visited Rawlings in Florida, and was overwhelmed by the Florida scene.

While I was reading the Undset letters, Frank Orser [manuscripts librarian] informed me that he had just received, from Norway, copies of the Rawlings letters that are the counterpoint to Undset's. Since Undset wrote fluent, idiomatic English, there is certainly no need for translation.

There are other possible coincidences that deserve exploring, and even if I do nothing about them, I want you to know that the Special Collections research room and the collections themselves are a great and wonderful credit to you, John Ingram, and your other colleagues.

Sincerely,  
Harold P. Hanson

**[EDITOR'S NOTE: PLEASE SEE RELATED ARTICLE IN THE HOWE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER.]**

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Harold P. Hanson

Harold P. Hanson, physicist, government official, editor, and academic administrator was a UF professor of physics 1948-54, Dean of the Graduate School 1969-71, Vice President for Academic Affairs 1971-74, and Executive Vice President 1974-78. He still maintains an office on campus.

Additionally, he was in academic administration at several universities, and was the Staff Director of the U.S. House Committee on Science and Technology. Currently, he edits a journal of translation and translation theory, *Delos*.

He received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin and is a Fellow of the American Physical Society.

# Literature for Children Website Debuts

Imagine watching two young children from several generations past, heads together, laughing with delight as they peer at color illustrations, discovering a new world with each turn of the page in “Wicked Willy Wimble” from the 1869 *Joyful tales: jingles and jokes for little folks*.



Now, a treasury of books with ABC's, alligators, and adventures that delighted generations of children are available in digitized form at <http://palmm.fcla.edu/juv/>. Drawn from the volumes in UF's Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature, Literature for Children is a collection published largely in the United States and Great Britain from 1850 to 1910.

The collection is launching with 30 titles. At the core are books from the non-browsing 93,000-volume UF's Baldwin Library, housed in the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections of the George A. Smathers Libraries.

“This website was created to increase access for scholars and the general public to rare 19th century children's books,” said Rita Smith, curator of the Baldwin Library. “It provides an interesting panorama of the movement in children's literature from the primarily instructional and overtly religious to the availability of a more diverse literature produced purely for the enjoyment it offers.”

Included in the online collection are playful volumes such as *Dogs Grand Dinner Party*, *Al Alligator and How he Learned to Play the Banjo*, and *Peter Rabbit and his Ma*, plus morals and cleanliness volumes like *What I Must Try to Be*, *Honoring Parents*, and *Sanitation: the Means of Health*.

The collection will continue to build with additional volumes from other State University System libraries. Upon completion it will be the world's largest online collection of children's literature. Literature for Children is a component of the database being digitized by UF and its sister schools.

More than half of the volumes collected here are unique among children's literature collections elsewhere. The impetus for this collection was grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The grant includes

funds to reproduce the illustrations exactly as children saw them.

The Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature is the product of Ruth Baldwin's 40-year collection development efforts. This vast assemblage of literature was printed primarily for children and offers an equally vast territory of topics for the researcher to explore: education and upbringing, family and gender roles, civic values, racial, religious, and moral attitudes, literary style and format, and the arts of illustration and book design. UF's holdings of more than 800 early American imprints is the second largest such collection in the United States. ~





**Hugh A. Carithers**

### **In Memory of Hugh A. Carithers, M.D.**

Hugh A. Carithers, M.D. died in his sleep on August 15, 2001 in Jacksonville. Dr. Carithers donated his collection of 120 items by and related to the Nobel Prize-winning author William Faulkner to the Rare Book Collection at the George A. Smathers Libraries (see *Chapter One*, Fall 2000).

“Dr Carithers’ love of life and literature was a true joy and inspiration. We are so honored to house his

collection of rare books at the UF Libraries. Because of his foresight and generosity, students and scholars will enjoy his books for generations to come,” said Marcia Pearce, Smathers Libraries’ director of development.

An avid rare book collector, Dr. Carithers founded the Friends of the Willow Branch Library in Jacksonville and was a Fellow of the Southern Academy of Letters, Arts and Science. He shared a pediatric medical practice with his wife, Dr. Cornelia Morse Carithers, from 1941 until she passed away in 1988. His distinguished career in medicine included service to St. Vincent's Hospital in Jacksonville as Chief of Pediatrics (1952-64), Chief of Staff (1956-58), and University Hospital as Senior Attending Pediatrician. He was a Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Florida School of Medicine and sat on the Board of Medical Examiners, State of Florida, Board of Medical Examiners, State of Georgia, the American Board of Pediatrics and the medical Board of Planned Parenthood of Jacksonville.

## **Upcoming**

### **Homecoming Through the Years Exhibit**

**Saturday, November 3, 2001**

**2½ hours before homecoming football game kickoff**

**Homecoming Alumni BBQ**

**Stephen C. O’Connell Center**

Smathers Libraries’ Archives exhibit with Carl Van Ness, university archivist and acting chair, Department of Special and Area Studies Collections and Marcia Pearce, director of development

For ticket information, contact the University Box Office at (352)392-1653  
For further information about the BBQ, contact the UF Alumni Association at (888)352-5866



**Alice McNairy**

### **Alice McNairy, Retired Librarian, Remembered**

Alice McNairy, retired University of Florida librarian, died June 21, 2001 in Laurinburg, North Carolina. Alice joined the library staff in 1947 in what was then the Agriculture Library. A year later she transferred to the Acquisitions Department in the main library where she remained until her retirement in 1979 as assistant department chair.

Her hobby was collecting editions of *Alice in Wonderland* and following her retirement she volunteered in the Baldwin Library of Historical Children’s Literature.

Memorial contributions can be made payable to the University of Florida Foundation, Inc., and sent to:

Tonya Martin  
George A. Smathers Libraries  
University of Florida  
PO Box 11700  
Gainesville, FL 32611-7001.

Funds will be used to purchase one or more editions of *Alice in Wonderland* or related material.

Please add a note that the contribution is in memory of Alice McNairy and make contributions by October 31, 2001.

## Desiderata

Students, faculty and librarians are always looking for the perfect resource to complement their research. While we do our best to be responsive to special needs, there are always a few titles or equipment needs that lie beyond our grasp. If you are interested in helping the Smathers Libraries acquire any of the following, please contact Marcia O. Pearce, director of development, at (352) 392-0342 or marpear@mail.uflib.ufl.edu.

The Works of Robert Boyle, edited by Michael Hunter and Edward B. Davis, 14-volume set for Marston Science Library \$1,950

Seventy volumes from the China National Publications Import & Export (Group) Corporation on a complete record of certain types of historical material from the Qing Dynasty Archives \$5,760

Microfilm collection of pamphlets from the Israel Solomons collection \$2,800

Dun Emer and Cuala Press imprints not held by the Rare Books collection, including the following: \$300-500 each

Hyde, Douglas, 1860-; The love songs of Connacht, being the fourth chapter of the songs of Connacht, collected and translated by Douglas Hyde

Gregory, Lady, 1852-1932; A book of saints and wonders put down here by Lady Gregory according to the old writings and memory of the people of Ireland

Yeats, W. B. (William Butler), 1853-1908; Certain noble plays of Japan: from the manuscripts of Ernest Fenolosa, with an introduction by W. B. Yeats



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Please use my gift for the following:

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  - Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature
  - Belknap Performing Arts Collection
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**Chapter One**

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# Smathers Library Bookstore

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First Floor Smathers Library  
(formerly Library East)

## Library Trivia

- Academic librarians answer about 112 million reference questions each year — three times the attendance at college football games
- College libraries receive less than 3 cents of every dollar spent on higher education
- If the cost of gas had risen as fast as the cost of academic library materials since 1980, it would cost \$5.69 a gallon to put fuel in your car



**Sources**

ALA Office for Research & Statistics, ALA Washington Office; and Library Research Service of Colorado State Library