Emory acquires the archive of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference

We have demonstrated by having night marches from 150 people, March 8, we were tear gas by the policemen of the city and county... There were no policemen present, so this is the most that we could... We found a wonderful chance to publicize our work last Thursday... with a large number that made the demonstration outstanding. The next day, we were able to organize a march, and we marched in Marion last Thursday... We picketed in Gallup Circle this past Saturday with a good number and we also had a good number in Marion. In 12:00 this morning, we had a big march in Marion. It was beautiful and I believe we are at a peak of strength that the time is right for bargaining with the power structures. In Deaver and all the other cities, we made a plan for the community to get involved in the city. I think that makes a great speech to the mayor of the white community to deal with the problems that have been brought out... the time is right for the people to hold the right... We are working hard to organize various forms of transportation... including the bus...
February and March 1968 in the two Georgia districts for which hair-raising activities in Social Circle, Georgia, and his work during for the SCLC and lived in Albany, Georgia. The report describes field report of the Rev. S. B. Wells. Rev. Wells was field secretary Monday–Friday: 8:30–5:30; Saturday, 9:00–5:30 on the web at marbl.library.emory.edu.

Research services, and special events can be found Additional information about MARBL’s holdings, research services, and special events can be found on the web at marbl.library.emory.edu.

HOURS Fall semester: Monday–Friday: 8:30–5:30; Saturday, 9:00–5:30 The archive of the SCLC occupies more than one thousand linear feet of shelf space, and collections such as this certainly require space. The greatest need, however, is for a building that enables and stimulates the full use of Emory’s most distinctive research collections.

The Manuscript, Archives & Rare Book Library we are planning will include a larger and more spacious reading room, one that will better serve the needs of visiting researchers from around the country and the world. It will include technology-enabled classrooms where students can be introduced to research methods with rare and unique primary materials and where they can move seamlessly between online resources and the physical objects in their own hands. It will include as well spaces where Emory’s most distinctive collections—e.g., the papers of Seamus Heaney, Salman Rushdie, and Alice Walker—can be interpreted for a broad audience through exhibitions, lectures, readings, and symposia. This new library will be an accessible place where Emory shares some of its most remarkable resources.

This is what we mean when we speak of Emory’s special collections as living collections. We welcome your support of this important and exciting project.

Stephen Ennis Director

Letters from the Director

Among the first special collections Emory University ever acquired were the letters and diaries of the founder of Methodism, John Wesley. The collection was purchased for the University in 1911 by Bishop Warren A. Candler. Notions of what constituted an archive were quite different in that day, and the Wesleyana Collection that arrived included an odd assortment of family effects and even a portable pulpit that Wesley is said to have used in his travels.

In the early years of special collections at Emory rare manuscript materials, along with the odd relic or two, were housed in a restricted area of the Candler Library stacks ominously called “the cage” by library staff. Much has changed since those beginnings.

This fall Emory embarks on a comprehensive campaign that includes as one of its central goals funding a new Manuscript, Archives & Rare Book Library on Emory’s central campus. One might imagine that this new building is needed to house the fast-growing research collections that have been acquired in recent years, including the archive of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), which is described in this issue of MARBL. You would be partly right.

The archive of the SCLC occupies more than one thousand linear feet of shelf space, and collections such as this certainly require space. The greatest need, however, is for a building that enables and stimulates the full use of Emory’s most distinctive research collections.

The Manuscript, Archives & Rare Book Library we are planning will include a larger and more spacious reading room, one that will better serve the needs of visiting researchers from around the country and the world. It will include technology-enabled classrooms where students can be introduced to research methods with rare and unique primary materials and where they can move seamlessly between online resources and the physical objects in their own hands. It will include as well spaces where Emory’s most distinctive collections—e.g., the papers of Seamus Heaney, Salman Rushdie, and Alice Walker—can be interpreted for a broad audience through exhibitions, lectures, readings, and symposia. This new library will be an accessible place where Emory shares some of its most remarkable resources.

This is what we mean when we speak of Emory’s special collections as living collections. We welcome your support of this important and exciting project.

Stephen Ennis Director
"It’s only in books," the novel’s Sergeant Cuff says, "that the officers of a detective force are superior to the weaknesses of making a mistake."

Mystery and detection were themes of great interest to Greene, who was himself living a double life: His wife, Vivien, and their two children had evacuated to the English countryside to avoid the bombing raids on London. Aside from the tales of Edgar Allan Poe, neither Glover nor Greene could imagine what books Sergeant Cuff had in mind. As Greene later recalled, “From that moment we decided to make our collection.”

During the next forty years, Greene and Glover browsed bookshops throughout Britain and assembled an extensive collection of Victorian detective fiction. The Glover-Greene Collection—which Emory acquired through the London bookseller Rick Gekoski—now has been fully cataloged. It numbers 613 rare English and American mystery or detective works from the late 1830s to 1900 (Edgar Allan Poe through the early work of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle).

Represented in the Glover-Greene Collection are works by many once-popular-but-almost-forgotten writers of the Victorian period, including Grant Allen, M. E. Braddon, Dick Donovan, Benjamin Farjeon, Richard Marsh, and Hawley Smart. Also in this collection are stories of mystery or detection from writers not usually thought of as authors of this genre. For instance, there is the serial publication of Charles Dickens’ The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby (1839), a first edition of Bleak House (1853), and English and American editions of Mark Twain’s Pudd’nhead Wilson (1894). Less surprising, but no less significant, are copies of Poe’s Tales (1846) and twelve works by the young Arthur Conan Doyle—the writer whose name is today synonymous with the modern detective story.

The most rare book in the collection is a copy of the first printing of Doyle’s first novel, A Study in Scarlet (1887). When the twenty-eight-year-old Doyle approached the firm of Ward, Locke and Co. with his manuscript, it already had been turned down by three publishers. He was offered a mere £25, with no provision for subsequent royalties. Doyle grudgingly agreed to the terms, and the novel appeared in Beeton’s Christmas Annual the following November.

According to news accounts in the Portsmouth Crescent, this small printing sold out in only two weeks; the publishers, now aware of the popularity of their new author, rushed to print the novel in book form. What seemed Ward, Locke’s good fortune, however, turned out otherwise, as Doyle never again agreed to publish under the firm’s imprint. Emory’s rare copy of Beeton’s Christmas Annual is one of only twenty-four known copies.

Valuable as such rarities are in their own right, the collection also offers a glimpse of Victorian reading habits. In the 1890s readers would queue for the latest issue of The Strand outside the publisher George Newnes’ office. The collection includes a large number of yellowbacks— inexpensive editions sold in railway stations and marketed to a popular audience. Another curiosity is a bookplate in one of the novels that describes the borrowing policies of the Metropolitan Police Force’s lending library. It would seem that constables and inspectors alike sharpened their own detective skills by reading the adventures of their fictional counterparts.

by Stephen Ennis
SCLC Archive Comes to Emory
By Randall K. Burkett, Curator of African American Collections

The collection provides a comprehensive record of SCLC activities across four decades, and it includes flyers, broadsides, pamphlets, programs, and periodicals documenting the print culture of the movement. Photographs illustrate critical aspects of the civil rights movement, such as voter-registration workshops, Freedom Summer, and the Freedom schools.

One small treasure trove of materials in the collection offers an example of the resources that future scholars will be eager to mine. Dorchester Center, near Savannah, was the vibrant site for citizenship schools organized by Andrew Young and others when he first came to Georgia to focus full attention on civil rights work under the auspices of the SCLC. With aid from movement activists Septima Poinsette Clark, Dorothy Cotton, and Bernice V. Robinson, Dorchester Center became one of the principal training grounds for the movement. Week-long sessions in citizenship education were provided to more than 4,000 individuals from 188 southern counties, which were selected because they had black majorities but few registered voters.

Dorchester Center activities are documented in photographs, memoranda, staff reports, and even receipts for travel expenses incurred by staff members. The scrupulous accounting (e.g., a bill for lunch for four, amounting to $3.62) shows the care that even a prominent figure such as Septima Clark took to use limited funds responsibly. That document is found in the collection, along with the final edited draft of her memoir, Echo in My Soul (published in 1962), and correspondence (1959–1961) from her years at the Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, Tennessee.

This archive will be an especially valuable resource for documenting the growth of the organization in the 1960s. Virtually all of the SCLC’s major initiatives related to voter registration, education, conflict resolution, advocacy, and organizational development are reflected in the collection. There are carbons of correspondence, news clippings, and copies of press releases. Of particular interest are the letters from individuals and organizations across the nation describing violations of civil rights and requesting help with local organizing.

This collection serves as a complement to other important civil rights collections held in MARBL, including the papers of Morris B. Abram, Joan C. Browning, John C. Converse, Constance W. Curry, Doris A. Derby, Leslie Dunbar, John A. Griffin, Vincent Harding, Eliza K. Paschal, Louise Thompson Patterson, Frances A. Pauley, John A. Sibley,ibert P. Tuttle, and many others. Emory’s collection also complements the SCLC papers in the King Library and Archives at the King Center in Atlanta, whose holdings focus on the years from 1957 through the death of its first president, Martin Luther King Jr., in 1968.
REMEMBERING EMORY’S ORIGINS: IGNATIUS FEW, ALEXANDER MEANS, AND EMORY’S FIRST BOOKS

Perhaps the oldest book among those that have a historic connection to old Emory College is a Bible published in New York for the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1837. Emory College received its charter from the state of Georgia on December 10, 1836. The new college’s trustees began meeting in 1837, and the first students were admitted to the freshman and sophomore classes the following year, the college had its first graduates, the church had its first building, and the historic Bible continued in use through wear and tear in places, suggesting a long life of heavy use. By the next year, the college had no graduates that year. The Bible shows significant inscriptions in the former owner’s hand, some in ink and some in pencil, that indicate its value to him:

“A donation from J. Hagood Armstrong, Augusta, Ga. to Emory College Library. Forwarded by Jas. A. Timmerman June 28, 1880.”

“Augusta, Ga., June 28, 1880. This was doubtless the property of Dr. I. A. Few, formerly Pres. Of Emory College. It is donated not for its intrinsic value merely, but as a souvenir of the great man whose name it was and whose name its pages bear. J.A.T.”

Another historic figure whose books are part of the library’s collection is Alexander Means, who served Emory College as professor of natural sciences beginning in 1838 and as president in 1854 and 1855. A Methodist preacher, physician, and scientist, Means is well known for his experiments with electricity using an apparatus that is on display in the Oxford College Library on the original Emory College campus. Two books owned by him—a New Testament with parallel Greek and Latin texts (1806) and a volume of practical and theoretical arithmetic (1810)—bear his autograph. The Bible carries additional annotations in the former owner’s hand, some in ink and some in pencil, that indicate its value to him:

“A. Means D.D. L.L.D

This precious volume, I studied with the Rev. John [illegible last name], in Statesville Academy, Iredell Co. N. Carolina 57 years ago A.D. 1818

I put on the present cover in Oxford, Ga. May 13th 1868. A. Means

Oct. 30th 1874

Aug 18th 1877 – 59 yrs ago”

Another of Means’ books is titled McCormick’s Arithmetic for Use in Colleges, Academies, and Schools, which was published in 1851. The book contains a printed sheet that outlines a “Steam Engine Problem,” which appears to have been produced to promote the sale and use of this textbook. The title page carries Loudon J. McCormick’s presentation inscription: “To Dr. A. Means, From the Author.” The book must have been given to Means in hopes that it would be used in college mathematics classes, but a search of archival copies of college catalogs for the 1850s yielded no indication that this treatise was adopted as a teaching text or recommended reference for students.

The accession logs that listed all library acquisitions for many years are among the records in the Emory University Archives. The addition of many such volumes to the library of Emory College is documented through these brief listings, but it is only through the identification and recording of handwritten inscriptions and annotations during careful cataloging that it is possible to trace at least some of the history of a book’s possession. Reconstructing these bibliographic histories illustrates the power of collaboration between catalogers and archivists and the relationship between Emory’s book collection and the historical records in its archives.
In 1995 I was faced with a problem that I hoped Emory could help me solve. I had spent twenty years in the City of Atlanta and Fulton County governments, and I needed a repository for my papers. Maynard Jackson's election as mayor was a transformative event for the city that was the capital of the New South and for the nation that had affirmed its democratic principles in legislation. One important piece was the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which enabled us to seek and serve in public office without fear or intimidation. I felt that my government service was part of an important new chapter in American history, the post-civil rights era that I hoped future scholars would study. My papers and others that the University would collect could be among the primary documents they would examine. So, I contacted Linda Matthews, then head of the special collections department at the Woodruff Library, and made an appointment.

For me, as an alumnus, Emory was a logical choice. It is a large and well-resourced research university; however, my memory of the University library was that its holdings did not include much in the way of African American primary material. When I had come to Emory's Institute for the Liberal Arts in 1971, after having earned my MA in English literature at Columbia, I did so because the University's interdisciplinary program was innovative and would enable me to do work in the emerging area of African American Studies. Emory's openness to my interests, though, was not matched by its library holdings; hence, I had to travel to research institutions. Moreover, Emory is joining with other Atlanta institutions—including my undergraduate alma mater, Morehouse College, and the political transformation of the South that followed. Emory today has moved from the margins to the center as a university where we can study in depth the rich history and literature of African Americans and the civil rights movement that reshaped the nation.