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Reviews, Critiques, and Annotations: Guides to Manuscript Collections in the Southeast: A Bibliography

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REVIEWS, CRITIQUES, AND ANNOTATIONS

Guides to Manuscript Collections in the Southeast: A Bibliography

W. Tony Coursey and Robert D. Bohanan

The seven state groupings listed below include all the published manuscript guides found to exist in the southeastern United States. Four months were spent contacting more than 700 institutions throughout the region, verifying holdings and locating published or printed guides. Of those institutions contacted, approximately 120, or one-sixth, claim to have manuscripts but have no guides available for distribution to researchers. Many have only in-house catalogs.

The kinds of institutions which most frequently have published guides are state, federal, public, and college libraries. Occasionally, historical societies, museums, and large businesses have printed inventories. There is little predictability for this generalization, even as far as quality. Sometimes a small historical society has more to offer than a college library.

The best aid for locating manuscript collections among various kinds of institutions throughout the Southeast is Howell (q.v.). Listing major holdings under corporate name and arranged as a directory, it is the first source to be checked for locating manuscripts in a particular area—especially those collections without guides. Other sources which cover several states are listed with Howell in a regional category below. For these and other guides, the most current pricing information is provided.
Regional


Downs, Robert B. Resources of Southern Libraries. Boston: Gregg Press, 1972. 370 p. Reprint of 1938 edition based on the activities of the ALA Committee on Resources of Southern Libraries. Section on manuscripts contains 32 pages and is out-of-date, but can be a useful introduction to major repositories and collections of older material.


Howell, J. B., ed. Special Collections in Libraries of the Southeast. Jackson, Miss.: Howick House, 1978. 423 p. A special committee of the Southeastern Library Association made a comprehensive survey of all special collections in ten southeastern states. Chapter arrangement is by state and town, including libraries, businesses and various societies and associations, briefly describing major manuscript holdings and other research materials. Includes three indexes -- geographical, corporate name, and general (subject). What Moore (q.v.) is to South Carolina, Howell is to the Southeast. This guide should be consulted before any others.
ALABAMA

List of manuscripts, official documents, church records and other sources, primary and secondary, located throughout the state with indication of holding institution. Not indexed.

The guide includes a biography of Dent and a description of his manuscripts and other documents. Indexed.

FLORIDA

Supersedes 1972 guide (The First One Hundred). Descriptive entries arranged alphabetically by collection title, most of which relate to West Florida history. Accession numbers provided. Includes name-subject index.


Index to collections acquired through the Florida Baptist Historical Society and housed at Stetson University Library, relating to Baptist history in the state. Revision needed.

Tribble, Edward J. Catalog of the Florida State

GEORGIA


Guide to Manuscripts and Archives in the Negro Collection of Trevor Arnett Library, Atlanta
A guide to twenty major collections at Atlanta University, the Countee Cullen Memorial Collection (approximately 4800 volumes) and such notables as Langston Hughes, Alex Haley, and Frederick Douglass. Provides a name-subject index.


Descriptions are arranged alphabetically by collection title with library accession number. Indexed by geographic and personal names.


An historical description of Confederate music with checklist of the approximately 200 items in the Special Collections Department. Arranged alphabetically. Not indexed.


Detailed item inventory of the papers of a Georgia historian, geographer, and naturalist whose primary research interest was the impact of Spanish culture upon the early history of Georgia. Indexed.

Describes holdings in the Manuscripts Section, Georgia Department of Archives and History. Indexed by name, organization, and subject.


A collation, with some additions, of information printed in the Georgia Historical Quarterly and Georgia Archive about accessions in twenty Georgia institutions. Collections and descriptions are arranged alphabetically by institution name. Includes subject-name index.


A guide to sources that relate to Atlanta. The Department also issues such subject guides for "Women's History," "Methodism," "China, Japan and Korea." All have descriptions arranged alphabetically, without index.

MISSISSIPPI


Arranged mostly by agency or office name within state government, with no detail on records or distinction of record type. Not an effective guide to manuscript holdings, though correspondence or other types of papers may be spotted occasionally in descriptions.
Originally published in 1907, as the Fifth Annual Report, Department of Archives and History, state of Mississippi. Includes information on manuscripts and other historical documents relating to the history of Mississippi. Indexed.

NORTH CAROLINA

Supersedes the 1941 guide. Describes the five million manuscripts in about 3900 groups. Indexed by title, name, place, and subject.

A revision of the 1942 and 1964 guides. Offers detailed descriptions of the archives' holdings. About one-fourth of the volume constitutes a name-subject index.

Finding aid with brief descriptions of the English records in the state archives, ca. 1585-1783. Not indexed.


Cumnock, Frances. Catalog of the Salem Congregation
Detailed, comprehensive guide to one of the largest and most important Moravian collections. Includes indexes.

With more than 6000 group entries, the bulk of which relates to the nineteenth century South, this guide supersedes the 1947 Tilley-Goodman guide. One third of the volume comprises an extensive index which includes proper names, geographic locale, subject, and time period.

Detailed, thematic index-guide to a famous collection of Moravian musical manuscripts, all of which are available on microfiche.

Pertains to public documents and correspondence, not private collections which are included in the department's 1964 guide. Detailed descriptions of holdings are intended as a finding aid to the department's shelf arrangement. Indexed by subject and name.

The results of the Historical Records survey in North Carolina, this guide is now superseded by Blosser and Wilson (q.v.).

Includes brief descriptions. Well indexed with cross-references and table of contents. Though dated, still useful.

Useful in its time, now superseded by Cain et al. (q.v.).

A supplement to Blosser and Wilson (q.v.).

Lists and describes state, county, and miscellaneous records, including private papers. Not indexed.

Detailed, comprehensive guide to a Moravian manuscript collection. Includes indexes.


Originally published in 1947, it was a fine guide in its day. Now superseded by Davis and Miller (q.v.).

SOUTH CAROLINA


Photocopy of the in-house index to manuscripts, other documents, and books in one of the country's largest collections of black history.


Includes papers, correspondence, minutes, dockets, and journals of various state agencies and offices. Indexed by name and subject. Updated by Chandler and Wade (q.v.).


A growing collection, recent acquisitions are usually printed in the South Carolina Historical Magazine. A radical reformatting of this guide, with new material, is expected in 1985.

Chepesiuk, Ron. A Guide to the Manuscript and Oral History Collections in the Winthrop College
Brief descriptions of 146 manuscript collections, many of which relate to women or to the Upper Piedmont region of the state. Arranged alphabetically with subject-name index.

Begun in 1975, the collection is described through its acquisitions to 1980. Arranged alphabetically by title, without index.

Brief descriptions of the holdings of the college are arranged alphabetically, without index.

Descriptions of the society's manuscript holdings are arranged by accession number. Microform copies of most are available for purchase. Not indexed.

Descriptions of the society's manuscript holdings are arranged by accession number. An excellent index based on Sears List of Subject Headings is included.

"Recent Accessions to the Manuscript Division." South Carolina Historical Magazine.

Only brief mention of manuscript holdings, but does list the primary holdings of the University of South Carolina and the Carolina Historical Society. Index includes institutional names and subject entries. This is an excellent guide for locating manuscript collections within a particular area.


Issued as a supplement to the *South Carolina Historical Magazine* 83, 3. Includes a history of the collection, its scope, and finding aids. Over 2600 collections are listed by accession number and described. Well indexed, with personal and corporate name, geographic and subject references.

**TENNESSEE**


Briefly describes the archives' audiovisual collection and the individual tapes found in each
collection. Indexed by speaker and performer, song title, and subject.


This new edition supersedes the 1975 and 1978 editions. The microfilm holdings relate to state history, though copies may be of collections that are located outside the state, such as the Draper papers in the Wisconsin Historical Society. The guide is arranged by accession number and indexed by significant names and subjects.


Presented to the public library in Knoxville in 1921, the private library of Calvin Morgan McClung (1855-1919) focuses upon the southeastern United States and the area west of the Appalachians to the Mississippi River. Bibliographical entries are arranged alphabetically by author or by key word of the title. Not indexed.


Descriptive entries of the personal papers and records of the society held in the Memphis State University Library. Indexed.

Archives, 1969. 70 p.
Intended as a finding aid for the repository, this describes the basic contents of 123 record groups. The forty-five page index "is primarily a proper name index with selected subjects listed."

Register to the Church Family Papers located in the Mississippi Valley Collection, Memphis State University Libraries. The Churches were a wealthy black family active in business and politics in West Tennessee, ca. 1870-1960. The majority of the collection spans the dates 1912-1952.

Describes scope and content of twenty-five manuscript collections which relate to local and regional materials of historical and genealogical nature. Surname index, bibliography.

Major collections include George Gershwin, Langston Hughes, and Scott Joplin. Descriptions arranged alphabetically. Revised list (November 1983) available.

Arrangement of descriptions by five sections: Library, Manuscripts, Newspapers, County Records, and Archives. Five separate indexes, apparently by name, but with no explanation as to use.

This booklet describes the major depositories in the state with their size of holdings and major collections. Indexed. Out-of-date.