

Columbus State University

CSU ePress

Archives and Special Collections Newsletter

CSU Libraries

Winter 2020

The Archival Advocate (Winter 2020)

David Owings

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THE ARCHIVAL ADVOCATE

A newsletter from the Columbus State University Archives and Special Collections

Letter from the Director

Many of you undoubtedly know that preserving the past is a large part of our mission at the CSU Archives and Special Collections. However, many may not realize that we are equally interested in documenting and preserving the present knowing that one day it too will be considered history. We are not always aware that we are living through history as it is happening and that the moments we experience in the present will one day be of interest to future generations, but it is true in so many cases. Just as we study the past, people fifty years or even a hundred years from now will one day be looking back at our times as history. One example that will certainly be of interest to future generations is the current global pandemic. How did we react to quarantine and mask orders? How did schools handle closures and reopenings? What are the stories of essential workers on the front line and stories of those who lost their employment? How were lives changed by the loss of family and friends?

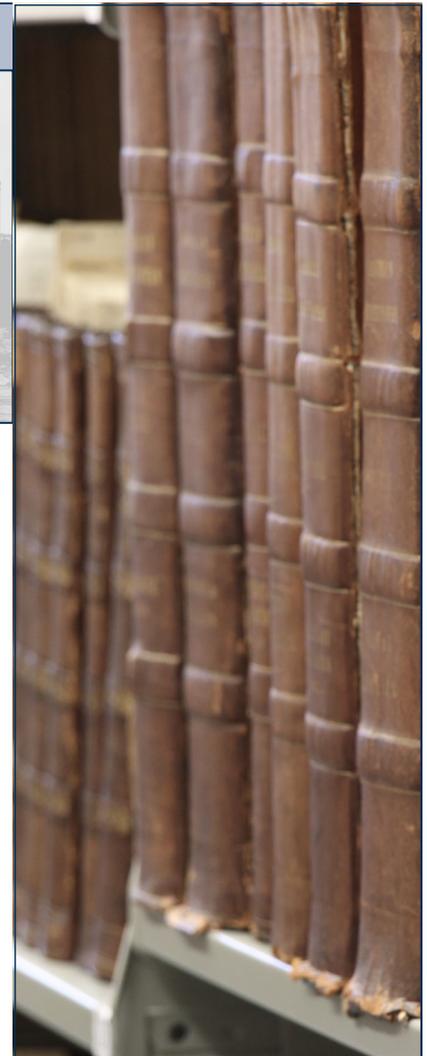
In an effort to document these and other ways COVID-19 has changed everyday life, we have created an online submission form for you to contribute your story. Everyone in the community is invited to participate. Please join to help us show how life has changed. The stories, photos, and other items we collect will allow us and future generations to study and explore these historic times. Submissions will be viewable online and kept permanently as part of the Archive's historical record. Individuals may choose to make their submissions anonymously if they do not wish to be identified.

For more information on how to submit to this project or to explore submissions from your friends and neighbors please visit:

digitalarchives.columbusstate.edu/covid19

See page six for featured items selected from the Documenting COVID-19 Project.

- David Owings



CSU ARCHIVES

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Editor:

David Owings



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The Yuchi Language Project

Last year the Archives hosted a group of visitors led by Dr. Richard Grounds, executive director for the Yuchi Language Project. They reviewed audio on both cassettes and reel-to-reel tapes that featured the spoken Yuchi language. These recordings include discussions on vocabulary, general conversations, and oral histories that are all crucial to documenting the Yuchi language. They also include important ceremonies including the Green Corn Dance, Ribbon Dance, and Buffalo Dance among others. Altogether, the recordings collectively illuminate the culture, arts, and religion of the Yuchi informing many broad areas of study of the Yuchi people in addition to their language.

The voices and stories on these recordings are also particularly important due to the nature of the Yuchi language. According to Dr. Grounds, “Yuchi is a unique language that has been identified as a language isolate by specialists in historical linguistics. This means that the rare Yuchi language is not related to any known language as part of a larger language family.”



Gathering around a cassette tape player listening to the Yuchi language being spoken.

“Yuchi is a unique language that has been identified as a language isolate by specialists in historical linguistics. This means that the rare Yuchi language is not related to any known language as part of a larger language family.” - Dr. Richard Grounds



Yuchi Language Recordings

All of these recordings are unfortunately at a high risk for deterioration and damage. Digitizing them would be one part of a larger preservation effort. Digitally capturing these items will help preserve their contents by guarding against damage from physical handling and repeated playback as well as the slow erosion of time. With digital surrogates, we can retire the originals and instead provide digital copies to users, uploading them online and making them accessible to researchers all over the world.

These are rare recordings of a rare language that is increasingly becoming the focus of study for both community scholars and academic researchers across many disciplines. Any support for the preservation of these special materials would make an important contribution to the world of academic research. Please consider supporting this and other digitization projects by visiting archives.columbusstate.edu/giving or by contacting David Owings at owings_david@columbusstate.edu, 706-507-8674.

Uncovering Litho-Krome Imagery

This year we have been fortunate to have Sam Belisle working with us. Sam is a senior at Columbus State majoring in History. He joined the Archives team this past January and has helped process a number of different projects. Recently, he has been focusing on rehousing transparencies that are part of our Litho-Krome Collection.

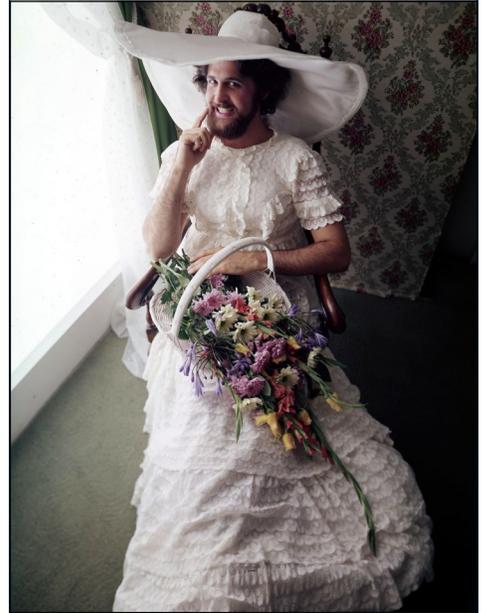
Litho-Krome was a printing company in Columbus, GA, formed in the early 1930s by J. Tom Morgan. Morgan briefly pursued a career in fine art in Pennsylvania before returning to Columbus to focus more on commercial art. Morgan's expertise and focus on art led the company to partner with prominent artists such as Henry Nordhausen, Norman Rockwell, and Thomas Kinkade. Litho-Krome also worked extensively with companies in the Columbus area, printing newsletters and calendars for a company called Timken as well as advertisements for RC Cola. In partnering with these companies, Litho-Krome came in possession of numerous collections of film, slides, and other photographic materials.

In printing the Timken Company calendars, Litho-Krome had hundreds of images and transparencies from various model photo-shoots. According to Sam, "most of these transparencies are of various female models in different settings. These transparencies are reels and reels of film with only slight differences between one another. The photographer would adjust lighting or frame settings and take picture after picture to ensure a good image was captured since the results could not be seen until after the film was developed."

Many of these photoshoots were saved with no associated context making for interesting mysteries for future researchers to uncover. One of Sam's favorites he describes as "a bearded man smiling coyly yet awkwardly in a wedding dress." Why he is in a wedding dress, or why he smiles in this odd way we may never know. Another facet of the mystery is the fact that this particular image was found in a collection of other images showing mice playing around a block of cheese. Another interesting collection Sam found was called "70s fashion" and was dated to the mid 1980s. Again, no context is given for the fascination with '70s fashion a decade later.

All in all, these images have made for a fun and interesting project for Sam. "I've enjoyed seeing all of these quirky images" he says. Examples of some of his favorite picks are displayed on the right side of the page.

SAM'S FAVORITE PICKS

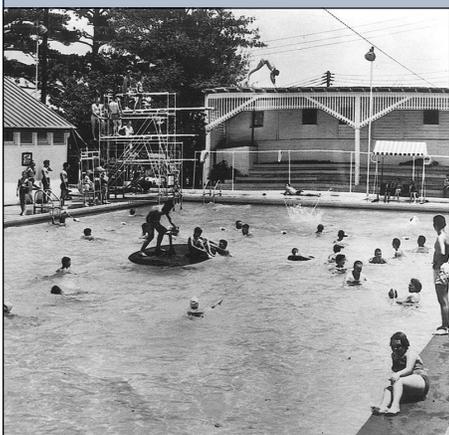


PHENIX CITY STORIES

Scenes from the Phenix City
Photograph Collection



A boy sits in a soapbox car from Dollar Music Company.



Swimming at Idle Hour Park



Demolition of the old City Hall in front of the new City Hall on Broad Street.

New Additions to the Digital Archives

Earlier this year the university campus, like most places of businesses, was closed due to quarantine protocols attempting to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Just because campus was closed though does not mean the Archives staff were not just as busy as usual. Even though we could not access our offices, we were able to use that time to focus on uploading content to our Digital Archives. Several new collections are now online and accessible adding to the growing total of nearly 4,000 items in the Digital Archives.

Here are just a few of those highlighted for you to explore:

James A. Fuller Letters (MC 407)

A collection of twenty letters from James Aaron Fuller, a private in the Confederate Army, to his wife and family over the course of and briefly after his service in the American Civil War.

<https://digitalarchives.columbusstate.edu/collections/show/50>

Phenix City Historical Photograph Collection (SMC 152)

Photographs ranging from 1880s to 1970s primarily documenting Phenix City including images of business, churches, street scenes, and more.

<https://digitalarchives.columbusstate.edu/collections/show/52>

Insurance Records and Contracts (SMC 155)

Pages from a ledger book detailing the business of an insurance company in the late 1800s.

<https://digitalarchives.columbusstate.edu/collections/show/53>

Brown-Gunnels Collection (MC 394)

Materials include personal correspondence, family photographs, and other memorabilia associated with John "Wright" and Betty Brown, their two daughters, in-laws, and friends. The collection ranges from 1900-2017.

<https://digitalarchives.columbusstate.edu/collections/show/56>

Please note however, that rarely are we able to digitize and upload the entirety of a collection meaning that most collections in the Digital Archives are small portions of the overall materials. The volume of materials is often a limiting factor as well as varying sizes, formats, and degrees of stability/fragility all of which determine if an item can be digitized. Always consult with the Archives to see what materials are available in boxes that have not yet been digitized.



Photograph of the Grand Theatre, circa 1924, from the Brown-Gunnels Collection. Likely photographed by J. Wright Brown then-manager of both the Rialto and Grand theatres.

June 27th 1862
 When I woke up this morning, I heard
 the belching of cannons at the distance
 of twelve miles in the direction of
 Hanover Courthouse a little to the left of
 Richmond it will be a general engage-
 ment all along the line between us
 and the enemy. The fire opened a
 little before day this morning.
 I will write to you soon as I know
 how the battle went. Colonel Oliver
 told me the firing was at Richmond I
 was mistaken in the course.
 When you write, direct your letter
 to Richmond via J. A. Fuller a
 private in Capt. J. W. Herrer Company K 47 Ala
 Regiment.
 I will send you a two dollar bill it
 will not pass here Confederate money is
 the last money here.
 I will get Samuel Knox to bring this
 to Lochapoka.

Excerpt from James A. Fuller Letter dated June 27, 1862

“When I woke up this morning I heard the belching of cannons at the distance of twelve miles in the direction of Hanover Courthouse a little to the left of Richmond. It will be a general engagement all along the line in between us and the enemy.

The fire opened a little before day this morning. Will write to you soon as I know how the battle went. Colonel Oliver told me the firing was at Richmond. I was mistaken in the course.

When you write, direct your letter to Richmond via J. A. Fuller a private in Capt. J. W. Herrer Company K 47 Ala Regiment.

I will send you a two dollar bill, it will not pass here. Confederate money is the last money here.

I will get Samuel Knox to bring this to Lochapoka.”

Documenting COVID-19 Community Submissions

A selection of stories highlighting how life has changed:

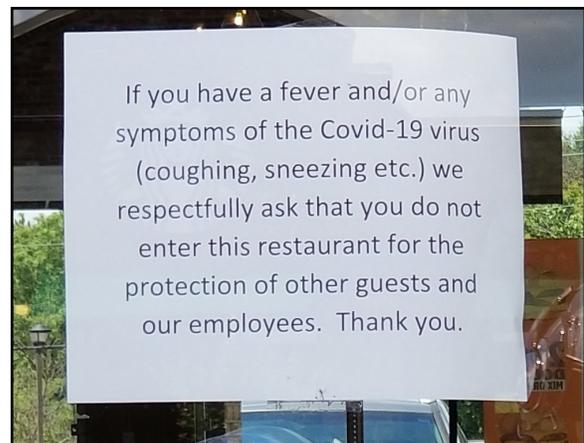
“ This semester took a strange and sudden turn. I was certainly no stranger to online learning, but I had also never been a huge fan of it. It was difficult to try and learn based solely on readings and videos assigned by Professors. That said, I knew everyone involved (both professors and students) were doing everything they could to make this transition as easy and manageable as possible. ”

“ Online learning has been hard with having so many classes. It’s hard when you do not have your professor there to teach in front of you or to be able to ask questions. ”

“ Everyone rushed into the grocery stores and took as much as they could. When walking through the aisles all that could be seen were a few cans on the shelves and empty areas for produce and meats, it looked as if the store had been ransacked. ”

“ The sign has been up for a week at Walmart and today is the day they would start requiring masks. "Good," I think to myself, "if the governor of Georgia isn't going to make a mandate, at least the businesses are." I think it's a good idea, the science has shown it is a good idea, but I still felt an overwhelming anxiety going to Walmart today. How would people react? Would they fall in line? If not for the right reasons, at least because it is mandatory? ”

“ I noticed they started putting up temperature readers around the building so you can check yourself for a temperature. Then it has some papers with information on what to do if your temperature is too high. I try not to get too paranoid thinking about it, but every time I cough in public, people look at me terrified. ”



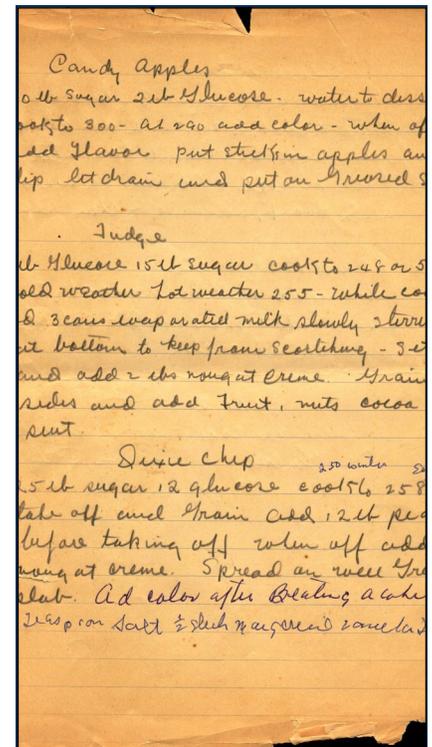
A selection of COVID-19 signage.

Sweet Treats: The Mitchell Family Confectionary

Alex Mitchell, a native of Sparta, Greece, moved to the United States at an early age spending time in New York and Savannah before arriving in Columbus. In 1889, at the age of eighteen, he opened his own confectionary that would go on to be a Columbus landmark for well over fifty years.

The store was originally located on Broadway (then just Broad) but later moved to 13th Street. Mitchell's Confectionary was recognized for homemade candies, such as peanut brittle and pralines but also sold an assortment of fruits and nuts. Two local favorites were Dixie Chips (a pink fudge with peanuts) and Flapper Food (a mixture of marshmallows, pecans, and chocolate). It was not just locals though that craved these sweet treats. Others traveled from all over the state, including President Roosevelt, who had been a favorite customer while staying at Warm Springs. After Alex's death in 1940, his son Evans ran the store until 1966 when he retired.

The Mitchell candy legacy lives on in the Archives. A small collection donated by the family in 2008 includes a recipe book and candy magazine along with photos of both the store and the Mitchell family.



Excerpt from the Mitchell recipe book.



Photograph showing the interior of Alex Mitchell's Confectionary.

Archive Staff Highlights



Tom Converse

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Joseph Thomas (Tom) Converse began in the CSU Archives in 2010 as a volunteer and has been a part-time archives assistant since 2011. Tom has a B.A. in Comparative Literature and a Master's in Library Science. He is also a Certified Archivist (Emeritus) and a Certified Records Manager (Retired). He began his career in archives at the Kentucky State Archives in 1979 as the head of the Kentucky Guide Project, an NHPRC-funded program to locate, describe and publish information on all archival and manuscript collections in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

In 1985, Tom was commissioned as a Consular Officer in the Foreign Service of the U.S. Department of State. Between 1986 and 1991, he was posted to the U.S. embassies in Guatemala and Nicaragua and to the Consulate General in Barcelona, Spain. As a consular officer, he adjudicated requests by non-U.S. citizens for both tourist and immigrant visas as well as providing services to U.S. citizens abroad. These services included passport issuance or replacement; repatriations of destitute Americans; visits to American citizens in hospitals, prisons and jails within his consular district; fraud investigations involving citizenship or benefits such as Social Security; and arranging for the return to American soil of citizens who became seriously ill or died overseas.

In 1991, he resigned his commission to return to his archival/librarian roots. He served as the Head Librarian of the National Archives in Washington, D.C. until he accepted a position with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in 1993. He served as the IDB's Archivist and Chief of the Records Management section. Until his retirement in 2009, he oversaw the Bank's records center and its archives, as well as all records-related training (in both English and Spanish) in its Washington, D.C. headquarters, in its 29 offices throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, and its European office in France. He also planned and oversaw the conversion of the Bank's records systems from being paper-based to an electronic records and documents management environment.

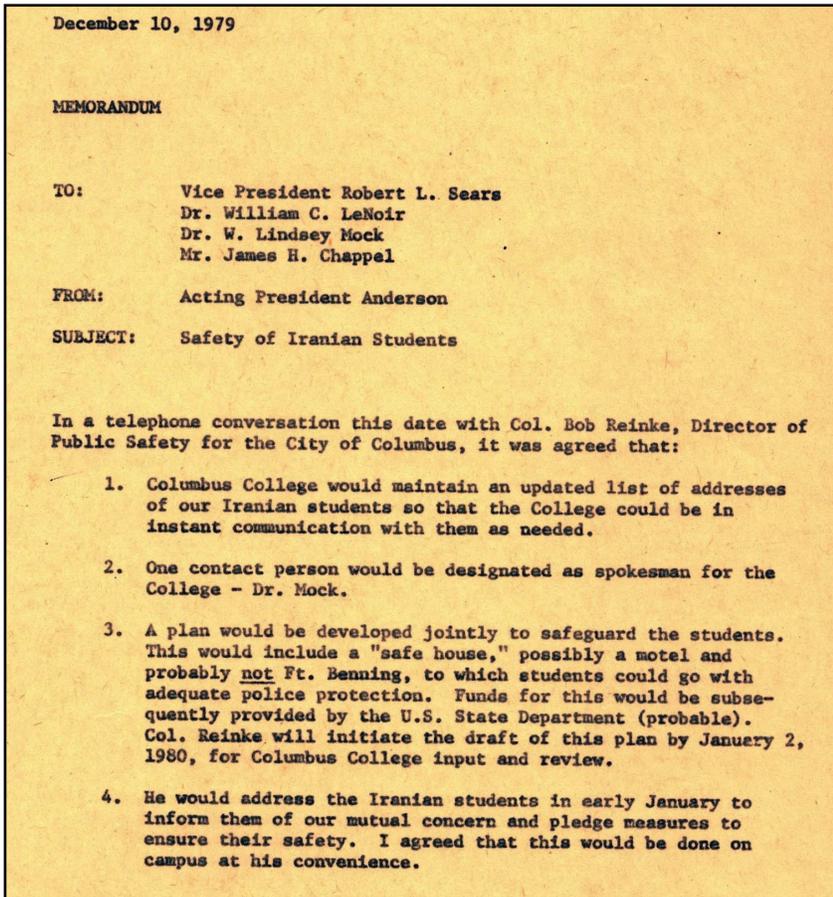
Tom retired to Columbus, the hometown of his wife, Myra Massey Converse. Over the 45 years (and counting) of their marriage, it is a place he visited numerous times and had come to love. He enjoys processing CSU archival collections and helping archives users with their research topics.

Archives Launch New Social Media Page

Archives and Special Collections is pleased to announce the launch of its new Facebook page where we will be featuring new acquisitions, highlighting items from current collections, sharing future event details, and much more.

Please consider following us at: www.facebook.com/CSUArchivesandSpecialCollections

“Found in the Archives” Spotlight



This document to Administrators of Columbus College dated December 10, 1979 details the plan for protection for Iranian students in case of a riot, protest, or other emergency.

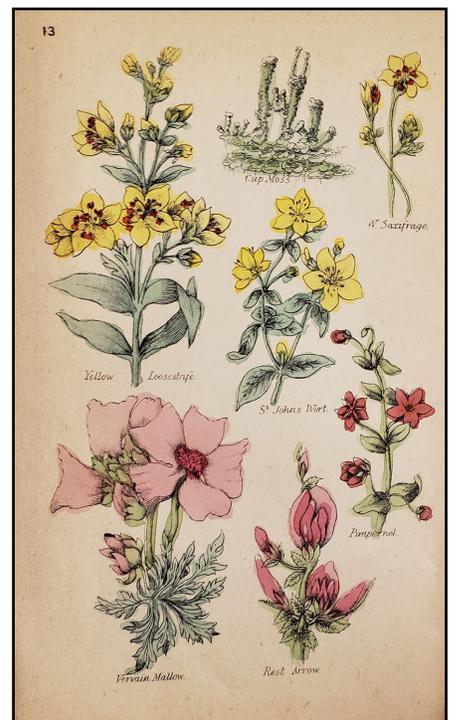
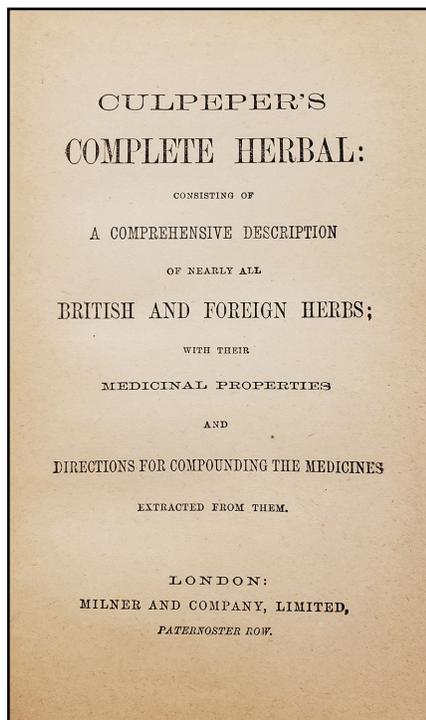
This was necessary due to the unrest in Iran during this time period that culminated with the overthrow of the U.S. supported Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. This was also a time when Columbus College was between presidents as Dr. Whitley resigned a few months previously and Dr. Brooke did not arrive until the following year.

Found in the Columbus State University Records.

Rare Book Corner

Culpeper's Complete Herbal contains a comprehensive description of nearly all herbs, along with descriptions of their medicinal properties and instructions on preparing and using them to treat different illnesses. Included are precise botanical illustrations to aid in identification all delicately colored by hand.

This particular volume of *Culpeper's Herbal* is not dated but is believed to be circa 1850s.





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BECOME AN ADVOCATE FOR THE ARCHIVES

The Advocates for the Archives (AFTA) supports the Archives and Special Collections in its mission to document and preserve the history and culture of Columbus and the broader Chattahoochee Valley area. Our annual giving program, funded by member contributions, provides us with critical support for ensuring our collections are preserved for future generations including sending documents to specialized conservation labs for treatment when needed.

Everyone is invited to become an advocate by contributing to the annual giving program. Please consider joining; your donation is an investment in history. The Archives also welcomes physical donations of research materials. If you have, or know of, materials which relate to the history of Columbus or the surrounding area, please contact us. All contributions are tax deductible.

For more information contact:

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