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A UNION CATALOG OF FLORIDIANA

By ALFRED HASBROUCK

Although the history of Florida is more ancient, is as varied, and as interesting as that of any other state in the Union, much of it is now virtually unknown and little is as well known as it ought to be. While we have profited by the scholarly work of several able historians who have sought and found important sources from which to write of Florida's history, many others have learned that both primary and secondary material is exceedingly difficult to locate. Also there are general readers, our winter visitors and prospective investors, who wish to know more about Florida, its resources, its flora, its beauties, its traditions, its history, and its literature, but are unable to learn, even after inquiry at their local libraries, where the books they would like to read are to be found. This shows a need which has long been realized by certain members of the Florida Historical Society as well as librarians throughout the state.

The solution for filling this need was first suggested by Mr. Seymour Robb of the Library of Congress in a communication to the Florida Historical Society. To quote Mr. Robb:-

"Through a Union Catalog scholarship and serious research will be given a tool that quite possibly may save weeks and months of tedious correspondence. A glance at the card in the Union Catalog will show the various locations of a given item at once and whether the problem is one of borrowing a single book or an extended trip to consult a number of works. The efficiency of this method is at once apparent.

"The Union Catalog when perfected can be used as the basis for a comprehensive bibliography of

the state of Florida. I have no doubt that there are a number of such bibliographies now in existence which are acknowledged to be incomplete. Compare in your own minds the benefits of amalgamating all such existing records into one unit.

"In fact there are only two prime requisites-but upon them hinges success or failure. First of all, some library with perhaps a little more than sympathetic interest must be persuaded to give the catalog a home. This will entail a relatively small increase in space occupied and a relatively small increase in routine labor. It will, however, undoubtedly cause a large increase in correspondence. The added, responsibility, as a whole, should not be burdensome to any well organized library. Secondly, the cooperation of all libraries in the state, large and small, public and private, should be forthcoming. It is inconceivable that in such a cause any librarian would not give his cordial support. In this way, serving the best interests of the many would mean comparatively little individual effort on the part of any one person or institution. Finally, in the interest of efficiency and convenience, locate this catalog as centrally from a geographical standpoint as is possible.

"The Union Catalog is just coming into real prominence. That most valuable of all servants to scholarship, the Union Catalog of the Library of Congress, best exemplifies the extent to which such an idea can be carried. However, all over the country, regions, states, and municipalities are realizing the ultimate economy and usefulness of the Union Catalog. . . . Texas University Library has a cooperative Union Catalog, begun in 1921, of the books, periodicals, pamphlets, etc., in Texas libraries relating to Texas and the Southwest. It now numbers 7,000 cards from fourteen contributing libra-

ries. The Union Catalog of the Philadelphia metropolitan area combines the resources of over one hundred libraries and represents perhaps 5,000,000 books. These outstanding examples have proven their worth beyond question."

Filled with enthusiasm after a talk with Mr. Robb, and acting on the latter's suggestion, Professor A. J. Hanna, of Rollins College, called into conference Mr. Watt Marchman, Librarian of the Florida Historical Society, Mr. W. F. Yust, Librarian of Rollins College, and the writer, a member of the Florida Historical Society, to consider the formation of a Union Catalog of Floridiana. Having received the approval and encouragement of President Hamilton Holt, and in the hope of material assistance from friends of the college, it was decided to make Rollins College the site for the Catalog. In addition to the fact that the college would provide a home for the Catalog, the central location and facility of access of Winter Park, and the number of members of the Florida Historical Society living there or in the neighboring city of Orlando, were important factors in the decision to establish the Catalog there. President Holt invited the writer to assist in carrying out plans for the Catalog, and the latter was subsequently chosen Director by the Advisory Council.

During conferences with Mr. Robb at the Library of Congress and with Dr. James A. Robertson at the Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland, the Director received hearty encouragement and enthusiastic offers of assistance. Dr. Robertson, with the utmost generosity, threw open to the Catalog his unrivalled bibliographical notes on Florida books and manuscripts, the collection of which had involved years of research, with permission to use any or all of it, on the sole condition that the re-

sults of his researches were not to be published until he had completed his own project of publication. Mr. Robb, liberally offering his own time and experience, is now engaged in examining, listing, and preparing cards based on Dr. Robertson's bibliographical notes. Mr. George A. Schwegmann, Jr., Director of the Union Catalog of the Library of Congress, furnished many valuable suggestions and provided facilities for making photostatic copies of all Florida cards in the catalog of which he is in charge. This work is now in process of completion and will be the foundation upon which to build our catalog. Dr. Roscoe R. Hill, Chief of the Division of Classification of the National Archives, explained the work of collecting copies of Florida and other Spanish colonial manuscripts which he had done in the archives of Spain and suggested useful sources of information in the National Archives and other government bureaus in Washington. Mr. Joseph F. Marron, Librarian of the Jacksonville Public Library, and Mr. Watt Marchman, Librarian of the Florida Historical Society, have made available the catalogs of their respective libraries, and Mrs. Sue A. Mahorner, State Director of the Historical Records Survey and State Archives Survey, has supplied the Director and the Chairman of the Advisory Council with many useful reports describing important records found by her workers in the county repositories of the State.

As at present planned, it *is* intended that the Union Catalog shall contain cards for every book with an important reference to Florida or written by a Floridian, for every manuscript of historical value in this country pertaining to Florida, for all newspapers published in Florida or containing articles of especial value on Florida, for all articles concerning Florida published *in* periodicals, for all

documents of special or historical significance, for all maps of Florida or parts of Florida; and for photographs of scenes or inhabitants of Florida, if of unusual interest or significance.

The printed book, periodical, and newspaper sections will be made up from copies of the cards contained in the Union Catalog of the Library of Congress, and from those in other public, university, and private libraries, from bibliographies and check lists of Floridiana, and from reports from the State Librarian and the librarians of local libraries. The cards referring to manuscripts will be based largely on the indexes obtained from the collections of Dr. James A. Robertson on the bibliographies of sources discovered by Dr. J. B. Lockey, Dr. Roscoe R. Hill, Dr. A. Curtis Wilgus and other authorities on the sources of Spanish colonial and Florida history-on catalogs of collections of manuscripts in university and public libraries-on lists published by the National Archives and the state archives, and on the voluntary help of historians, editors, and literati who may have information about the location of unusual documents, manuscripts, or papers. The map section will receive help from the Map Division of the Library of Congress-from leading authorities on maps-from the archives referred to above; and from reliable information received from individuals. Photographs and miscellaneous Floridiana will form a small section compiled from reports from individuals or the Archives Survey which have been verified by the Director or his assistants and found to be of enough reliability, interest, and importance to warrant inclusion. From the above it will be seen that the catalog is a cooperative undertaking toward the completion of which everyone is asked to help. Such assistance will be gladly received and publicly acknowledged.

The Catalog will be arranged as both an author and a subject catalog, the subjects probably being grouped under general categories such as agriculture, antiquities, art, bibliography, biography, fauna, flora, geography, guide books, general history, inhabitants, literature, manufactures, transportation, and other convenient headings. The cards themselves will conform to the system in use in the Library of Congress, and will contain the name of the author, title, publisher, place and date of publication, collation, number based on the Dewey decimal system, and especially the name (or symbol representing the name) of every library in which a copy of the item may be found. This locating of each item, the distinguishing feature of a union catalog, is the one requiring the most extensive and painstaking investigation. In the case of rare books, manuscripts or other material in private libraries, the full name and address of the owner will appear with brief instructions how permission to see the item may be obtained.

It is expected that the book section will be formed with reasonable rapidity, consonant with thoroughness and accuracy, and that during the latter part of the academic year of 1937-38, it will be possible to install a cabinet, ready for use, containing sufficient cards, tentatively arranged, to make it worth the consultation of investigators. The cards for the other sections will require more time in assembling. Perhaps scholars using the Catalog will supply helpful suggestions. Whenever verified new information is received or a new book is published, a card will be added, so that the growth of the catalog will be continuous and unlimited.

In order to carry out the purposes of this *Union Catalog of Floridiana*, and to make it as complete, accurate, and up-to-date as possible, the coopera-

tion of all state, local, and college librarians is hoped for. They will be asked to furnish lists of books on Florida in their libraries and to answer questions from time to time about their resources in manuscripts, documents, maps, and other items, the answering of which will no doubt involve considerable extra work. It is believed, however, that enthusiasm for their work, State loyalty, and a spirit of mutual helpfulness will be sufficient inducement to bring substantial results from these requests.

Those who have in their possession documents or manuscripts of historical interest will, by the mere tilling in of data on the information sheet received from the Union Catalog, make full compliance with the owner's obligation toward the dissemination of knowledge.

The satisfaction of performing a public duty is sufficient reward for those who are devoting their time, without remuneration, to the making of the Union Catalog. At present the executive personnel consists of the director, Dr. Alfred Hasbrouck;* bibliographical consultants: Dr. James A. Robertson, Archivist of the State of Maryland and one of the leading authorities on Florida history and bibliography, and Mr. Seymour Robb of the Library of Congress; advisory council: Professor A. J.

*Dr. Hasbrouck (Ph.D. Columbia) is well qualified to bring the Union Catalog to full success and usefulness. He is a colonel (retired on account of physical disability incident to the service) U. S. Army. He has taught history in Lake Forest College; has been a frequent contributor to *Hispanic American Historical Review*; has published *Foreign Legionaries in the Liberation of Spanish South America* (Columbia University Press, 1928); and made extensive contributions to *Studies in Hispanic American Affairs* (George Washington University Press, 1934, 1935) He is one of the literary colony gathered about Rollins College, in care of which he **may** be addressed. Professor Hasbrouck invites correspondence and help from all who are interested in the *Union Catalog of Floridiana*. - Ed.

Hanna of Rollins College, chairman, Dr. Kathryn T. Abbey of the Florida State College for Women, Mr. Julien C. Yonge, Editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, and Mr. Watt Marchman, Librarian of the Florida Historical Society. The enthusiasm and helpfulness shown by this highly qualified group have been of the greatest importance to the Director in starting his work. It is hoped that similar interest may induce many others in Florida and outside, and especially among members of the Florida Historical Society, to give what assistance they can toward the continued growth of the undertaking until the *Union Catalog of Florida* becomes a fully developed institution for the diffusion of knowledge about our State.

(Mrs. Murray L. Stanley, of Daytona Beach and Maine, formerly president of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs, has donated the necessary \$248.25 for the purchase of initial equipment for the Union Catalog. Mrs. Stanley, who is an active member of the Florida Historical Society and has done much for historical projects in Maine, has previously indicated her interest in scholarship and research by the presentation of valuable records to the libraries of the Connecticut Historical Society, Bowdoin College, and Princeton University.)