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The Union Catalog of Floridiana

Florida Historical Society
membership@myfloridahistory.org



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THE UNION CATALOG OF FLORIDIANA

This project at Rollins College has often been told of in the *Quarterly*; especially, in our issue of October 1937 (XVI. 119), is an account of its founding and of the well-laid plans for its growth and usefulness. So far as has been possible, these plans are being carried out, and today the Catalog is a well-established and constantly growing medium for the dissemination of information on every kind of printed or manuscript material relating in any way to Florida.

The Union Catalog of Floridiana is now recognized as an important cultural institution of the state, and this recognition is extending beyond our borders. A description of the Catalog and the service it is rendering appeared in the last number of *Hispanic American Historical Review*, which said:

“ . . . Rare Florida materials are so widely scattered that researchers . . . are bewildered and delayed for want of ready answers to the questions: What material is there on Florida? and, where is it?

“Librarians, historians, and others interested in the only partly explored Florida field are endeavoring to aid investigators through the development of a Union Catalog of Floridiana, a cooperative project established in 1937 under the trusteeship of Rollins College. The purpose of the Catalog is twofold: To list materials relating to Florida by author, title, and subjects, and thus provide a comprehensive and readily usable index; and to indicate by means of symbols the location of these materials.

“ . . . ‘Floridiana’ includes here all records, published and unpublished, treating of the geographic division recognized at any time as Florida, such as (1) printed books, pamphlets, reports, public and

private records and documents; (2) newspapers and periodicals published within the state, and newspaper and periodical articles about Florida published elsewhere; (3) diaries, letters, and other manuscripts; (4) maps and charts; (5) pictures, photographs, motion picture films and microfilms.

“The Catalog is maintained and developed by contributions of listings and other services from librarians and historians, and by funds from public-spirited laymen”

The work of the Catalog is carried on by an editor, Della F. Northey, and it is under the direction of Miss Northey and an advisory council with Professor A. J. Hanna, its founder, as chairman.

In order to make readily available the material in the more important Florida periodicals Miss Northey has undertaken to make an analysis on cards of each of those periodical files. Sets of these cards will be available separately at cost, and she would be glad to give any information about the securing of the cards to those interested.

The first of these analyses has been made of this *Quarterly* from its beginning. In a statement, which will be sent to any one interested, Miss Northey says: “The *Florida Historical Quarterly* was selected as the first periodical to be analyzed because of the value of its contents and because files are preserved in most of the public libraries of the State Few, even of those who often read this *Quarterly*, realize that its file covers much that is not generally looked upon as history, and the history itself has the broadest coverage. There are articles, of course, on the early settlements, on colonial days, the Spanish missions, the Indians, on all of the wars (and Florida has had many), and the forts, built mostly in times of peace. There are letters and diaries to give intimate contact with the

life of all periods, and numerous biographies of Floridians of every era. All that was to be expected; but also there is more or less information on education, on roads and every kind of transportation, newspapers with a list of extant issues, the courts, citrus, land grants, the churches, censuses, meteorology, yellow fever, slavery and free Negroes; and something of the culture of each age can be gleaned from its pages if it is not directly described. Economics is featured, with much on plantations, trade, the early banks, and railroad building. Pre-history is included with several articles on the archeology of the region, and what the white man found when he first came here. And, least expected, there is an article on the music of the Seminoles with notes and cadences recorded from their dances.

“The analysis has been made on library cards to make possible a continuing service as each number appears. There are annotations, and where source material has been cited its location is indicated by means of symbols. Another reason for making the analysis on cards is to conform to the custom of libraries to collect and segregate all material on their state, county, and city with a detailed card index to that material. Such a plan has been suggested at Florida library conferences and several libraries have used this method with success.”