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## History News

Florida Historical Society  
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## HISTORY NEWS

On December 13, 1995, the University Press of Florida held an open house to mark its 50th anniversary. Founded in 1945, the press began with one part-time employee and spent nearly a year publishing its first book, *Florida Under Five Flags* by Rembert W. Patrick. The press was then and is still committed to the publication of books about the region. But, its staff has grown to 22 and its list includes 75 titles which have generated net sales of nearly two million dollars. UPF now has a national and even international reach, with sales representation throughout the U.S., Western Europe, the Middle East, and the Asia Pacific region. Its authors are affiliated with major universities around the U.S., Great Britain, the Middle East, Latin America, Russia, Asia, and Africa. Exemplary of its titles are these from the spring issue: *The New History of Florida*, edited by Michael Gannon; *The Culture and Technology of African Iron Production*, edited by Peter Schmidt, *Music of the Warao of Venezuela*, by Dale Olsen, and *The Mediterranean Debt Crescent*, by Clement M. Henry. As for best sellers, *Florida Landscape Plants* holds the records at 55,000 copies. A creature of both the academy and the marketplace, the press enters its sixth decade developing a new technological identity. It sees the electronic information phenomenon as an opportunity for those with expertise as gatekeepers and disseminators of knowledge. The press has recently acquired a new director, Ken Scott, who is committed to a presswide conversion to electronic publishing along with tight new budgeting and long-range planning procedures.

The Pensacola Historical Society has collected Pensacola material on a regular basis since 1960 and has operated the Pensacola Historical Museum in Old Christ Church since that year. In 1967, the Society began Lelia Abercombie Historical Library and in 1992 moved it into the Pensacola Historical Society Resource Center, a new facility at 117 E. Government Street. The Society's collections include items on the history of Pensacola and northwest Florida, local genealogy, and area business. The collections have been given largely by Pensacolians who want to see them preserved for education and enjoyment of future generations. The Society welcomes donations of material such as photographs, postcards, books about

Pensacola, maps, programs, manuscripts, vital records, and business papers.

On January 16, 1996, the St. Augustine Historical Society held its annual meeting at Cathedral Parish Center. The speaker was William J. Dreggors, Jr., Chairman of the Volusia County Historical Preservation Board who spoke on steamboats on the St. Johns River. A 4th generation West Volusia County resident, co-author of two books on West Volusia County, and chairman of the Stone Street Committee to restore the old DeLand Hospital; he is also curator of the Henry A. DeLand House and the new established DeLand Naval Air Station Museum. He was joined on the program by Patricia C. Griffin who spoke about her new book, *Fifty Years of Southeastern Archaeology: Selected Works of John W. Griffin* which is being published by the University Press of Florida.

Recently arrived from his duties at the Tower of London where he worked on a joint exhibition project between the Tower of London and the Kremlin museum, Angus Konstam has just accepted appointment as chief curator of the Mel Fisher Maritime Heritage Society Museum in Key West. Having served as consulting maritime archaeologist for excavations in Scotland, Wales, and England, and published several books on the subject, Konstam assisted the society's archaeologists in identifying and authenticating weapons found on the shipwreck of the English merchant slave vessel *Henrietta Marie*. The only slave shipwreck ever to be identified, excavated, and studied, the *Henrietta Marie* forms the basis for the society's landmark exhibition on the slave trade— now embarking on a four-year national tour.

Randall M. McDonald of the Roux Library at Florida Southern College has just published the 4th revised edition of *Frank Lloyd Wright: A Bibliography of Materials in the Roux Library, Florida Southern College*. Copies are available without charge from Randall M. McDonald, Roux Library, Florida Southern College, 111 Lake Hollingsworth Dr., Lakeland, Florida, 33801.

Professor Harvey H. Jackson of Jacksonville State University has embarked on a comprehensive study of the Florida-Alabama-Mississippi Gulf Coast for which he has selected the working title "The Rise and Decline of the Redneck Riviera." He is currently

searching for materials of all kinds for the project. Anyone possessing material or personal knowledge about the subject is encouraged to contact Professor Jackson at Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, AL, 32665-0082.

*Call for Papers*

The Southeastern American Studies Association will hold its Biannual Meeting featuring "American Communities: Past and Present" from February 27 through March 2, 1997, at Seaside, Florida. Seaside is an innovative architectural community on the gulf coast of the Florida panhandle. Widely noted for its embodiment of neo-traditional town planning, Seaside offers a unique meeting site for the discussion of community. Those interested in submitting papers and panels are encouraged to do so. They will be accepted until September 15, 1996, by Professor Lynne Adrian, Department of American Studies, University of Alabama, P.O. Box 870214, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487. Telephone: 205-348-5940 or 205-348-9762.