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Retrospect

[News from the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections at Winthrop University](#)

May 2021

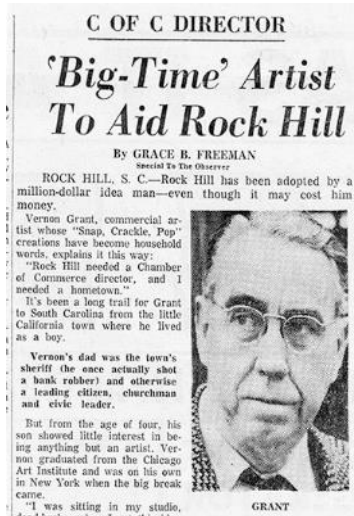
Volume 17, Number 2



Manuscript Collection Spotlight

By Andrew Johnston, Asst. Dir. of Archives and Special Collections

RESEARCHING VERNON GRANT AT THE PETTUS ARCHIVES



Vernon Simeon Plemion Grant [1902-1990] was an American illustrator known for his whimsical gnome characters and fairy tale drawings. He created advertising illustrations for several major companies and magazines, but is best known for the Snap!TM, Crackle!TM and Pop!TM characters for Kellogg's Rice Krispies® cereal. Grant married Elizabeth Fewell, a native of Rock Hill, S.C., and they eventually moved to her hometown where he served as director of the Rock Hill Chamber of Commerce and helped found the award-winning Come-See-Me Festival.

Patrons interested in researching Vernon Grant have a wealth of material to peruse (see list of collections below). He was involved in the Rock Hill Community in a number of capacities and instrumental in the birth and growth of the annual spring Come-See-Me Festival. The Pettus Archives has collections relating to Come-See-Me which include correspondence, scrapbooks, photographs, promotional materials, and other records chronicling the development of the festival. Held annually since 1962, Grant's impact is still quite evident.

Much of Grant's influence on the CSM Festival came about through his many years of service with the Rock Hill Chamber of Commerce. Local businessmen formed the organization in the early 1900s to promote Rock Hill and to attract new residents and businesses to the area with the intention of "making it a better community." In the late 1950s, Grant became Chamber director and his work helped the growth of the City resulting in Rock Hill earning All-America City honors in 1969. Pettus Archives has two collections relating to the Chamber which include correspondence, brochures, pamphlets, program notes, RH magazine issues, newsletters, and other records concerning its history and activities. The collections also contain records regarding the sponsorship of Come-See-Me and Grant's records. The records also reflect his creative talents in the organization's advertisements.

In 1979, Grant donated personal material to the Archives. The Vernon Grant Papers – Accession 246 consist of newspaper clippings, illustrations for magazine ads, promotional ads for the cities of Rock Hill, S.C. and Charlotte, N.C., letters, family photographs, and a video interview with Grant.

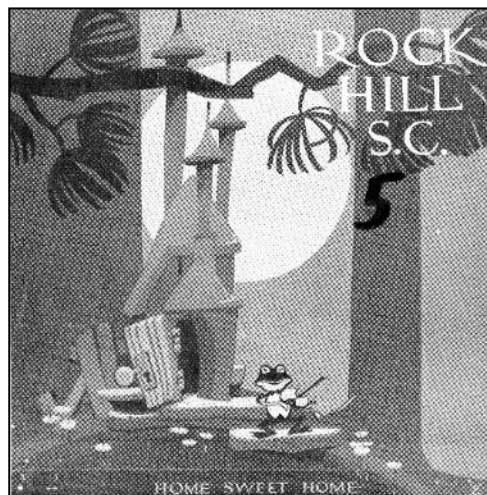
Another collection of interest, donated by Mrs. Linda Driggers Williams, Winthrop Alumna and author of a biography of Vernon Grant titled, *Beyond Snap! Crackle! Pop! The Story of American Illustrator Vernon Grant*, is the Vernon Grant Research Collection – Accession 1554. It consists of Mrs. Williams' research for the biography and includes research notes, correspondence, court case records (Grant vs. Kellogg), newspaper articles, photographs, posters (many depicting his artwork), interview recordings and transcriptions, and other recordings relating to Grant. Many of the VHS tapes have been digitized and are available for use in the Archives Research Area. Williams' more recent donation, titled the Linda Williams Collection - Accession 1751, contains a treasure trove of artifacts, artwork, and

materials documenting the life and work of Vernon Grant. Later in this issue an article features details regarding this fabulous collection.

Mary Long's June 14, 1977 interview with Grant is available online from the Archives webpage. In this hour and a half interview Grant describes his childhood, education, becoming an artist, first magazine cover, development of the Snap!™, Crackle!™ and Pop!™ characters, work in advertising, and role as the Rock Hill Chamber of Commerce executive director.

Collections

- [Come-See-Me Records](#) - Accession 815
- [Come-See-Me Records](#) - Accession 1408
- [Come-See-Me Records](#) - Accession 1623
- [Rock Hill Chamber of Commerce Records](#) - Accession 88
- [Rock Hill Chamber of Commerce Records](#) - Accession 1502
- [Vernon Grant Papers](#) - Accession 246
- [Vernon Grant Collection](#) - Accession 1137 M521 (572),
- [Vernon Grant Research Collection](#) - Accession 1554
- [Interview with Vernon Grant](#) - OH 40



For more information please see the list of [manuscript collection finding aids](#) or [contact the Archives](#).

For more information on the Manuscript Collection, contact Andrew Johnston, Asst. Director of Archives and Special Collections at (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.

From [The Johnsonian, April 21, 1980 page 14, columns 4 and 5](#)

Hope Retires

By Ruby McIlwain



On Nov. 16, 1936, 18-year-old Odell Hope brought lunch to his father, a worker in Winthrop College's Physical Plant. Odell Hope is still there. Help was needed in the boiler room that day, so maintenance engineer L.P. Culp hired Hope on the spot. This June 30, Hope, 62, will retire after 44 years of service. He worked in the boiler room for about 28 years before moving to his current job on the College Lake Area maintenance crew. When he was first hired, he worked 12 hours a day, seven days a week. During flu epidemics, Hope was often the only man in the boiler room.

"I'd come in the morning and stay all day and all night. I'd sleep in the wheelbarrow." In his present job, Hope fixes equipment and helps to maintain the golf course. His co-workers have tried to convince him to stay on until he's 70, but Hope says, "I'm ready to go now."

His supervisors wish they had more employees like him. "It's going to be hard to replace him," says grounds keeping supervisor, Herbert Boyd. Physical Plant Director, Bill Culp, son of the man who hired Hope, agrees. "He's been a real good employee. He's so reliable and so available when you need him."

What does Hope plan to do after he retires? "I'm gonna rest a while."



Quote of the Quarter



Johnette Greene Edwards [1926-1977] was a social worker, and in 1965, the first African American to be professionally employed by the SC Department of Mental Retardation (now known as the SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs). In 1976, Edwards was named the first African American member of the Winthrop Board of Visitors. She was also a member of the SC White House Conference on Children and Youth in 1970, named Delta of the Year in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in 1973, and a recipient of a Congressional Award for “outstanding service to her fellow man” through the Trident Forum in 1974.

In an undated speech from ca. 1974, Edwards made these remarks in the ongoing struggle for equal opportunity:

“We have had many long hot summers, but as long as your Son or mine, your Husband or mine is denied a chance for equal employment opportunity, or your Daughter or mine, is denied an equal educational opportunity, we must all remain militant, dissatisfied citizens of the Negro race. Let us strive by giving, helping, training, and being interested and responsible citizens”

Edwards’ papers are housed in the Pettus Archives. The finding aid to the collection may be viewed on the Archives Digital Commons page (click here:

https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/manuscriptcollection_findingaids/302/)

For more information concerning the *Quote of the Quarter* please contact Gina White at (803) 323-2334 or whitegp@winthrop.edu.

A Century Ago... Article from the [Chester News, May 17, 1921 page 2, column 4](#)

Rings for Bridegrooms: Newest Woman Believes He Should Wear Circlet, Too



It might have been expected that as women began to feel their independence, they would shed their wedding rings as being tokens of subjection, but indeed, things have turned out quite otherwise. Instead, husbands as well as wives are now wearing them.

Undoubtedly this plain band of gold is a tale-bearer, giving warning that the person wearing it has a lesser or better half at home. Many complications, and many adventures, too, have been nipped by a casual glimpse at the ring finger. It must be said that women as a class have been rather proud than otherwise of this emblem, although there are superstitions such as one might suspect husbands of originating concerning bad luck that would follow its removal. It even has occurred that a wife whose ring was removed from her finger by her children while she was asleep, insisted on being married all over again in order to right matters.

But it is a matter of fair play that so many of your women are insisting on the groom purchasing a band for himself at the same time he gets one for his bride. Jewelry clerks in the East tell of more than one girl who comes with her fiancé to the store and buys the ring herself. Between giving up the girl and giving in to the new custom, the choice seems easy, and thus is passing one of the advantages man has had over woman, that ability to be flirtatious though married.



From the Processing Archivist

By Carson Cope, Processing Archivist

Paulina Kerr Creed Papers

The Paulina Kerr Creed Papers were given to the Pettus Archives by the York County Public Library in 2020 and are currently being processed for public use. Information on a variety of local families from York and Chester counties will be available by August including the Creed, Anderson, Kerr, Sawyer, Wood, and Culp families. The contents of this collection primarily include documents such as letters, lineage charts, family records, photographs, and other materials of a similar interest. There are approximately 10,000 sheets of paper for researchers to peruse in this collection. Furthermore, genealogical records concerning many of these families are also available via the Louise Pettus Papers and Wade Roddey Papers. If you are interested in local families, contact us to arrange to come in and check out what the Louise Pettus Archives has to offer!



Basil Whitfield (Jack) Creed Senior advertising his “New Home Sewing Machine.”

For more information on collections being processed, contact archives@winthrop.edu or (803) 323-2334

From [The Johnsonian April 26, 1982 page 3, column 1](#)



New Cheerleaders Chosen

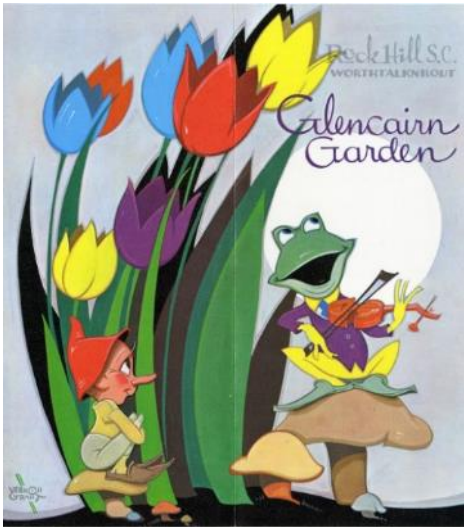
The new 1982-1983 cheerleading squad members were chosen April 16 in Peabody Activity Room. The permanent cheerleaders chosen were Scottie Garraux, Lisa Catoe, David McKeown, Jim Hill, and George White. The alternates are Beth Bowler, Twanda Johnson, and Robin Long.



Photographs of the Quarter

By Brittany S. Pigford, Archivist

“Snap!™, Crackle!™, Pop!™, Glen The Frog, and Christmasville’s Santa and His Elves All Had the Same Father”



Also included in this month’s newsletter are articles about a recent donation of artifacts featuring the art work of Vernon Grant and collections available for research. Grant may be best known for creating Snap!™, Crackle!™ and Pop!™ for Kellogg’s Rice Krispies® cereal, but locally, he is best known for creating Glen the Frog for the Come See Me Festival which he co-founded while manager of Rock Hill Chamber of Commerce. From humble beginnings to big city living to settling on a farm in South Carolina, Grant lived a fascinating and inspiring life.

Vernon Simeon Plemion Grant was born in Nebraska in 1902. He moved to South Dakota as a child, and to California at the age of 15. He attended the University of Southern California for two years and later attended The Art Institute in Chicago where he was the student body president. He also attended The Art Student’s League and Grand Central School of Art in New York City. To help pay for college, Grant did chalk talks on the Vaudeville circuit. After graduation, he worked as an art instructor in Los Angeles, teaching many students who would later go

on to work for Walt Disney.

In 1932 he took a lumber boat, via the Panama Canal, to New York City with only \$11.00 in his wallet. He was down to his last 25 cents when he received a commission to design playing cards with what would later be known as his trademark gnomes. That same year his Santa Claus illustration appeared on the cover of *Ladies’ Home Journal*. Grant began working in the commercial art world with his work appearing on magazine covers such as *Judge*, *American Legion*, and *Colliers*. He was a free lance artist for companies such as Gillette®, GE®, Westinghouse®, Wrigley Co.®, Arrow®, General Motors®, Springs Cotton Mills, Hershey® and Kellogg’s®. After creating Snap!™, Crackle!™ and Pop!™ in 1933, he became the lead illustrator for Kellogg’s® products and was sent on a world tour to promote their cereal. As an author of children’s books, *Life Magazine* ranked him as “America’s favorite children’s artist” in 1938.

Grant worked with the USO during World War II and entertained troops by revising his chalk talks from his Vaudeville days. He married Elizabeth Fewell of Rock Hill in 1936 and in 1947 he, his wife and two children moved to a 670 acre farm in Mt. Holly Community, near Rock Hill, where they raised Angus cattle and Concord grapes. He spent the rest of his life in Rock Hill and, in addition to running his farm, he was the manager of RH Chamber of Commerce, head of the RH Housing Authority, supervisor for the soil conservation district, state president of the SC Livestock Producers Assoc., president of the York Co. Farm Bureau, and member of The Society For The Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing In America, Inc.

Grant continued his work as an artist until the age of 83 and passed away in what he considered to be his “hometown” of Rock Hill at the age of 88 in 1990. The Museum of York County has a permanent Vernon Grant Gallery and the Kellogg’s® Archives also has a large collection of his original artwork. In 2006 the Christmasville Festival was begun in Rock Hill and spotlights many of Grant’s Santa Claus and winter illustrations. So, the next time you are enjoying a bowl of Kellogg’s Rice Krispies® cereal, attending a Come See Me event with Glen the Frog, or walking through a winter wonderland with illustrations of Santa and his elves at Christmasville, think of Mr. Vernon Simeon Plemion Grant, his illustrious life, and the mark he left on Rock Hill.





For more information on the Photograph Collection, contact Brittany Pigford, Archivist at (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.



Recently Processed

By Drew Russell, Special Project Archivist

Cynthia Harriet Plair Roddey Papers



Dr. Cynthia Harriet Plair Roddey is a Rock Hill native and the first African American student admitted to Winthrop College where she received her Master of Arts in Teaching with a focus on Library Science degree in August of 1967. She later worked 23 years in several capacities at Clinton College, a historically black college located in Rock Hill, S.C. Through the years she has been tremendously generous with her time and is a willing speaker. She has spoken at many functions and given countless interviews, often with a focus on her contributions in helping integrate Winthrop and in her role in furthering the Civil Rights movement in Rock Hill and beyond.

The Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections is honored that Dr. Roddey entrusted us with copies of her speeches, literary works, interviews, photographs, artifacts, and other memorabilia from her remarkable work as an activist. This collection is now available to researchers. To view the finding aid [click here](#). Oral history interviews and other material relating to Dr. Roddey may be found by searching [Pettus Archives Digital Commons](#).

For more information on either project, contact the Archives at archives@winthrop.edu or 803-323-2334

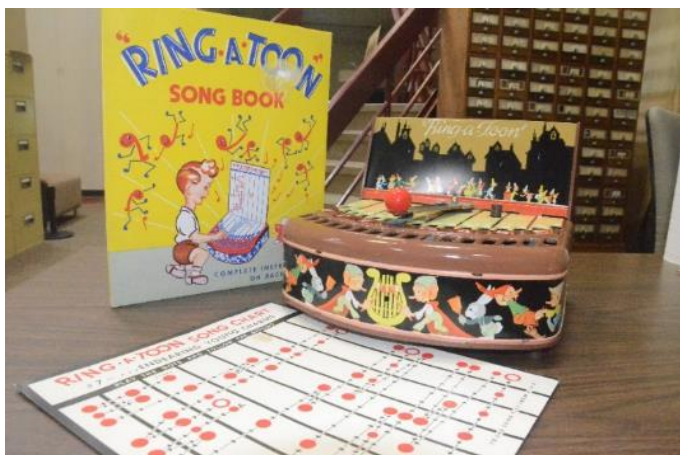
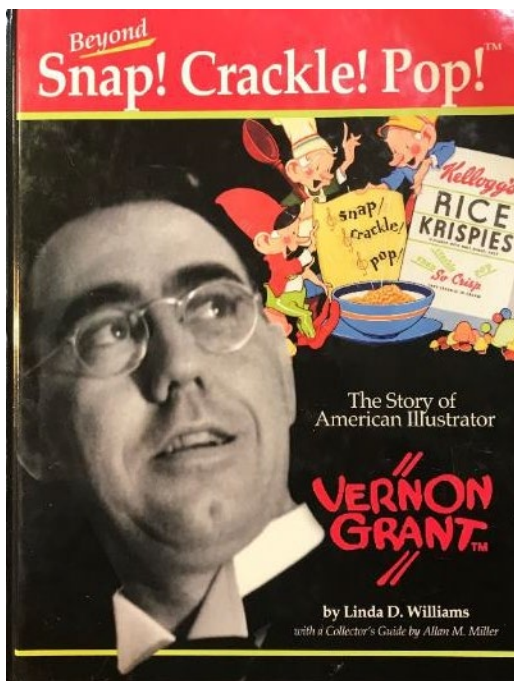


Current Exhibitions

By Kaitlin Burdette, Archivist

GRANTED

Pettus Archives is kicking off the first new in-person exhibit (in over a year), **GRANTED**, displaying a fabulous new collection, The Linda Williams Collection. The collection is still being processed but there should be a finding aid in the near future. Linda Williams, (Winthrop B.A. 1963, M.A.T.1969) is an author and longtime Rock Hill resident who wrote the book, *Beyond Snap! Crackle! Pop!*, a biography of the great local artist, Vernon Grant. Through her research, Mrs. Williams amassed a wonderful collection of memorabilia featuring Vernon Grant's artwork. The memorabilia ranges from the classic Snap! Crackle! Pop! Kellogg's cereal boxes to famous magazine covers to children's toys. The items in the collection are so lovely and iconic that we could not resist putting them on display. Please come by soon to see these charming items for yourselves! Thank you for reading.



For more information, contact the Pettus Archives at (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.



University Collection Spotlight

By Gina Price White, Dir. of Archives and Special Collections

Memorabilia

The Pettus Archives has a good collection of Winthrop memorabilia from the first 75 years of the University's existence. Although, our early collection is far from complete, our memorabilia from the past 60 years or so is very sparse. We would love to preserve more items from the 1960 to 2021 era. If you have memorabilia such as programs, photographs, t-shirts, items with the logo, student club items or other material from your time at Winthrop, we would love to preserve it here in the Archives. So, dig into those storage boxes Alums of the Association of Ebonites (formed in 1969), Eaglettes (chartered in 1978), Winthrop Singers, Dolphin Club, PE majors, or anyone with Winthrop memorabilia. We'll be happy to talk to you about it. Contact the Archives at (803)-323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.



For more information on this collection or other collections in the Louise Pettus Archives, please contact us (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu, or take a look at our website <http://libguides.library.winthrop.edu/archives/home>



Claudia Sullivan
Student Government President

SGA President Advises New Students

“I encourage you to make the most of each day and take advantage of every opportunity.”

Read the entire editorial here: [The Johnsonian, June 14, 1995, page 4](#)



Barnett Spratt, Educator, Author and Quite Talented “Winthrop Graduate”

By Scott Coleman, Class of 1984, guest columnist



I have once again been given the delightful task as guest columnist to write about another one of my favorite local and somewhat obscure historical figures, an educator and children’s author, Miss Barnett Spratt who, after a busy adventuresome life, lived to be 96 years old!

Miss Spratt, a descendent of Thomas Spratt, the first white settler in the area today known as Fort Mill, S.C., was born in my hometown of Chester, S.C. She was educated in the public schools of Chester and graduated in 1904 from my alma mater, Winthrop College. Following her graduation, she taught in the public schools of South Carolina starting in her hometown of Chester 1904 – 1907 and in Rock Hill 1908 – 1909. From 1909 to 1919, she was a primary teacher and primary Supervisor of teachers in the Greenwood public schools, and for two years, from 1923 to 1925, she worked as an Instructor in the Standard Training Schools of the Methodist Episcopal Church traveling all over the southwest. She was Principal of an elementary school in Greenville 1925 – 1929 and eventually taught elementary school in Columbia.

Spratt ended her career in education as the Principal of the Wiley Elementary School in Raleigh, N.C. where she retired. Miss Spratt was a deeply devoted member of the Methodist Church. In 1930, she was directly involved in lending her teaching talents to the church’s educational opportunities and was responsible in directing a variety of Vacation Bible Schools within the Methodist Training School Programs. She was also skilled in puppetry which she shared with her students.

At first Barnett Spratt didn’t think she could be a writer, but she had always wanted to write children’s stories. So, she joined a group of beginning writers. With her classmates’ encouragement, she wrote three books for children. Two were for fifth and sixth graders: *Toppy and the Circuit Rider* about Toppy, who after the death of his grandmother goes with Mr. Dan, the circuit preacher, to find a new home and *Tom and the Redcoats*, about a local boy’s adventures encountering the American Revolutionary War British General Cornwallis and his red coated troops as they marched past his home crossing through what is now an upper portion of York County.



Illustration by Joan Balfour Payne

Spratt’s third book, written for middle schoolers, is *Miss Betty of Bonnet Rock*, my first encounter with her work. I had the pleasure of being introduced to this quite talented children’s author by my wife, who, knowing my interest in local Chester County history, especially pertaining to the American Civil War, told me about this novel, based on a true story told to Spratt by her Aunt Margaret Elizabeth Killian. The story is about Killian’s adventures at the Bonnet Rock School where during the last two years of the war, she taught in the one-room schoolhouse. The building is described in the book as a good-sized log cabin and was located in the Armenia section of western Chester County. Because of its proximity to a rather large rock that 19th century residents thought looked like a lady’s

bonnet, the school was named Bonnet Rock. The log cabin has long since disintegrated, but the old Bonnet Rock is still there!

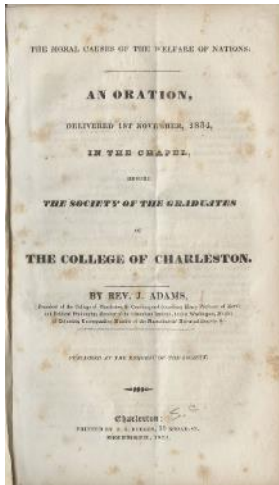
The Pettus Archives houses Spratt’s papers. View the finding aid here: [Barnett Spratt Acc. 426](#)



Rare Book Collection Spotlight

By Gina Price White, Dir. of Archives and Special Collections

The Moral Causes of the Welfare of Nations: An Oration



The Rev. Jasper Adams, Episcopal minister, President of the College of Charleston, and (ex-officio) Horry Professor of Moral and Political Philosophy delivered this oration on November 1, 1834 before the Society of Graduates of the College of Charleston. Noting that moral causes of the prosperity of nations had been ignored, Rev. Adams reviews and examines the effect of morality on the advancement of nations.

Rev. J. (Jasper) Adams, D.D. was an American clergyman, college professor and college president. He was born in Massachusetts on August 27, 1793. Graduating from Brown University in 1815, he served as a teacher at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts until 1819 when he became a professor of mathematics and philosophy at his alma mater. In 1820, he was ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church. He was appointed president of the College of Charleston in 1824. After a disagreement with the trustees, he left for the presidency of Geneva College (now known as Hobart College) in Geneva, New York. He returned to the College of Charleston in 1828, remaining through 1838. He was appointed chaplain and professor of geography, history, and ethics at the United States Military Academy until 1840. He died in Pendleton, South Carolina on October 25, 1841.

The speech in its entirety may be read on Pettus Archives Digital Commons here:

<https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/rarebooks/5/>

For more information on the Rare Book Collection, contact Gina White, Director of Archives and Special Collections at (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.



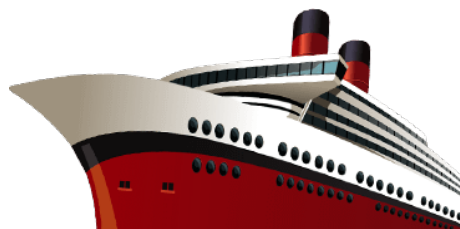
Collegiate Contemplations

By Gina Price White, Dir., Archives and Special Collections

This poem, by Hayes McGlaun, is from the 1966 Anthology, the Winthrop student literary journal. Everyone can relate to this sentiment after the year that was 2020!

Always Go First-Class

Always go first-class
Or second-class
Or third-class,
Or sleep on the deck;
But go.



For information on the Archives' collections and holdings, how to donate historical material, or how you can help, contact:

Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections

Telephone: (803) 323-2334

E-Mail: archives@winthrop.edu

Website: <http://libguides.library.winthrop.edu/archives/home>

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