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The Friends of the Janet D. Greenwood Library

Noted Local Illustrator Cris Arbo to Speak at Friends Event

Noted local illustrator Cris Arbo will speak at the Friends of the Library spring event on March 28. The evening will begin with a reception, and a book signing will follow Arbo's presentation.

Arbo is currently illustrating the children's book *In The Trees, Honeybees* by Lori Mortensen. In her presentation to the Friends Group, Arbo will discuss her creative process from the conception of an idea to the completion of an illustrated book.

Arbo began illustrating books in 1997. *The Dandelion Seed*, a picture book written by Joseph Anthony and illustrated by Arbo, was released by Dawn Publications and received the 1998 Benjamin Franklin Award Silver Medal. It has been used as

a McGraw/Hill early reader in the New York City public schools for several years.

A second collaboration for Dawn Publications, *In A Nutshell*, was released in 1999. It was awarded the Parent Council® Outstanding Selection for 2000 and selected for the 2002-03 Young Reader's Program of the Virginia State Reading Association. Both titles have a growing list of foreign language publishers. Arbo's newest title, *All Around Me, I See* by Laya Steinberg, was listed as a "Bank Street Best Book" for 2006.

A native of Massachusetts, Arbo has worked in England and in New York as a background artist, tracer and painter on animated feature films, half-hour cartoons, television commercials and advertising. Her career has included murals, book and magazine illustrations as well as

private commissions. She has also studied classical and modern ballet. In addition, Arbo was a vocalist with the London Philharmonic Choir and has performed and recorded with the London Philharmonic, the London Symphony, the BBC Choral Society and the New Philharmonia. Arbo and her husband, author Joseph Patrick Anthony, reside in Buckingham County. They have four daughters.

Mark Your Calendars for 2008 Friends Group Events!

Welcome to the Friends of the Janet D. Greenwood Library Newsletter. This should be a very exciting year for the Friends Group. I am happy to report that our membership continues to grow.

I hope our two events planned for 2008 will draw yet more Friends to the library. You can read about our spring speaker, Cris Arbo, in this issue. Our guest for the fall is renowned Civil War historian William Freehling. Freehling will speak at the Friends Group event on Friday, November 7, 2008.

I am eagerly anticipating these two events and hope to see you soon at the Greenwood Library!

Wendell Barbour
Dean of the Library and
Learning Services



Focus on Special Collections

Frances Butler Simkins: Longwood Educator, Southern Historian and Author

The Special Collections Room in the Greenwood Library at Longwood University holds a varied collection of faculty publications. Among these treasures are books written by Dr. Francis Butler Simkins, who was a professor of history at Longwood from 1928 until 1966.

Although Dr. Simkins spent most of his years as a history professor at Longwood, he balanced his teaching career with an illustrious writing career. During his 40 years as an educator, he authored eight publications that are still considered significant contributions in the field of Southern history. *Virginia: History, Geography, Government*, which he co-authored with Spotswood Hunnicutt and Sidney P. Poole, is one that many Virginians may remember. It was used as a textbook in Virginia classrooms during the era when baby boomers were attending middle school.

Dr. Simkins' teaching career began in 1924 when he taught for a year at Randolph-Macon Women's College; he then taught for a year each at the University of North Carolina and Emory University before coming to Longwood.

Simkins' involvement in historical research began with the writing of his dissertation while a student at Columbia University. His paper on the Tillman movement, which focused on the political climate in South Carolina during the governorship of Benjamin Tillman, was completed in 1916.

This work was later revised and published in 1926 by Duke University Press under the title

The Tillman Movement in South Carolina. In 1944, Louisiana State University Press published *Pitchfork Ben Tillman*, Simkins' biographical work on the life and political career of Ben Tillman.

Following the successful completion of his dissertation, Simkins turned his attention to writing about the history of reconstruction in South Carolina. According to friend and colleague James W. Patton, a contributor to the family's memory book about Simkins, this topic was one that had not been previously addressed by other historians.

Simkins collaborated with Robert H. Woody, then a young instructor at Duke University, on *South Carolina During Reconstruction*, which was published in 1932 by the University of North Carolina Press. In his memoir of Simkins, Patton writes: "Among all of Simkins' writings it remains the one upon which his reputation as a historian was the most securely and enduringly established." This second venture in writing, which was well received by his colleagues, resulted in his lifelong involvement with writing about

the history of the South.

This remarkable man began teaching at Longwood in 1928 when the school was known as the State Teachers College at Farmville. During his 38 years as a professor of history and as a resident of Farmville, Dr. Simkins was considered an important member of the community.

The Farmville Herald on Simkins' death in 1966 gives insight into how he was perceived within this community: "Francis Butler Simkins filled an important place in Longwood College and the community. ... He was a teacher, an educator, a lecturer, an author, and an inspiring conversationalist."

The article goes on to characterize Dr. Simkins as "an individualist, an intellectual, an attractive personality, he appealed to the intelligentsia and the proletariat, the historian, the sociologist, the 'man on the street.' He will long be remembered when many conformists will have been forgotten. Such was the man, a free thinker, a dynamic personality, who spoke his mind. A gentleman of the old south."



Picture of Frances Butler Simkins from Greenwood Library's Dorothy B. Schlegel Collection

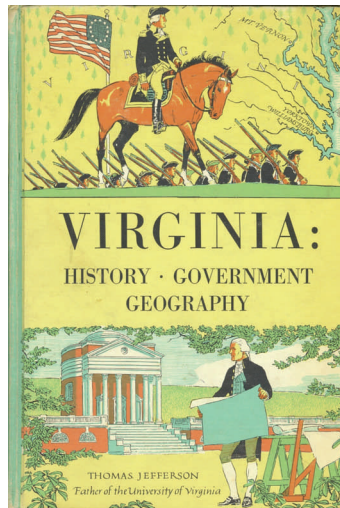
Frances Butler Simkins (cont.)

Although Simkins' books are no longer in print and are only available for purchase from rare and out-of-print book dealers, the Greenwood Library holds these titles, which are available for visitors to view and read while they visit the Special Collections Room.

References:

Francis Butler Simkins: 1897-1966: Historian of the South. [a pamphlet published by the Simkins family] Columbia, S.C.: n.p., [1967?].

"Free Thinker." Editorial. *Farmville Herald*. 2 Feb. 1966.



One of Simkins' best known works: *Virginia: History, Geography, Government*



Picture of Frances Butler Simkins from the 1956 *Virginian*, Longwood's Yearbook

Chinese Book Collection from Anhui University Arrives at Greenwood Library

Greenwood Library recently received a collection of books from Anhui University of Technology. The collection, in both Chinese and English, consists of classic Chinese literature including *Journey to the West* by Wu Cheng'en; *Three Kingdoms*, attributed to Luo Guanzhong; *Outlaws of the Marsh*

by Shi Nai'an and Luo Guanzhong; and *A Dream of Red Mansions* by Cao Xueqin and Gao E. Also included in the collection are pictorial works illustrating China's antiquities including paintings, sculptures, porcelain, calligraphy and wood working.

The University has an exchange program with Anhui University of Technology, located in Ma'anshan, China, a city on the southern banks of the Yangtze River in the eastern part of Anhui Province.

On a visit to China two years ago, Wendell Barbour, Dean of the Library and Learning Services at Longwood, visited Anhui University and presented President Cen Yuwan with a collection of over 150 books related to U.S. history and American culture.

The collection from Anhui University is housed in Greenwood Library's Special Collections Room which is open to the public.



Books from Greenwood Library's Anhui University Collection

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Contact Us

The Friends of the Janet D. Greenwood Library at Longwood University is governed by a steering committee composed of librarians, faculty, staff, students, and community members. For more information about the Friends of the Greenwood Library, please visit the Friends website at www.longwood.edu/library/friends or contact Wendell Barbour, Dean of the Library and Learning Services, at 434.395.2083.



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