

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COLLECTION NEW TO UTK

By KENNETH WISE
LIBRARY BUSINESS MANAGER

The Great Smoky Mountains of eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina have long been a source of fascination and inspiration for writers, journalists, scientific explorers, essayists, and balladeers who have left both a written and an oral legacy of books, letters, stories, and songs about these mountains and the people who lived there. While The University of Tennessee Libraries have a tradition of collecting material about the Great Smoky Mountains, in 1998 a group of UTK librarians began a concerted effort to focus on the region in its totality. The result is a new comprehensive special collection at UTK—The Great Smoky Mountains Regional Collection. This collection serves the research needs and interests of the academic community and the general public through vigorous acquisitions and enhanced cataloging of past and current material.

Identification of GSM material, especially in obscure references, is crucial and adds tremendous value to users. To this end, the collection is being developed in conjunction with a comprehensive annotated bibliography of the GSM region, an extensive and time-consuming project that involves a large team of librarians, archivists, and scholars from



The A. J. Darsey family at breakfast, taken by W. C. Cochran on August 17, 1886, while on a trip to the Smokies. This photo, uncharacteristically, does not give a location, but we know it is close to the middle fork of Little River, because that is where Cochran was the next day. We also do not know if the family dined alfresco every morning, but it seems unlikely. (MS-552, Special Collections Library.)

Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Kentucky. Three UTK librarians—Anne Bridges, Russ Clement, and Ken Wise—are co-editing the bibliography and managing both projects. In addition, they are spearheading a

collaborative program of scholarly GSM bibliographic research and publication. They have received generous support from the Libraries administration and were the recipients of a 1998-99 UTK Faculty Research Professional Development Award.

New and old Smoky Mountains material in all subject areas and across all media types is being collected. Resources reside in the appropriate locations in the UTK Libraries: Special Collections, Map Library, Music Library, Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine Library, as well as the main Hodges Library. The collection encompasses print, manuscripts, photographs, video and sound recordings, oral histories, maps, and electronic resources. Each item in the collection is cataloged with a special designator which marks it as belonging to the "Great Smoky Mountains Regional Collection." To find anything in



This cabin on the middle fork of Little River belonged to the Darsey's as well. It appears to be a hunting lodge, of sorts. Judging by his headgear, the individual in the door is the one standing in the breakfast scene. (MS-552, Special Collections Library.)

the collection regardless of format or location, a library researcher need only enter that phrase in a keyword search.

Librarians are combing regional and national archival collections to locate material about the Smoky Mountains. A research group recently consulted the National Park Service and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) records held at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and at College Park, Maryland. Whenever possible, copies are acquired for the UTK collection. Examples of scarce Smoky material include federal government records and reports issued by agencies such as the National Park Service, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Work Projects Administration, and the Civilian Conservation Corps. UTK Libraries are presently in the process of purchasing microfilm of WPA records for Smokies projects and CCC camp inspection reports for the dozen camps in the Smokies. Copies of early government films on the region are also being identified and acquired.

Scholars, students, genealogists, and GSM devotees who are working on Smokies topics will benefit enormously from this comprehensive collection. Through the Internet, researchers around the world can search the UTK Libraries' catalog to learn what is available on specific subjects, perhaps before making research trips to the area. Proper preservation, such as preservation photocopies and microfilming, ensures that the material will be available to future generations.

The UTK Libraries' Great Smoky Mountains Regional Collection assures that UTK will be a focal point for world-wide Smokies scholarship and cooperation. As the region's only research library, it is fitting that the Libraries collect, preserve, and make accessible this important cultural heritage. Endowed library funds have been used for seed money to begin developing the collection. Hopefully, a future donor will provide an endowment specifically for the Smokies collection.

Gifts-in-kind are also welcome. Please consider donating books, pamphlets, newspapers and newspaper clippings, photos, scrapbooks, diaries, journals, and manuscripts of historical and cultural importance to the Smoky Mountains region to this newly formed special collection.

MCKENNEY AND HALL'S PASSPORT TO THE PAST OF AMERICAN INDIANS

By JAMIE SUE LINDER
RARE BOOKS, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

It has been said to be "exciting news" in the world of rare books and special collections when valued items of Americana, usually only found in rare book reading rooms of big city libraries or ritzy museums, reach the auction block. But it would seem the true flurry of excitement should begin when the items are sold to the highest bidder, and in the instance of rare—and usually old—books, become news once again.

The University of Tennessee Special Collections Library can spread such "exciting news" with its acquisition of one of the most valued items of Americana—a complete three-volume set of the quarto edition of the *History of the Indian Tribes of North America, with Biographical Sketches and Anecdotes of the Principal Chiefs*, written by Thomas L. McKenney and James Hall. Just like the first folio (large) editions of which the Special Collections Library has Volume III, these smaller works which began appearing during the years 1846–55 were also issued by different publishers, and even reissued by yet other publishers before the first set was completed. This variation in publishers and dates creates confusion when trying to procure a complete set, but the search is rendered even more difficult because the books are frequently ravaged for their illustrations. To obtain a set with the Indian illustrations intact is doubly good news. As the title pages declare, the books are "embellished with one hundred and twenty portraits from the Indian Gallery in the Department of War, at Washington" and are the most exquisite example of early American lithography on stone.

The portraits are the stimulus of this collection, transforming the Red Race, as some later historians would dub the North American tribes, into real

flesh and blood, blasting all stereotypes of these primitive people passed down through the years by myths, historical legends, and half-truths. But these faithful recordings don't mislead the viewer even though they are painted by one artist, copied by another, and then copied once again by lithographers.

Instead, McKenney and Hall's stories plus pictures lead the reader visually and verbally straight into the lost land of Indians. Volume II of the newly-acquired collection does this directly with its frontispiece portrait of the famed surrender of the celebrated Winnebago chief, Red Bird and his accomplice We-Kau. The portrait was painted on site and is coupled with on-sight graphic accounts and amazing detail from McKenney who witnessed the event. The artistry of word and picture can almost make the reader with an imagination feel also a witness to the chief's surrender and the tribe's defeat.

Of course changes, mostly subtle, did occur due to the medium of each portrait. However, warmth and texture are not important here. It is the "perfect likenesses" captured in these reproduced portraits of the Indians that provide a di-



Thomas L. McKenney, one of the most significant yet least known figures in the history of the American Indian. He was known as "White Eagle" in Indian circles. (McKenney, Thomas L., *Memoirs, Official and Personal*, New York: Paine and Burgess, 1846, frontispiece.)