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INTRODUCTION

For years, a few persistent but isolated scholars and regional institutions, ignored and without support from the larger intellectual community, continuing their work under criticism almost to the point of ridicule, have known that a great wealth of Appalachiana exists, that it's available, that it's significant. What was needed was a synthesis of effort, a unified approach beyond the capability of any one individual or institution. To reach the widespread geographic area the information defined, to bring together in a single compilation the overall volume and diversity of materials, and to build a comprehensive listing from the scarcity of existing holdings in a multitude of individual libraries required a consorted effort of new dimensions.

One group of neo-pioneers seeking to promote regional cooperation and a positive Appalachian consciousness and identity was the Appalachian Consortium, a non-profit, educational organization representing both academic institutions of higher learning and public agencies in the areas of Western North Carolina, East Tennessee, and Southwestern Virginia. In its embryonic stages, before the Consortium's formal incorporation in the early 1970's, the individuals interested in fostering this image were meeting to discuss a common philosophy of purpose and goals on which inter-institutional and inter-agency cooperation could begin. They agreed that one of the first objectives should be the determination of the printed holdings of each potential member and that a union list of regional materials should be prepared. No one at the time anticipated the scope of this five-year project which serves as further evidence of a rich but untapped historical record. It was immediately clear that the project needed to be defined and made manageable. Shortly after the official creation of the Consortium on June 25, 1971, a library committee was formed and the cataloging of materials started in five participating libraries. This effort led to what is now known as the BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SOUTHERN APPALACHIA, which was compiled by the librarians and staffs of eleven institutions and sixty-six other individual contributors. The assembled material was edited and selectively annotated by Charlotte T. Ross of Belk Library, Appalachian State University. What was originally conceived as a listing of perhaps a few hundred holdings in each of five institutions has become a 13,000 entry bibliography, cross-referenced by author and subject, and in addition, includes a separate filmography of Southern Appalachia compiled under the supervision of Professor Robert J. Higgs of East Tennessee State University.

The compilation of the bibliography has worked secondarily to encourage member institutions of the Consortium to increase their Appalachian holdings. In 1970, one particular library had approximately 100-150 books pertaining to the Appalachian Region. Aware suddenly of the bounty, the library began an aggressive three-year campaign of acquisition and increased its holdings from a mere one hundred titles to about 5,000, and today, two years later, boasts a collection of approximately 8,000.

Because response to the initial efforts of the Consortium's member schools was so encouraging, the Consortium decided to enlarge the project and subsequently issued invitations to institutions and regional libraries outside its geographic range. It also sought and received funds from the Rockefeller Foundation to support approximately one-third of the extensive work to follow. This support is gratefully acknowledged along with the contributions of the seventy-seven individuals and institutions who also contributed time, talent and money.

Special appreciation must, however, be given to Berea College for its cooperation in making its Weatherford-Hammond Mountain Collection available. This 53 year-old collection, started by far-sighted President William J. Hutchins in November, 1923, is the oldest and most significant Appalachian Collection in the region, and our bibliographic effort was considerably strengthened by its inclusion. Indeed, many of the rare and original documents in this bibliography can be offered only because of Berea's pioneering effort. It continues to serve as the parent collection from which all other research on Southern Appalachia has come, and this bibliography would have been impossible without the invaluable assistance and encouragement rendered by the faculty and staff of Berea College.

In an effort to avoid unnecessary duplication and inappropriate materials, the Consortium's Library Committee established certain perimeters and criteria. The first major task was to decide on an appropriate definition of "Southern Appalachia" for our specific purpose. Unlike more recent socio-economic definitions, it

was decided that the earlier, "pre-pork barrel" geographic demarcations based on elevations would be used. With the exception of topical entries from a few counties in southern Ohio, the central mountains of Pennsylvania, and occasional references to the Appalachians in New York State, the bulk of the entries in this bibliography are derived from a nine-state area. Represented are the entire state of West Virginia, and those areas in eight states referred to by the people of Southern Appalachia as Mountain Maryland, Eastern Kentucky, Western Virginia, East Tennessee, Western North Carolina, Upper South Carolina, North Georgia, and Northern Alabama.

It was further agreed to restrict the bibliography to a listing of books and monographs, and more particularly, books and monographs which pertained to the Southern Appalachian Region. Thus, periodical information has been excluded, as well as non-Appalachian works by Appalachian authors. Outstanding work in compiling a comprehensive bibliography of periodical literature has been undertaken by Dr. Robert F. Munn and the West Virginia University Library staff. Researchers are encouraged to refer to that institution's publications, APPALACHIAN OUTLOOK and APPALACHIAN BIBLIOGRAPHY.

In addition to the holdings of the eleven Consortium members, the card catalogs and shelf lists of the heretofore-mentioned Weatherford-Hammond Collection at Berea College, and those of the Brown Collection at Duke University, the Cherokee Museum and the Cherokee Historical Association Collection in Cherokee, and the Thomas Wolfe Collection and other holdings at Pack Memorial Library in Asheville were used. The collections at Marshall University, the University of Tennessee, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Asheville, and West Virginia University were also consulted and selectively incorporated into this bibliography.

Once these conventional sources were exhausted, efforts were made to search out largely untapped material housed in the region's small county libraries, local libraries, local historical associations and private collections. This led to extensive correspondence and travel to almost every county in the region; it meant knocking on doors, writing individual authors and county officials, and talking to local residents.

The great quantity of information came as an unexpected but pleasant surprise, for much has been added to the narrative of Appalachia. Never before included in comprehensive works, this record of a people contains hundreds of small monographs, journals, and genealogies never before documented, which occasionally describe the history of Southern Appalachia in more accurate terms than present history records it. Possibilities for a nascent history of Black Appalachians begin to emerge in tentative ways, as the sample entry for this bibliography illustrates. While the Cherokees are the best represented Native Americans in this compilation, researchers will be pleased to discover the large number of other bands of the first Southern Appalachians that are also included.

Without apology, it must be stated that as this bibliography comes off the press it becomes outdated. In fact, this is as planned and was a factor in the method chosen for publication. Through the technological services of Science Press, these entries have become permanently stored in computer memory to stimulate further research and addenda. The Appalachian Consortium welcomes and solicits revisions and additions from all sources. While much has been uncovered, there remains much, much more yet to be discovered. The Consortium alone is responsible for errors and omissions but offers this bibliography in the name of all of its contributors as a research tool not previously available to scholars and academicians within and without the region. We hope that the work will serve as an impetus to individual citizens to look back into their own communities and supplement the on-going inventory. This work is offered not just as a nucleus of library holdings, but as the cumulative culture and heritage of the region. It is a beginning, not an end in itself. While seeking to preserve the work of the past, it encourages new and original work. Perhaps concerted and concerted efforts will help accomplish what has been called the next great task—a definitive and significant history of the Southern Appalachian Region.

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