

NCPC Presents Preservation Award to Pack Memorial Library

Chapel Hill, NC (November 1, 2013)



Zoe Rhine, North Carolina Collection Librarian, with NCPC President KaeLi Schurr.

The Pack Memorial Library's North Carolina Collection in Asheville won the North Carolina Preservation Consortium's *Award for Collections Preservation Excellence*. Zoe Rhine, North Carolina Collection Librarian, accepted the award on behalf of her colleagues Ann Wright, Betsy Murray, and Lyme Kedic at the NCPC's annual conference at the Ida and William Friday Center for Continuing Education, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. This award honors institutions in North Carolina that have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to preserving cultural, historical, and research collections of enduring value.

In selecting the North Carolina Collection at the Pack Memorial Library, the NCPC Board of Directors recognized an organization that has received high praise for its stewardship of library and archival material. "We hope that the efforts of the North Carolina Collection staff and the leadership of the Pack Memorial Library will serve as an inspiration to others in our state to be resourceful in achieving protection for our unique cultural heritage.", remarked KaeLi Shurr, NCPC president.

The North Carolina Collection is a fully cataloged collection of published materials reflecting history, literature, and life in Western North Carolina. Within the collection there

is a particular emphasis on material relating to Asheville and Buncombe County. In addition to a wide variety of books, the North Carolina Collection also contains photographs, historic documents, genealogies, postcards, maps, oral histories, and microfiche of local newspapers. There are over 1,000 images and items that document the history of Asheville and Western North Carolina available online.

Library Director Ed Sheary wrote that “The collection’s prized possessions are its Thomas Wolfe materials, the remnants of Foster Sondley’s extensive library, a broad collection of photographs, and the archive of architectural drawings.” Letters of support provided a strong argument for the award. Volunteer Lynne Poirier-Wilson observed that, “the work done at the North Carolina Collection is a model of excellence.” Author Phyllis Martin Lang declared, “When I start on a new project about Western North Carolina, I always know where to begin – at the North Carolina Collection.” Peggy Gardner, Historic Review Specialist for the Asheville and Buncombe County Historic Resources Commission, affirmed, “The North Carolina Collection is a treasure for our area, and all of North Carolina – a pure delight.”

NCPC executive director Robert James encouraged attendees of the annual conference to submit a nomination for next year’s award, “North Carolina has many organizations that are doing outstanding work to preserve collections of significant tangible heritage. Let us honor those who are successfully preserving cultural treasures for future generations.”