

South Carolina Political Collections
University of South Carolina Libraries

Kate Salley Palmer

(1946 -

Papers, 1963-2008

Volume: 7.5 linear feet, 6 oversized flat boxes

Processed: 2012, by Cody Willis and Katharine Klein; 2004, by Trey Bunn; 2023, by Alienor Dalle, and Mike Berry, 2025

Donated by: Ms. Kate Salley Palmer

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Biographical Note:

Editorial cartoonist, author and illustrator Kate Salley Palmer donated to South Carolina Political Collections a portion of her cartoon archive and the whole of the records of her work as an author, illustrator, and publisher of children's books. Palmer's cartoons are also collected by Ohio State University. This unusual division reflects Palmer's importance as a cartoonist and the anticipated research use of her collection. SCPC houses editorial cartoons chiefly relating to state and local issues. Ohio State collects the work of cartoonists from across the United States and houses Palmer's cartoons relating chiefly to national and international subjects.

An Orangeburg native, Palmer began her career as a cartoonist while a student at the University of South Carolina. Her strip, "Terrible Tom and the Boys," was featured in *The Gamecock* between 1966 and 1968. She received her B.A. in elementary education in 1968 and obtained a job at Clemson University working as graphic artist for a year in Clemson's Media Center. She taught 6th grade at Seneca's Northside Elementary School for a year and then taught art at Pickens Elementary School, also for one year.

In 1975, she began freelancing editorial cartoons for the *Greenville News*. She worked for the paper on a full-time basis from 1978 to 1984, citing philosophical differences when she left. She became the first full time political cartoonist in South Carolina and only one of two women political cartoonists in North America. Her cartoons were nationally syndicated from 1981 to 1986, appearing in over two hundred newspapers nationwide, including the *New York Times*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, and *Washington Post*. In 1981, Palmer received the Freedom Foundation's Principal Award for Editorial Cartooning. She provided cartoons to nine area papers briefly, during 1986 and 1987, then she turned to illustrating books.

Palmer and her husband, Jim, founded Warbranch Press in 1998 to publish her books for children and published six books. Three are of Kate's life experiences, and three are about the Revolutionary War. The books have proven to be popular and draw heavily on her South Carolina background. Her children's book, *The Little Chairs*, tells the story of a family in which the father is beset with depression. The book has received notable attention from mental health professionals and is proving a valuable tool to help the children who suffer in such situations.

Kate Salley Palmer also published a memoir in 2006. There is a copy available in the Smith Reading Room of Hollings Library. Additionally, Clemson University's Digital Press published the work, and it is available online for free from the Clemson University Center for Electronic and Digital Publishing.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection consists of 7.5 linear feet of regular sized materials, six oversized boxes, one box of sketchpads, one box of t-shirts, and ephemera. The collection dates to 1963 with several newspaper clippings about Kate Salley Palmer in her youth. The bulk of the collection is from 1976 to 2008 and documents her work as a political cartoonist, author/illustrator, and freelance

artist. There are eight series: **General, Art, Topical, Writings, Audiovisual, Clippings, Oversize, and Ephemera.**

General, 1976 to 2008, primarily includes general correspondence with friends and family and is arranged chronologically. Professional correspondence is found throughout the collection, though Palmer occasionally talks about her professional work with friends and family.

Art, 1980s, 1990s, and early 2000s, contains correspondence; drawings and drafts of caricatures; comic strips; commissioned work; and editorial cartoons. It is one of the largest series in the collection and is arranged by Caricatures, Comic Strips, Commission Work, and Editorial Cartoons. The Caricature file includes drafts and drawings of politicians and various topics. The Commissions file includes drafts and complete drawings related to commissioned projects, and the extensive Editorial Cartoons file is arranged by topic, along with a general file.

The **Topical** series, c.1975-2002, consists of files related to conferences and professional affiliations. Palmer was a long-time member of the Association for American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC) and included here is AAEC's publication *The Notebook* from 1979 to 2002. Several cartoonist organizations ran stories on Palmer, which are also located in this series.

Writings, 1977-2008, is the largest series at 4.5 linear feet. Included here is anything that Palmer published or left unpublished.

Articles include many published and unpublished articles and letters to the editor written for various newspapers. Many articles do not state the newspaper submitted to or whether or not they were published. Articles known to be published in particular papers are organized first by the publishing paper and then the article title.

Books include over twenty publications that Palmer has illustrated and/or authored. Drafts, sketches, final products, research materials and correspondence related to the publication of these books are included in this subseries under the respective book title. Work relating to Palmer's memoir is also included in this subseries and includes several drafts of her work.

AV Materials include several photographs throughout her life. More photographs of Palmer are located throughout the *clippings* series.

Clippings, 1963-2011, include short stories about Palmer since she was a child, criticisms about her cartoons run in the newspaper, and pieces covering her professional achievements and public appearances.

Oversized Flat Boxes contain materials that are too large for regular folders. The dates, material type, and topics in the oversize file duplicate work from the regular folders. They include items related to Palmer's books, various projects, comic strips, caricatures, and political cartoons.

Ephemera consists of various t-shirts with designs by Palmer, posters and similar items too large for oversize boxes, and a very small number of framed items.

Collection Inventory

Biographical Information

Box 1

General:

1976-1977
1978-1979
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984 and c.1984
1985 and c. 1985
1986
1987
1988-1989
1990-1991
1992
1993
1994-1995
1996-1997
1998-1999
2001-2007
No Date

Art:

Caricatures: [see also: Oversize]

General (4f)
A-E
F-J
K-O
P-T
Carolina Connections
Color
Clemson University Constitution Lecture Series
Just the Fax!:
 General
 1994
 1995:
 Jan-Mar
 April-June (2f)
 July-Sept
 Oct-Dec (2f)
 1996:
 Jan-Mar (2f)
 April-Jun
 July-Mar, 1997
 No date
 WYFF-TV, 1994
Comic Strips (See Also Oversized):
 Amelia Street
 Ol' Green Tom

Box 2

Sisters

Commissions:

Anderson College Fine Arts Center
Clemson University:
 General
 Agricultural Recruiting Brochure
 Exxon Challenge for Excellence
 Medallion Presentation
Daniel High School
Greeting Cards:
 General
 Main Line Greeting Cards
Inglis, Robert Campaign, 1994
Magazines:
 Childcraft, 1999-2001
 Highlights for Children
South Carolina Home Economics Association
T-Shirt Illustrations:
 Pigskin Apparel Company, 1992

Editorial Cartoons:

 General (4f)
 Agriculture
 Budget
 Cartoonists
 Christmas
 Clemson, South Carolina
 Color
 Crime
 Economy
 Education:
 General
 Clemson University
 College Athletics
 University of South Carolina
 Elections:
 1976
 1980
 1984
 1988
 Energy Policy
 Entertainment
 Environment
 Foreign Affairs:
 General
 Asia
 Central/South America
 Europe
 Middle East
 Russia
 South Africa

Health

Immigration

Industry

Judiciary

Military

People:

Bush, George Sr., President
Campbell, Carroll, Governor
Carter, Jimmy, President
Clinton, Hillary, Secretary of State
Clinton, William, President
Edwards, James, Governor
Gingrich, Newt, Speaker of the House
Graham, Lindsey, Senator
Haley, Nikki, Governor
Jackson, Jessie, Reverend
Jenrette, John, Congressperson
McMaster, Henry, Governor
Meese, Ed
Mondale, Walter, Vice President
North, Oliver
Patterson, Elizabeth
Reagan, Ronald:
 General
 Appointees
Riley, Richard, Secretary of Education
Sanders, Bernie, Senator
Thurmond, Strom, Senator
Trump, Donald, President
West, John, Governor

Race Relations

Religion:

 General

 Televangelists

Scandals

Social Issues

Social Security

South Carolina: [see also: People]

 General

 Beach Bill

 Blue Laws

 Budget

 Clemson University

 Confederate Flag

 Crime

 Education

 Elections

 Entertainment

 Environment

 Greenville County

 Health

 Industry

Legislature
Miscellaneous
Nuclear Waste
Public Service Commission
Race Relations
Reapportionment
Religion
Social Issues:
 General
 Department of Social Services
State Government
Taxes
Voting Rights Act
Women:
 General
 Equal Rights Amendment

Topical:

Cartoonist Profiles (2f)
 1977 & 1980
 1980-1985
Conferences and Professional Affiliations:
 General
 Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC):
 General
 Membership Directory ('75-'79, '93, '95-'96, '99)
 The Notebook:
 Issues:
 1976-1978
 1979-1982
 1983-1987
 1988-1992
 1993-1995
 1996-1998
 1999-2002
 Beaufort Writer's Conference, 1997
 Clemson University Writers' Conference
 International Visual Literacy Association
 National Cartoonist Society, 1990-1996
 South Carolina Young Writers Conference, 1993
Gower, Janna
Lander College Commencement, 1980

Box 4

Writings:

General:
 1977-1980s
 1990s
 2000s
 n.d.
 Notes (2f)

Box 5

Articles:

Reagan, Ronald

Rolling Stones
Smith, Susan, 1995

Books:

General Correspondence

2016 Race for the White House: A Grownup Coloring Book

A Gracious Plenty, A, written and illustrated by KSP (See Oversized):

General

Drafts

Almost Invisible: Black Patriots of the American Revolution, written & illustrated by KSP

Bear Hug, written by Laurence Pringle, illustrated by KSP (See Oversized):

E is for Ethics, written by Doug Smith, illustrated by KSP: (See Oversized):

Fishing Series by Joe Yukish: (See Oversized):

Fishing, 1992

The Big Fish, 1996

Nick Goes Fishing, 1998

The Fishing Contest, 2001

Forests of Southwest Columbia: A Bilingual Coloring Book, written by Frank Tainter & Aixa Becerra, illustrated by KSP (See Oversized)

Francis Marion and the Legend of the Swamp Fox, written by KSP, illustrated by James H. Palmer, Jr. (See Oversized):

Gifts for Dad, written by Kathleen Urmston & Karen Evans, illustrated by KSP

Growing up cartoonist (Memoir), 2006:

General

Box 6

Drafts:

1996

2002 (4f)

n.d.

Introduction, 1987

Selected cartoons (3f)

Hey Bubba: A Metaphysical Guide to the Good 'Ol Boy, written by David Cannon, illustrated by KSP (See Oversized)

Hostie, written and illustrated by Kate Salley Palmer

How Many Feet in the Bed?, written by Diane Johnston Hamm, illustrated by KSP (See Oversized):

How the Biltmore Forest School Came to Be: A Coloring Book by Kate Palmer and Frank Tainter (See Oversized):

If the Boss Calls, I'm in a Sails Meeting, written by Judith Archer, illustrated by KSP

I Know Santa Very Well

The Little Chairs, written and illustrated by KSP (See Oversized):

My Brother Wants to be Like Me, written by Jan Mader, illustrated by KSP

Night of the Five Aunties, written by Mesa Somer, illustrated by KSP (See Oversized):

General

Drafts

Octopus Hug, written by Laurence Pringle, illustrated by KSP (See Oversized):

General

Drafts

Palmetto: Symbol of Courage, written and illustrated by KSP:

General

Research Materials

The Pink House, written and illustrated by KSP (See Oversized):

General

Drafts (2f)

Plant Pathology: Past to Present, written by F.H. Tainter,
illustrated by KSP

Box 7

A Private's Eye View of World War II, written by "Zig" Boroughs, illustrated by
KSP (See Oversized)

Sport's Series, written by Diana Geddes, illustrated by KSP (See Oversized):

Baseball Fun

A Day at the Races

Family Soccer

Hockey Practice

It's Football Time

Let's Play Basketball

Tradition: A History of the Presidency of Clemson University, edited by Donald
M. McKale, caricatures by KSP

Training Problem Dogs, written by Dr. Louis Vine, illustrated by KSP
(See Oversized):

General (3f)

Publisher's Package

Travels and Tribulations, written by James Chisman, illustrated by KSP

Upstairs, written by Judith Enderle and Stephanie Tessler, illustrated by KSP
(See Oversized):

General

Drafts

Short Stories

Audio Visual:

Photographs

Box 8

Clippings:

General

1963-1968

1971-1979

1980-1981

1982

1983

1984-1987

1988-1989

1990-1993

1994-1999

2000-2017

n.d.

Caricatures (4f)

Editorial Cartoons:

1972

1978

1979

1980

1981-1986

1987-1999

n.d.

| | |
|---|--------|
| Sketch Pads | Box 9 |
| Oversized Flat boxes: | |
| Books: | Box 10 |
| <i>ACC Coloring Book</i> | |
| <i>Bear Hug</i> | |
| <i>E is for Ethics</i> | |
| <i>First South Carolinians</i> | |
| <i>Fishing Series</i> | |
| <i>Forests of Southwest Columbia: A Bilingual Coloring Book</i> | |
| <i>Francis Marion and the Legend of the Swamp Fox</i> | |
| <i>A Gracious Plenty (2)</i> | |
| <i>Hey Bubba: A Metaphysical Guide to the Good Ol' Boy</i> | |
| <i>Holstie</i> | Box 11 |
| <i>How Many Feet in the Bed?</i> | |
| <i>How the Biltmore Forest School Came to Be</i> | |
| <i>Jobs</i> | |
| <i>The Little Chairs</i> | |
| <i>Night of the Five Aunties</i> | |
| <i>Octopus Hug</i> | |
| <i>Palmetto: Symbol of Courage</i> | |
| <i>The Pink House</i> | |
| <i>A Private's Eye View of World War II</i> | Box 12 |
| Sports Series: | |
| <i>Baseball Fun</i> | |
| <i>A Day at the Races</i> | |
| <i>Family Soccer</i> | |
| <i>It's Football Time</i> | |
| <i>Let's Play Basketball</i> | |
| <i>Training Problem Dogs</i> | |
| <i>Travels and Tribulations</i> | |
| <i>Upstairs</i> | |
| Caricatures: | |
| General | Box 13 |
| A-E | |
| F-J | |
| K-O | |
| P-T | |
| Clemson | |
| Comic Strips: | |
| <i>Calhoun</i> | |
| <i>Citrus Bowl Adventures</i> | |
| <i>Joey</i> | |
| <i>Ol' Green Tom</i> | |
| <i>Sisters</i> | |
| Greeting Cards | |
| Miscellaneous: | |
| Unknown Drawings | |
| Clemson University: | |
| Agriculture Recruiting Brochure | |
| Athletics | |

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Daniel Lady Lions | |
| South Carolina | |
| Political Cartoons: | |
| General (5f) | Box 14 |
| Budget | |
| Civil Rights | |
| Christmas | |
| Economy | |
| Education: | |
| General | |
| College Athletics | |
| Elections: | |
| 1976 | |
| 1980 | |
| 1984 | |
| 1988 | |
| Energy Policy | |
| Entertainment | |
| Foreign Affairs | |
| Health | |
| Industry | |
| People | |
| Religion | |
| Social Issues | |
| South Carolina: | |
| Agriculture | Box 15 |
| Beach Bill | |
| Budget | |
| Confederate Flag | |
| Crime | |
| Economy | |
| Education: | |
| General | |
| Clemson University | |
| Entertainment | |
| Environment | |
| Greenville County | |
| Industry | |
| Judiciary | |
| Nuclear Waste | |
| Politics | |
| Public Service Commission | |
| Race Relations | |
| Reapportionment | |
| Religion | |
| Social Issues: | |
| General | |
| Department of Social Services | |
| State Government | |
| Taxes | |
| University of South Carolina: | |

General
Medical School

Taxes

Women:

General

Equal Rights Amendment

Oversized Folder:

Miscellaneous Color Drawing

The Pink House

The Octopus Hug

Ephemera:

T-Shirts

Box 16