



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

FOR INFORMATION:

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December 19, 2001

NCSU Libraries Awarded \$48,100 Grant To Create a Web Resource on the History of North Carolina Forestry

The NCSU Libraries, the Biltmore Estate Company (Asheville), and the Forest History Society (Durham) recently learned their joint proposal to create a major Web-based resource for research on the forestry history of North Carolina will be funded at \$48,100. **The award is a North Carolina ECHO (Exploring Cultural Heritage Online) EZ-Library Services and Technology Act digitization demonstration grant.** Information about all ECHO grant winners is found at URL: <http://www.ncecho.org/abstracts.pdf>.

The Carl Alwin Schenck Collection housed in the Special Collections Department of the NCSU Libraries, forms the foundation of forestry history resources among the three institutions. It chronicles the development of America's first school of forestry, the Biltmore Forestry School,

founded by Schenck. It also documents the start of the lumber and forestry industries of North Carolina. As part of the project, primary research materials from the collection—including photographs, diaries, correspondence, artifacts (such as images of flags and pins from the Biltmore School), and printed materials, will be digitized and made freely accessible over the Internet. **The Web site is expected to be available for viewing by summer 2002.**

The NCSU Libraries' Special Collections Department plans to digitize more than 1,000 photographs dating from 1889–1951 that detail life at the Biltmore Forest School, forest-study tours in Europe and America, and forestry training programs. America's fascination with its wealthy and powerful will be piqued by some of the photo-



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graphs of George Vanderbilt and the Biltmore Estate, the largest residence in private hands in the United States.

Text-based documents set for digitization include Schenck's diaries, journals, and letters dating from 1890–1954. These contain information about his experiences at school, his years as a forester, and his life in Germany. Biographical sketches of the Biltmore students, often supplemented by photographic portraits, paint a picture of the typical forestry student at the turn of the century. The text collection also contains works by other

authors, such as Romeyn B. Hough's *The American Woods: Exhibited by Actual Specimens and with Copious Explanatory Text* (Albany, N.Y.: Weed, Parsons, and Co., 1888, 1910), a rare fourteen-volume set of individual wood samples (350 plates in all). The entire set will be processed, scanned, and digitized as part of the project.

For more information about this project, please contact Russell Koonts, Special Collections, NCSU Libraries at (919) 513-3673.

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