

Collier Library Archives adds music to collection

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Some 15 original pieces of sheet music signed by W.C. Handy, the "father of the blues" who is from Florence, are among a collection of items that have been donated by Alice Nolen, of Florence, to the Collier Library Archives at the University of North Alabama.

The donation was made in memory of the late Mrs. Gerdes Brown Nolen, of Florence. She is the mother of Alice Nolen's husband Robert, who graduated from Florence State Teachers College in 1940.

The items in the collection, which were sent to the late Mrs. Nolen, by Handy include the sheet music for "Beale Street Blues," "St. Louis Blues" and "The Memphis Blues," as well as two letters written by Handy, several pictures and a Christmas card. The pictures are of W.C. Handy and relatives at the Handy home in Tuckahoe, New York. One letter was written

to the late Mrs. Nolen, while another was originally sent to Handy's father.

"These primary source materials on W.C. Handy will be a valuable addition to the Collier Library Archives," said Cecile Nabors, a UNA assistant professor and librarian. "Our patrons will be able to use them for original research and for background information on W.C. Handy."

ALICE NOLEN, left, of Florence, presents University of North Alabama Collier Library archivist Cecile Nabors and dean of information technologies Dr. Garry Warren with some W.C. Handy sheet music. The sheet music is part of a collection of material sent by Handy, a Florence native and the "father of the blues," to Mrs. Nolen's late mother-in-law Gerdes Brown Nolen. (Photo by Greg Biggers)

