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## Digital Library of Georgia (March 2023)

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### **R**.J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation-Funded Underdocumented Newspapers Now Available

As part of a \$27,103.50 grant from the [R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation](#), the Digital Library of Georgia has digitized over 109,000 pages of Georgia newspaper titles.

The newly released collection includes Georgia newspapers of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century from underdocumented Georgia counties from microfilm held by the Georgia Newspaper Project. The project creates full-text, searchable versions of the newspapers. It presents them online for free in its [Georgia Historic Newspapers database](#). Users will be able to search the database for geographic, corporate, family, and personal names.

120 titles have been digitized from the following Georgia cities: Abbeville, Adel, Arlington, Ashburn, Blackshear, Blairsville, Blue Ridge, Bogart, Buchanan, Carnesville, Conyers, Cordele, Crawfordville, Decatur, Demorest, Dupont, Eastman, Ellaville, Excelsior, Fitzgerald, Forsyth, Fort Gaines, Fort Valley, Gibson, Gray, Guyton, Hamilton, Harlem, High Shoals, Homerville, Jasper, Jesup, Kingsland, Knoxville, Leary, Lexington, Lincolnton, Lithonia, Lumpkin, Macville, Morgan, Morganton, Ocilla, Roberta, Sparta, Spring Place, Statenville, Statesboro, Stillmore, Sycamore, Sylvania, Toccoa, Watkinsonville, West Bowersville, Wrightsville, Young Harris, Zebulon

The following counties are now represented in the Georgia Historic Newspapers database for the first time: Ben Hill, Bulloch, Calhoun, Camden, Clay, Clinch, Crawford, Crisp, DeKalb, Dodge, Echols, Effingham, Emanuel, Fannin,

Glascok, Irwin, Johnson, Jones, Lincoln, Murray, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Pickens, Pierce, Schley, Screven, Taliaferro, Towns, Turner, Union, Wilcox

#### Titles of interest include:

- [Advocate-Democrat \(Crawfordville\)](#): A populist newspaper published in the least-populated county in Georgia (Taliaferro County).
- [Haralson Banner \(Buchanan\)](#): Haralson County's first newspaper.
- [Spring Place Jimplecute](#): A paper published in Murray County with a unique name of unknown origin.
- [Statesboro Eagle](#): The official organ of Bulloch County in the early 1890s.
- [Toccoa News](#): A successor to the county's first newspaper, the Toccoa News began publication in 1879 and continues to cover the news of Stephens County today as the Toccoa Record.

A complete list of titles is available on the [Digital Library of Georgia's blog](#).

Digital Library of Georgia director Sheila McAlister notes:

The newest addition to our newspaper portal is a fascinating look at the growth of the newspaper industry in Georgia and communities' reactions to the New South's hopes for industrialization. These local, rural papers provide us with a snapshot of life during this transitional period. We appreciate the continued support of the R.J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation.

*Mandy L. Mastrovita is a digital projects librarian and archivist with the University of Georgia Libraries*

## Flannery O'Connor's Appearances in the Georgia Catholic Diocesan Paper, The Bulletin

The Digital Library of Georgia, in conjunction with our partners at the Roman Catholic Diocese of Savannah, recently digitized the historic Bulletin newspaper (1920–1962) and made it publicly available on the [Georgia Historic Newspapers website](https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol60/iss2/12).

The Bulletin was first published in January 1920 as the official organ for the Catholic Laymen's Association of Georgia and shortly became Georgia's leading Catholic newspaper.

In 1963, the publication split into two separate diocesan papers, [The Bulletin](#) (Archdiocese of Atlanta) and the [Southern Cross](#) (Diocese of Savannah). Among the paper's vast array of content, it [still] includes reviews of Catholic written works.

From 1956 to 1964, Georgia writer [Flannery O'Connor](#) regularly contributed to the paper's book reviews section. However, [her first appearance in the publication was where she was credited as a budding cartoonist](#).

Stephanie Braddy, director of archives & records management, Catholic Diocese of Savannah, notes that for O'Connor researchers, "the articles offer further insight into Ms. O'Connor's wit and personality, as well as her firmly held beliefs related to writing, and Catholicism."

Well-known as a devout Catholic, O'Connor reviewed 143 titles spanning genres in both nonfiction and fiction, but, more specifically, she almost always explored Christian subject matter.



Flannery O'Connor featured in The Georgia Bulletin (Atlanta, Ga.), March 21, 1963

As evidenced by her desire to review works by controversial figures such as the French Jesuit priest and scientist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, O'Connor displayed a deep interest in increasing her intellectual engagement with Catholicism.

Matt Davis, director of historic museums at Georgia College & State University, observes that:

Flannery O'Connor kept a very strict schedule during the last years of her life in Milledgeville. Rising early to attend mass,

she would then spend the remainder of her morning writing as her health allowed. With easy online access to O'Connor's work in *The Bulletin*, the public and scholars of all levels have been provided another window to show how her faith and writing intertwined.

These reviews were intended for a Catholic audience and focused on religious topics. As a result, they provide insights into O'Connor's writing process not readily found in her works of fiction.

In his introduction to Leo J. Zuber's compilation of O'Connor book reviews, *The Presence of Grace and Other Book Reviews* by Flannery O'Connor, Carter W. Martin remarks:

One of the pleasures. . . is to savor the quality of Flannery O'Connor's mind at work on the serious intellectual content of her faith. Here is confirmation, if we need it, that her art

arose from religious convictions that she subjected to intense scrutiny not only in her heart but in her mind as well.

The paper's run is available on the Georgia Historic Newspapers website, <https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/lc/cn/gua1449731/>, and O'Connor's appearances [have been gathered together here](#).

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