



The Typewriter: This early 1920's Remington typewriter was purchased by John Marsh for his wife Margaret Mitchell Marsh in 1925. After she resigned her position as a news reporter for the Atlanta Journal she was able to have more time to write. For about ten years she used this typewriter to write her famous book, *Gone With the Wind*, published in 1936.



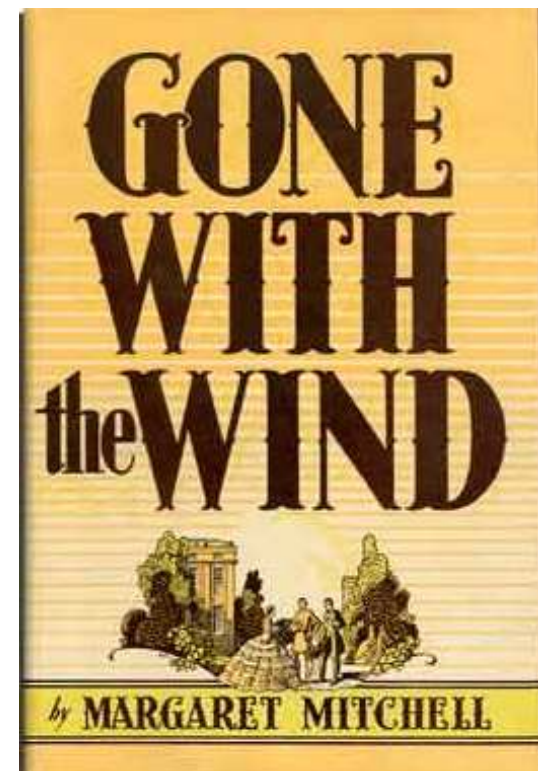
The Red Cross Coat: In the 1940's Margaret Mitchell and her husband volunteered for the Atlanta Red Cross and the Atlanta Civil Defense League. This is a picture of her Red Cross coat, and if you look closely, a Civil Defense arm band.



The Portrait: In 1989, MGM, planned a gala celebration of the 50th anniversary of the movie, *Gone With the Wind*. MGM commissioned portrait painter, Constantin Chatov, to paint this portrait from a youthful photograph of the famous author. Warner Brothers eventually came to own the picture after the party was over and then contributed it to the City of Atlanta and then to the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library.



Personal Possessions of Margaret Mitchell: This case contains Margaret Mitchell's library card, a picture of John Marsh, galley proofs of *GWTW* from Macmillan Press shortly before the book was published and copies of *GWTW*.



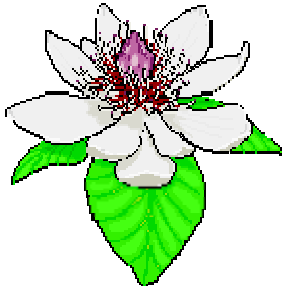
Special Collections

Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System
One Margaret Mitchell Square
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
At the corner of Carnegie and Forsyth Streets
South end of the Peachtree MARTA Station

404-730-1896

Margaret Mitchell and the Atlanta Public Library

The items in the Margaret Mitchell display, housed on the fifth floor of the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System's Central Library (in the Special Collections Department), were donated to the library as part of a bequest outlined in the will of John Marsh, Margaret Mitchell's second husband.



Margaret Mitchell's relationship with the Atlanta Public Library began long before the bequest in her husband's will. As children, "Peggy" and her brother Stephens "grew up" in the library. It is often said that the children rode to town on their ponies in order to pick up books.

Their father, Eugene Muse Mitchell, was a member of the Young Men's Library Association, formed in 1867 for the purpose of establishing library services in Atlanta. Eugene Mitchell was part of the delegation that traveled to New York to request building funds from Andrew Carnegie, the steel magnate and philanthropist. The Carnegie Library was opened to the public in 1902 on the site of the present Central Library.

As an adult, Margaret Mitchell was a voracious reader; she and her husband John frequently visited the "Carnegie" in downtown Atlanta. In the mid 1920's a series of health problems confined Ms. Mitchell to her home. John brought her books from the library daily until she had read virtually everything of interest to her. "I can't find anything at the Carnegie that you haven't read, except books on the exact sciences." He suggested that she write a book of her own; she met the challenge, and the rest is history.

While writing *Gone with the Wind*, she came almost daily to the old Carnegie Library to check historical facts related to the book, "such facts as the date hoop skirts became unfashionable, whether a lady used 'scent' in the sixties or perfume, whether she used prepared chalk or powder, and was the use of iodine current practice in the Civil War hospitals."

After the publication of *Gone with the Wind*, Peggy and John annually gave money to the library around Christmas-time, to buy books on Georgia and Atlanta for what was then called "the Reference Department."

*Atlanta, Georgia
December 8, 1936*

*Miss Jessie Hopkins
Carnegie Library of Atlanta*

My Dear Miss Hopkins:

I am enclosing a check which I wish you would use in buying books on Georgia and Atlanta for the Reference Department. I am sending this check for two reasons. First, because the members of the Reference Department were of such great assistance to me during the months when I was checking the historical data of "Gone With the Wind". They were indefatigable, accurate, obliging and courteous. Their work for me did not stop when their days' work was done but they frequently phoned me at night and after their working hours to give me information they had patiently run down. What they could not find in their books, they found by telephoning local people and questioning them. I shall always be grateful to them for their assistance.

My second reason is that my father, Eugene M. Mitchell, was instrumental in acquiring for the Reference Department the beginnings of the present Georgia Collection. He was Secretary of the Young Men's Library Association for eight years and was President for three years. He was President at the time Mr. Andrew Carnegie made his gift. He served on the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Library from 1900 to 1905. It was during the period of his Trusteeship that he turned his attention to collecting volumes on Georgia and Atlanta and many of the books now in the Reference Department were his purchases . . . Because of my father's interest in Atlanta and Georgia history, and my own interest, I wish to add to the Georgia Collection.

Margaret Mitchell Letter

Margaret Mitchell spent the rest of her life absorbed in what she call "Cleaning up after GWTW". Her time was consumed with letters, copyright issues, imposters, requests for appearances. She also raised money for building libraries across the state and has been called the "Andrew Carnegie of Georgia".

In 1949, Mitchell was struck by an automobile and died on August 16. She is buried in Atlanta's Oakland Cemetery.

The week after her death, the staff of the Atlanta Public Library established a small memorial collection in honor of the author. John Marsh's bequest made a true memorial possible. In 1954, the Margaret Mitchell Memorial of the Atlanta Public Library was dedicated. As her brother Stephens wrote: "The estate feels it is very important to keep these materials together for the public to see."

Sources: *Atlanta-Fulton Public Library Archives; Gone with the Wind Letters, 1936-1949; Margaret Mitchell and John Marsh: The Love Story Behind Gone with the Wind*

Katherine Suttell and Celeste Tibbets
Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System
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Please see also the booklet that we give visitors in our department entitled: *Margaret Mitchell: The Book, The Film, The Woman*.

